DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

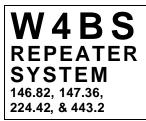


P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 18 / APRIL 2006



Welcome to the Delta Amateur Radio Club!

Visit our home on the web at: http://www.deltaclub.org



APRIL 2006 CLUB MEETING

DATE: April 11, 2006 (2nd Tuesday - be there)

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70, Memphis, Tn. (2 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Terrorism Awareness, L.T. Vanzandt

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. <u>Registration begins at</u> **5:30 P.M.** and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring **two** forms of identification and **copies** of any <u>existing licenses or CSCE's</u> you might have. The ARRL FEC exam application is \$14. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact...

> Joan Thorne, KN4PM, VEC Phone: 901-737-5795 E-mail: joanthorne@bellsouth.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is Friday, April 28th. All articles MUST be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

paulsonrj@bellsouth.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's that time again, time for me to say hello and what's up. It seems like no time and I am writing again. Like many of us I have been covered up busy and time fly's by. There are a number of upcoming events for us to get involved in and I look forward to them. Tommy has several public service events and Field Day is just around the corner.

I would like to thank all that assisted Jim with the Merit Badge College and ask that if you can give a hand to please pitch in.

I have not located a suitable operating trailer for the Club and am still looking. I spent a week in Biloxi/Gulfport MS and it is still a mess. After that disaster and the storm on the 2^{nd} we need to remember those effected and focus on being prepared for something here through the Club equipment and participation in emergency activities. Continue to talk to the newcomers and especially on the air and try to contact all those that we have not heard from for a while.

Until our next contact, 73 from Darrell, KK4D

DARC BOARD MEETING March 7, 2006

KK4D-Darrell Sheffield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 7 board members present-KK4D-Darrell, KD4TJO-Tommy, KE4DXN-Melinda, K4POM-Lisa, KG4OLG-John, N2LAZ-Dean, and KA4BLL-Ned.

KK4D-Darrell called for the officer's reports. KE4DXN-Melinda presented the board with copies of the treasurer's report. N2LAZ- Dean motioned to accept it as is and KG4OLG-John seconded. K4POM-Lisa presented copies of February's minutes. N2LAZ-Dean motioned to accept and KE4DXN-Melinda seconded. as there were no objections.

KD4TJO-Tommy and KE4DXN-Melinda advised the board that the Avon fund raiser packets would be ready to hand out to the members present at the next meeting.

KD4TJO-Tommy gave information on upcoming service events. The MS Walk and Walk America will be held the last 2 weeks of April.

There was no new business.

KK4D-Darrell adjourned the meeting @ 7:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted by, KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

DARC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 14, 2006

I opened the meeting at about 19:45 hrs with introductions of those in attendance.

Melinda, KE4DXN gave the Treasurers Report which was approved after motion and second. I advised the Club that Lisa was out of town and that the Minutes of last month were printed in the SPARKS. I asked if there were any objections to accepting the minutes as printed. There were no its length of time off the air. I objections and the minutes were accepted.

I moved to Unfinished Business and asked all members to contact old members who they know and to ask if we could assist them in any way.

I asked everyone to continue to keep an eye open for a small travel trailer that we can get and make into a mobile operating station.

Jim, KG4YKZ asked again for help at the Merit Badge College on 3/25/2006.

Tommy, KD4TJO asked for assistance at the upcoming special events the Equestrian Ride, MS Walk and MD Walk.

Melinda went over the Avon Fundraiser and passed out the necessary material. She advised that we would need to have those interested add tax on their purchase and to return the sheets at the April general meeting.

Barbara Abrams gave the Program for the month, she did a great job with the presentation on Traffic Handling and the NTS System. We had guests form Louisiana, Richard NF5B and Kathleen, KC0HZU, who are involved in traffic handling also.

Joan, KN4PM advised that there were a number of new hams and upgrades from the evenings testing. Lance, N4GMT asked about the status of the 147.36 repeater due to advised that I would check with the Repeater Committee and give him an answer as soon as I had one.

Tommy drew for the door prize and it was won by Dick K3ORS.

I asked if there were any other business for the Club and with no reply adjourned that meeting at about 20:35 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by, KK4D. Darrell Sheffield DARC President for: KI4DIL-Lisa Sheffield DARC Secretary

THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION

TERRORISM AWARENESS

The March 1995 nerve agent attack by terrorists in the Tokyo subway system has heightened concern among government and public safety officials regarding the potential for similar attacks in the United States. Until the March 1995 attack, most of the effort toward preventing or responding to terrorist activity within transportation facilities or other areas where crowds gather was focused on hostage taking, bombing, the use of firearms, and sabotage. The Tokyo incident raised the specter and demonstrated the potential of a new and insidious form of terrorism, with which few in the government and public safety organizations were prepared to cope.

Through a basic terrorism overview presentation, LT Vanzandt simply and concisely explains the history of modern terrorism through the September 2001 attacks. He covers basic Terrorism threats; Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical. Most people think one nuclear bomb will wipe out an entire city, the reality is a terrorist size nuclear bomb will probably destroy less than one mile. The course attempts to separate the myths from reality and leaves attendees feeling that they will definitely survive and they probably have a greater chance of getting hit by a car then killed by terrorists.

Lieutenant Vanzandt has been a commissioned officer with the

Memphis Police Department since October Of 1989. LT Vanzandt was assigned to Uniform Patrol from October 1989 until February 1999. He was a member of the Crisis Intervention Team, serving until being transferred to the Training Academy in February 1999. LT Vanzandt is currently assigned to the Memphis Police Department's Office of Homeland Security. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vertebrate Zoology from Memphis State University in 1989. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Chemical Corps in 1987, and is a graduate of the US Army Chemical School at Ft. McClellan, Al. LT Vanzandt served in the US Army Reserve in several positions. He was promoted to Captain in the US Army Chemical Corps in 1995, and his most recent position was as Chemical and Safety Officer for the 342d QM BN USAR, Jackson, TN. He completed the Police Instructor Development School in April, 1999 and the TBI TIES/ NLETS/NCIC Instructor Course in January 1999. LT Vanzandt has also completed the Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident Management / Unified Command Course (July 2000) and Terrorism Awareness for First Responders Course (May 2001) from the Texas A&M University system's National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center. He has also completed the Hazardous Materials Team Operations, the Initial Response to HazMat Incidents: Basic Concepts, the Initial Response to HazMat Incidents: Concept

Implementation, the Incident Command System, the Fundamentals Course for Radiological Monitors, and the Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts courses offered by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. LT Vanzandt has been involved with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons / terrorism education since 1987.

ARRL NEWSLETTER

ARIZONA BPL FIELD TRIAL ENDS

A BPL field trial in Cottonwood. Arizona, that drew complaints from Amateur Radio operators from 2004 until earlier this year apparently has shut down for good. The small system, which Mountain Telecommunications Inc (MTI) operated under an FCC Part 5 Experimental license WD2XMB, went silent in early March. The Part 5 license stipulates that the company "establish and maintain" a relationship with the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA), which called for the system's shutdown as recently as last December. According to VVARA BPL Committee Chair Bob Shipton, K8EQC, MTI initially took the system down for a firmware upgrade but subsequently told him that it was discontinuing the experiment in Cottonwood and moving it, possibly to the Phoenix area, where MTI is headquartered.

"There's no definitive statement from Arizona Public Service or Mountain Telecommunications that they have stopped BPL in the state of Arizona entirely," Shipton told ARRL this week. "It's just that they pulled out of the Cottonwood area."

Not only did the VVARA determine the system was generating interference on the high end of 20 meters and elsewhere, Shipton said, the club demonstrated that it could "break" the system's datastream while running as little as 65 watts from a mobile station.

"I think that was a bit of a surprise to them," allowed Shipton, who noted that MTI remained helpful and lived up to its agreement to keep the VVARA in the loop. At the same time, he said, MTI learned everything it wanted to learn in the Cottonwood area, "and they know we're not going to let this thing go."

According to club measurements made in cooperation with MTI, the BPL interference in the vicinity of the system on the upper end of 20 meters was 20 dB over S9, Shipton said, and even in the middle of the band, it was S7 to S9. "On 17 meters, from 18.059 to 18.180 they were S9, on the 15 meter band they were S7," he added.

In support of the VVARA effort, the ARRL twice asked the FCC to shut down the Cottonwood BPL field trial for interfering with Amateur Radio communication. The League's own testing of the Cottonwood system in the summer of 2004 indicated "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels.

Beyond the mere fact of the RF interference, Shipton continued, was the nature of the interference itself. "With the high-speed chipsets, the sound is so obnoxious that you don't necessarily have to have a lot of RF strength on an S meter to cause interference when you're trying to listen to a stationeven if it's stronger," he said, describing it as an annoying "raspy, buzzing" noise.

In December, the VVARA filed with the FCC what Shipton characterized as an "informal" interference report of ongoing interference on 20, 17 and 15 meters and reiterated its request that the FCC shut down the system. While MTI's interactions with the VVARA may not have been the primary factor in its decision to take its BPL pilot elsewhere, Shipton believes his club at least played a role.

"We feel at least we got 'em out of Dodge--they're out of Cottonwood," he said. "What they do in Phoenix will have to be taken up by the Phoenix amateur operators, if they do anything."

Shipton said he believes efforts like those of the VVARA to raise the interference issue and keep it before the public are prompting the BPL industry to take a harder look at how to avoid the problem altogether. "The issue of ham interference was one issue on their plate out of many, many issues," he said.

FCC AFFIRMS \$21,000 IN FINES LEVIED ON MAINE RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has affirmed a total of \$21,000 in fines it proposed last year to levy on Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The FCC's Forfeiture Order (NoF), released March 29, comes nearly 10 months after a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the case. The FCC has alleged that Baxter violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

"The noted violations of the rules involve interference with the ongoing communications of other Amateur Radio stations, failure to exercise station control, transmission of communications in which Baxter had a pecuniary interest, and transmission of communications that constituted impermissible broadcasting," the FCC said. The NoF reiterates specific allegations outlined in the NAL last June.

The FCC also has concluded that Baxter "apparently willfully and repeatedly" failed to file required information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive. In two warning notices in 2004, FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth directed Baxter to provide information on how K1MAN was controlled and the identity of the station's control operator. "The Boston [FCC] Office found that Mr. Baxter's statements that '[n] o correction actions are necessary' and '[n]o changes are needed with regard to station control' failed to comply with the Bureau's demand for station information, the FCC said in the NoF.

Replying to the June 2005 NAL, Baxter denied any liability for the forfeiture amount, the FCC said. According to the Commission, Baxter cited the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged apparent liability" and "a trial like hearing before the full Commission." Baxter did not submit "any substantive responses" to the alleged violations recited in the NAL, the Commission said.

The FCC denied Baxter's request for a hearing. According to the Communications Act, the FCC said, providing a hearing is at the Commission's discretion, and a hearing is "not normally utilized when only monetary forfeiture matters are involved."

Its procedures, the FCC noted, do not deprive Baxter of his right to due process, because the Communications Act provides that any forfeitures issued in accordance with its procedures are "ultimately subject to a trial de novo in federal district court" should Baxter not pay the fine beforehand. A licensee's decision to forego presentation of arguments and evidence in response to an NAL "does not create a right to a hearing," the Commission contended in the NoF.

The FCC further noted that the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution "address the rights of defendants in criminal cases" and said Baxter's reliance on those amendments to support his hearing request "is misplaced."

"Baxter received notice regarding the legal and factual bases for the apparent violations and proposed forfeiture and has been afforded an opportunity to respond 'why no such forfeiture penalty should be imposed," the FCC said. According to the NoF, Baxter, while denying any liability, "has chosen not to present any specific exculpatory arguments or evidence in response to the violations set forth in the NAL."

Baxter has 30 days from the release of the order to pay the \$21,000 or appeal. If the forfeiture is not paid within that time, the FCC can refer the case to the US Department of Justice for collection. A copy of the NoF is on the FCC Web site <http:// hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/ attachmatch/DA-06-663A1.pdf>.

Baxter's Amateur Radio license expired last October 17, but according to the FCC, he has continuing operating authority since he filed a timely renewal. His renewal application remains under review based on complaints filed and on FCC correspondence regarding the operation of his station. The forfeiture action is separate.

VANITY CALL SIGN FEE POISED TO DROP SLIGHTLY LATER THIS YEAR

The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by \$1.80 to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity call sign fee is \$21.90. The Commission proposed the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006, in MD Docket 06-68, released March 27. If ordered as proposed, the new vanity fee would become effective in August or September. The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees during FY 2006 to fund its operations.

"Consistent with our established practice, we plan to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2006 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC said in its NPRM. Comments on the proposed fee schedule are due Friday, April 14. Reply comments are due Friday, April 21. The FCC has projected collecting \$171,188 in vanity call sign fee receipts from 8500 applications in FY 2006.

The vanity call sign fee has assumed somewhat greater significance this year as the renewal window is about to open for the first Amateur Radio vanity call sign licenses granted in 1996. Applicants wishing to keep their post-1995 vanity call signs must pay the regulatory fee in effect at the time the renewal application reaches the FCC, currently \$21.90. Any Amateur Radio renewal application may only be filed within 90 days of the license expiration date.

Vanity call sign holders are not obliged to keep their current call signs, however, and can request that it be changed to a sequentially assigned call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do NOT have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS

To renew via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <http:// wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, licensees should log into ULS License Manager Online Filing (click on "Log In") using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Anyone doing business with the FCC must supply an FRN on any application.

Licensees wishing to keep a vanity call sign should select "Renew" under the "Work on this License" option. Fees for electronically filed applications may be paid online or mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Regulatory Fees, PO Box 358835, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5835.

The ARRL plans to inaugurate a vanity call sign renewal service for its members in the near future.

INJURED MINER RANDY MCCLOY, KC8VKZ, GOES HOME

Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago Mine disaster in West Virginia, left a Morgantown rehabilitation center March 30 and returned to his home on newly named Miracle Road in Simpson, West Virginia.

"I'd just like to thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers," McCloy remarked on his departure. Neurologist Julian Bailes told reporters that he believes McCloy, 26, has a great potential for "a possibly complete" recovery. McCloy did require some assistance walking as he left the Morgantown facility.

West Virginia Gov Joe Manchin announced the new street name at a press briefing this week, and he presented McCloy with a Miracle Road street sign. Earlier this month McCloy visited his home in for the first time since the mine tragedy.

On March 2, McCloy's wife Anna told CBS The Early Show coanchor Hannah Storm that her husband has told her he remembers "bits and pieces" of the mining disaster that left 12 of his coworkers dead of carbon monoxide poisoning. McCloy this week told the Associated Press that he doesn't understand why he was the only one to survive. He also said he will not go back to work in the mines.

Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435. A fund has been set up to accept donations for McCloy's benefit: The Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505.

LEAGUE REQUESTS RULE CHANGE TO EASE SPREAD SPECTRUM OPERATION

The ARRL has asked the FCC to modify one of its rules governing spread spectrum (SS) operation on Amateur Radio frequencies. The League has petitioned the Commission to drop all but the first sentence of §97.311(d), which now requires the use of automatic power control (APC) for SS stations running more than 1 W. The ARRL request would retain the 100 W overall power limitation for SS.

"The effect of the rule change would be to eliminate an automatic power control provision that has proven over time to be impractical" in terms of compliance, the League said in its Petition for Rule Making filed March 13 <http://www.arrl. org/announce/regulatory/SS-Rulemaking-Petition.pdf>. It also conceded that the provision-one

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the League had proposed and supported more than 10 years ago-was unnecessary to protect the operations of other licensees and had "unfortunately served as an unintended but effective deterrent to spread spectrum experimentation" on ham radio.

Since the FCC first approved the use of spread spectrum techniques for Amateur Radio in 1985 on bands above 225 MHz and at power levels up to 100 W, there's been limited--but never widespread-experimental amateur operation. More recently, the FCC has made the SS rules less restrictive in response to League showings that the rules were hampering SS experimentation and that interference has not proven to be an issue.

The ARRL says it now agrees with those who opposed the automatic power control provision in WT Docket 97-12, concluded in 1999. Those changes not only relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs but opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication.

"Now seven years later, it is apparent to ARRL that the rules requiring APC indeed have proven to be difficult to implement, unnecessary and something of a barrier to SS experimentation," the ARRL said in its latest rule making petition. "Section 97.311(d) can be greatly simplified without increasing the risk of intra-service or inter-service harmful interference."

The ARRL said keeping the maximum power at 100 W limits the power spectral density of an SS emission, contributing to compatibility between Amateur Radio SS and narrowband modes in the same allocations. The rules already in place make spread spectrum "essentially secondary to any amateur narrowband emission modes," the League pointed out, and make the APC requirement unnecessary to avoid interference to other users of the same spectrum.

In any event, the League concluded, radio amateurs employing SS modes would remain obliged to comply with the rule requiring use of "the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communication." That was a primary reason the ARRL asked for the APC provision in the first place.

The FCC has not yet assigned a rule making (RM) petition number to the ARRL's petition nor invited comments.

In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) WT Docket 04-140, the FCC, in response to another ARRL petition, proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, the Commission also recommended permitting SS operation on 6 and 2 meters, a move the ARRL opposes. In its comments, the League cited concerns about raising the noise floor on 6 meters and the fact that both bands already support substantial narrowband and weaksignal work, meaning "fewer opportunities for frequency reuse in those allocations."

The Commission is expected to conclude WT Docket 04-140 this year. The FCC suggested that restrictions on spread spectrum already in place should be sufficient to prevent any adverse impact of SS operation to other users of 6 and 2 meters.

FAILURE TO RESPOND TO FCC COULD LEAD TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The FCC has held up the license renewal of a New Jersey Novice ticket holder for failing to respond to a Commission field office Citation and a Warning Notice, both dating back several years. FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth told Ronald A. Mondgock, KA3OMZ, of Burlington, that if he did not submit a timely reply to his February 6, 2006, letter, the Commission would dismiss his renewal application and issue a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture.

In February 2002, Hollingsworth wrote Mondgock regarding allegations he'd transmitted in the 75-meter phone band, which is unavailable to Novice class licensees. In July 2004, the FCC's

Delta Amateur Radio Club

Philadelphia Field Office cited Mondgock for allegedly failing to identify, making transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized under his license. On February 7, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Frank J. Fatigate, KB2YDO, of Hopewell Junction, New York, for allegedly failing to reply to a complaint the FCC forwarded to him nearly a year earlier. The FCC cited US Postal Service records indicating that Fatigate, a Technician licensee, refused delivery of the Commission correspondence. Subsequent attempts to reach Fatigate yielded no response. Noting that Fatigate had apparently changed his address, the FCC gave him additional time to reply or face a possible fine of up to \$4000.

Hollingsworth said this week that he has yet to hear from either Mondgock or Fatigate.

In another enforcement matter, the FCC wrote Technician licensee Brandon M. Duke, KCOUWS (ex-KCOTKB), of Longmont, Colorado, January 9 advising him of a complaint alleging "deliberate interference and other rule violations on repeaters." Duke replied, pledging to change his ways.

In a January 26 e-mail, an apologetic Duke said he'd destroyed an audio CD containing apparently objectionable material he'd been accused of airing. He also said he'd "refrain from jamming, interfering, kerchunking and using any

repeaters."

Hollingsworth cautioned Duke that the FCC expected him to abide by requests to steer clear of certain repeaters or face license revocation, a fine or other sanctions. In his e-mail response, Duke said he would refrain from using Boulder Amateur Radio Club repeaters, per the club's written request.

On January 24, Tracy Simmons of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensing operations in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, advised Duke that because he was "involved in an enforcement action," the Commission had set aside its earlier grant of a new sequential call sign, KC0VRS. Duke told Hollingsworth that he'd also filed for a vanity call sign.

Hollingsworth cautioned Duke that no matter his call sign, he remains obligated to stay off the repeaters as requested.

DAYTON HAMVENTION® ANNOUNCES 2006 AWARD WINNERS

Dayton Hamvention has announced the winners of its 2006 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence awards. Being honored for their contributions to the Amateur Radio Service are Gordon West, WB6NOA--Amateur of the Year; Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH--Special Achievement Award, and Dick Illman, AH6EZ--Technical Excellence Award.

West, of Costa Mesa, California, was named Amateur of the Year for his efforts in recruiting and training many new amateurs, in addition to his nearly lifelong involvement in ham radio. A Radio Club of America fellow and a recipient of the ARRL Instructor of the Year Award. West volunteers with the American Red Cross communications team in Orange County and regularly offers free kids classes and classes for cities to support their Community **Emergency Response Teams** (CERT).

"It's my give-back to a hobby that gives me the satisfaction of offering free classes for kid's and emergency responders," West said "and I thank all the ham operators who support our training program, and the ARRL for the ir continued support with the emergency communication Web-based classes."

Hollingsworth, who's Special Counsel in the FCC Enforcement Bureau at the Commission's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office, will receive Hamvention's Special Achievement Award. Hamvention is recognizing Hollingsworth's efforts, begun in 1998, to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program. Radio amateurs across the US have credited Hollingsworth with reducing malicious interference and other problem behavior on the air. First licensed in 1960 in his home state of South Carolina, Hollingsworth is a member ARRL, QCWA and F.I.S.T.S.

Illman, who lives in St Charles, Illinois, was picked to receive the 2006 Technical Excellence Award. The honor recognizes his work as principal staff engineer at Motorola in developing the company's patentpending Powerline LV broadband over power line (BPL) system, which essentially eliminates HF interference.

Motorola and the ARRL have cooperated in deploying a test stand Powerline LV system between ARRL Headquarters and W1AW. Preliminary test results have shown the Powerline LV system to be Amateur Radio-friendly. Illman's idea to include a set of hardware notch filters to protect Amateur Radio beyond the traditional technique of turning off specific carriers is an industry first.

Hamvention Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F, praised the winners on behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Hamvention. "Please join me in recognizing each of these gentlemen for their outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio and their many years of devotion to the Amateur Radio Service," he said.

Held this year from May 19 until May 21, Dayton Hamvention, the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, annually attracts more than 25,000 people to the greater Dayton area. The event includes exhibits, a flea market, forums and educational sessions. More information is on the Hamvention Web site http://www. hamvention.org/>.

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW SUPPORTS WORKED ALL STATES AWARD

Users of the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www. arrl.org/lotw/> now may apply their LoTW credits to applications for the League's Worked All States (WAS) award. Once registered and logged in, users may set up a WAS account on the Logbook Awards page, configuring the account to automatically select QSLs to use or selecting them manually via the Your QSOs page.

LoTW is a repository of logbook records submitted by us ers from around the world. When both participants in a contact submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is an electronic "QSL" that can be used for award credit.

As part of this addition, administration and maintenance of all WAS awards is now perfomed using an LoTW module. US Amateur Radio licensees must be ARRL members to apply for the WAS award. In addition to WAS, LoTW supports the ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) award.

Since its inauguration in September 2005, LoTW has more than 95 million QSO records on file, with nearly 5.15 million QSL records resulting. The system boasts just over 12,000 registered users, and there are more than 18,100 certificates--each representing a particular user call sign--on file.

IN BRIEF:

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 16, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) Program on-line courses: Amateur Radio **Emergency Communications Level** 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio **Emergency Communications Level** 3 (EC-003), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/ UHF Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), Technician Licensing (EC-010) and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Classes begin Friday, April 28. NOTE: Because Technician Licensing (EC-010) courses beginning in April are based upon the current question pool, students completing these April classes should take the FCC Technician class (Element 2) examination by June 30. A new Element 2 question pool goes into effect July 1. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses. **html**> or contact the CCE Department "<cce@arrl.org>;.

PACKET UPDATE

Many of us want to get into the digital modes for HF. Usually, this takes a sound card on the computer along with a digital interface board. You also normally use the RS232 port for transmit control of the radio. As it turns out the newer computers may or may not have RS232 ports on them. These are being replaced with the new standard of USB ports for hooking up accessories. One company called MICROHAM has come out with a nice interface unit that hooks directly up to your USB port and SOUND card to provide you a digital interface you need to operate the new digital modes. The interface has software drivers to make it look like an RS232 port to your computer. It also has the interface from the radio audio to the sound card using isolation transformers. The outputs of the unit are optically coupled to prevent noise problems when operating. Level adjustment controls are also provided. If you have one of these newer computers without an RS232 port and want to operate digital HF check out this unit from MICROHAM. For more information their web address is www.microham.com .

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times when operating mobile we encounter noise problems from our vehicle. Whether we hookup to a power point or directly to the battery the DC voltage we get can have a lot of electrical noise on it when the vehicle is running. This can be from the alternator, computer, injectors ETC. Actually, this is not a new problem and has been around since car radios were first put in cars. One device that can help prevent this problem is an inline noise filter. The circuit consists of a choke and capacitors to eliminate the noise. Mine also included a series diode for reverse polarity protection and fuse for safety. The units can be bought from car stereo providers and shops for under

\$10.00. Just make sure the current rating they have is suitable for your application. I hooked my filter up to a set of power pole connectors to supply power to my QRP rig when I needed to eliminate electrical noise from the system. As a bonus I got the reverse polarity protection and fused it for my low power rig.



James Butler, KB4LJV

APRIL

2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Dan, N4QLK	3	4 Jane Tallant	5	6 MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM	7	8
9	10 Roosevelt, K4MPQ	11 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	12	13	14	15
16 Thomas, KG4EOV David, KI4FCU	17	18 James, KB4LJV	19	20 Bill, KB4SQV	21 Neal, W4EKD	22 John, KG4OLG
23 29 Jacob Miller	24 30	24 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM	25	26 Pat Walton	27	28

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MAY

2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Mary, AC4GF	MARA Club Meeting 7:00 PM		Roger, KF4QFZ Jennifer Douglas
7	8	9 Delta Club Meeting 7:00 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15 Dan, N9PNA Wesley, W3EDW	16 Andy, K4ZLC	17	18	19 Katherine Savage	20
21	22 Sheila Miller	23 Shelby Cty., ARES Meeting 6:45 PM Keith Burnam Kelly Burnam	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Tommy, KD4TJO	31 Billy, KD4FTS			

Delta Amateur Radio Club



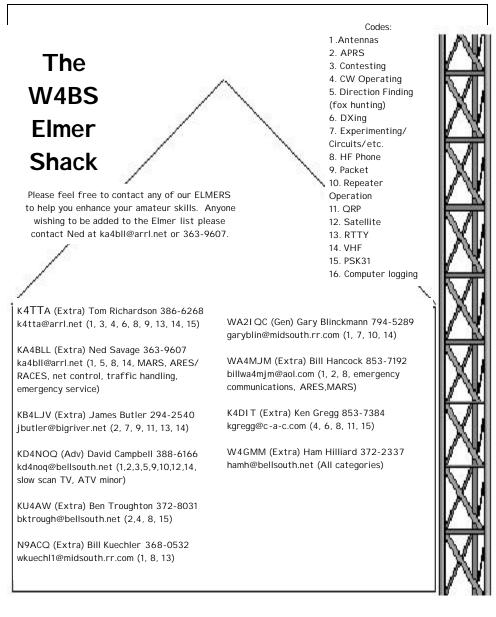
CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are some of the contests and special events coming up in the next few weeks...

Montana QSO Party -- Phone/CW/ Digital -- sponsored by the Flathead Va lley Amateur Radio Club from 2300Z Apr 8 through 2300Z Apr 9. Frequencies: 160 meters-70 cm, no categories, repeaters and IRLP are permitted. For more information: k7ncr@arrl.net. **QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party** -- CW, sponsored by the QRP ARCI, from 1200Z Apr 8-2400Z Apr 9. (Same rules as Fall QSO Party; see Oct 2005 *QST*, p 86 or **www.qrparci.org**)

EU Spring Sprints -- CW, Apr 8 -- managed by G4BUO (SSB, Apr 15 -- managed by 9A6XX) from 1600Z-1959Z. Frequencies (MHz): SSB -- 3.730, 7.050, 14.250; CW -- 3.550, 7.025, 14.040. For more information or contest software: **www. eusprint.com**.

Japan International DX Contest (JIDX)--CW--sponsored by *Five-Nine Magazine* from 0700Z Apr 8-1300Z Apr 9. (Phone --Nov 11-12) Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For



more information: jidx.org.

Georgia QSO Party -- CW/SSB, sponsored by SECC and SEDXC from 1800Z Apr 8-0359Z Apr 9 and 1400Z-2359Z Apr 9. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: **gqp.contesting.com**.

Yuri Gagarin DX Contest -- CW, sponsored by "Patriot" from 2100Z Apr 8-2100Z Apr 9. Frequencies: 160-10 meters and Amateur Satellites. For more information: www.srr.su/contest/GC/ gc2006re.htm.

DX YL to North American YL Contest-Phone, Apr 11-13 (see Apr 4-9).

YU DX Contest -- CW, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) from 2100Z Apr 15-0500Z Apr 16 and 0900Z -1700Z Apr 16. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: **yudx.net**.

Michigan QSO Party -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z Apr 15-0400Z Apr 16. Bands: 80-10 meters. Frequencies: CW -- 45 kHz from band edge, Phone (MHz) -- 3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450. For more information: www.miqp.org.

Ontario QSO Party -- CW/Phone, sponsored by Contest Club Ontario and the Ontario DX Association from 1800Z Apr 15-1800Z Apr 16. Frequencies (MHz): SSB -- 1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360; CW -- 30 kHz above band edges; VHF-SSB: 50.130, 144.205, 432.105; VHF-FM 52.540, 146.550, 446.1, no repeater QSOs. For more information: **cco.ve3xd. com/oqp**.

TARA Skirmish -- Digital Prefix Contest, sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000z-2400z Apr 15. Frequencies: 160-6 meters, work stations once per band. For more information: www.n2ty.org/seasons/ tara_dpx_rules.html or skirmishmanager@n2ty.org.

Holyland DX Contest -- CW/SSB, sponsored by the Israel Amateur Radio Club from 0000Z-2359Z Apr 15. Frequencies: 160-10 meters according to IARU Region I band plan, work Israeli stations once per band and mode. For more information: www.iarc.org.

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party -all modes, sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society from 0001Z Apr 15-2359Z Apr 23. Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030; SSB -- 1.970, 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 21.370, 28.370. For more information: arlhs.com/SL-2006guidelines.html.

ES Open HF Championship -- CW/SSB, sponsored by Union of Swiss Short Wave sponsored by the Estonian Radio Amateurs Union from 0500Z-0859Z Apr 15. Frequencies: 80 and 40 meters. For more information: www.erau.ee/index.php? newlang=eng.

EU EME Contest -- CW/SSB, 0000Z Apr 8-2400Z Apr 9 on 144 MHz, 2.3 and 3.4 GHz (see p 99, Feb QST or www. dubus.org).

EU Spring Sprint -- SSB, 1600Z-1959Z Apr 15, see Apr 8.

EA QRP Contest -- CW, sponsored by the EA QRP Club. From 1700Z Apr 15-1300Z Apr 16 in four parts (see Web site). Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.eagrp.com.

Florida QSO Party, sponsored by the Florida Contest Group from 1600Z Apr 22-0159Z Apr 23 and 1200Z -2159Z Apr 23, 20 hours max, work FL stations. Freedges, Phone -- 7.260, 14.260, 21.335, and 28.485, no 160 or 80 meters, VHF/ UHF. For more information: www. floridaqsoparty.org.

Nebraska QSO Party -- CW/SSB/ Digital, sponsored by the Heartland DX Association 1700Z Apr 22-1700Z Apr 23. Frequencies (MHz): 160-2 meters; CW ---1.805 and 35 kHz above band edge, Novices/Technicians -- 10 kHz above band edge; Phone -- 1.915, 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465, 146.460. For additional information: www.qsl.net/hdxa.

DXColombia International Contest --Phone/CW, sponsored by DX Colombia, from 0000Z Apr 22-0000Z Apr 23. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.dxcolombia.com/contest. htm.

SP DX RTTY Contest -- sponsored by Polish Radiovideography Club from 1200Z Apr 22-1200Z Apr 23. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. For more information: www.pkrvg.org/zbior.html.

Helvetia Contest--CW/SSB/Digital--Amateurs (USKA) from 1300Z Apr 29-1259Z Apr 30. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www.uska.ch/ e index.htm

Alabama QSO Party -- CW/Phone, from 1700Z Apr 29-0500Z Apr 30. Operate 10 hours max. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information: www. alabamaqsoparty.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Apr 7-Apr 8, 1800Z-2400Z, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. Celebrating "World Health Day 2006." 21.365 18.155 14.265 7.265 SSTV and PSK31. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department ARC, 5051 S 129th E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www. tulsa-health.org/k5thd.

Apr 7-Apr 9, 1300Z-2100Z, Venice, FL. Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, K4S. Anquencies (MHz): CW -- 35 kHz from band nual Venice Sharks Tooth Festival. 21.313 7.040 3.925 442.875 147.42. Certificate or 18.153 14.272 7.233. QSL. Jack Sproat, W4JS, 1419 E Manasota Beach Rd, Englewood, FL 34223. tamiamiarc. tripod.com.

> Apr 8, 1400Z-2200Z, Hawthorne, NJ. Bergen Amateur Radio Association, K2BAR. Earth Day Celebration. 28.350 21.300 14.300 possible APRS IRLP. Certificate. Fred Buchner, 202 Tenth Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506. www.bara.org.

Apr 8-Apr 9, 0000Z-2359Z, Mesquite, TX. HAM Association of Mesquite, WJ5J. 49th Annual Mesquite Rodeo.

18.129 14.235 7.229 3.929. QSL or Certificate. HAM Association of Mesquite, PO Box 851835, Mesquite, TX 75185. www.mesquiteham.org.

Apr 8-Apr 9, 0000Z-2359Z, San Angelo, TX. AB5BG. 64th Anniversary of the infamous Bataan Death March. 10 15 20 40 m. Certificate. Don Goff, AB5BG, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905.

Apr 9-Apr 15, 1330Z-2100Z, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society. W1MGY. 94th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. *Titanic* Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. www.hcra.org/titanic.htm.

Apr 9-Apr 15, 1700Z-2400Z, Cape -Canaveral, FL. Titusville and North Brevard Amateur Radio Clubs, N4S. 25th Silver Anniversary of America's First Space Shuttle Launch, from Kennedy Space Center. 21.350 18.150 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Carl Zelich, AA4MI, 1720 Old River Tr, Chuluota, FL 32766-8603. www.northbrevardradioclub.org.

Apr 14-Apr 15, 1400Z-2000Z, Lynden, WA. Mt Baker Amateur Radio Club, K7SKW. Whatcom County Youth Fair. 14.242 14.071. QSL. Rodger Alexander, KK7LK, 3404 Illinois Ln, Bellingham, WA 98226. www.qsl.net/k7skw.

Apr 16-Apr 30, 0000Z-2359Z, Elmhurst, IL. York Radio Club, W9Y. York Radio Club's 70th Anniversary. 14.250 7.260 QSL. Gehl Entwhistle, KB9DVC, 370 N West Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126. www. yorkradioclub.com.

Apr 21-Apr 22, 1400Z-2400Z, Rock Island, IL. Green River and Quad City Historical Radio Societies, W9RI. 150th Anniversary of the 1st Mississippi River railroad bridge. 21.350 14.250 7.250 7.050. Certificate. W9RI, 2519 29th Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201. www.forret.org/ grvars/.

Apr 21-Apr 22, 1700Z-0200Z, Rupert, ID. Snake River Chapter of the Idaho Society of Radio, W7R. Rupert Idaho Centennial Celebration. 147.00 449.20 7.185 SO-51. QSL. Mike Johnson, WA7NRP, SRCISRA, PO Box 833, Burley, ID 83318. http://srcisra.info/.

Apr 22, 1400Z-0200Z, Deadwood, TX. Panola County Amateur Radio Club, N5OW. Republic of Texas International Boundary Marker. 14.265 3.915 7.246. Certificate. PCARC, 380 CR 1241, Gary, TX 75643.

Apr 22, 1600Z-2200Z, Norman, OK. South Canadian Amateur Radio Society, W5NOR. 89er Day Festival, commemorating the Great Land Run of 1889. 14.289. QSL. SCARS, PO Box 720993, Norman, OK 73072. http://w5nor.org.

Apr 22, 1300Z-2000Z, Rocky Point, NY. Radio Central Amateur Radio Club, W2RC/IMD. International Marconi Day. 14.270 14.050 7.270 7.030. QSL. Radio Central Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 396, Centereach, NY 11720. www.rcarc. org.

Apr 22-Apr 23, 1300Z-1600Z, Morgantown, WV. Morgantown Airport, Civil Air Patrol & Aviation Explorer Post 747, W8V. CAP Aviation and Technology "27 Hour" Day, youth oriented event. Phone only 145.430 28.350 14.250 7.250 VHF simplex 146.460 aircraft at 10,560 ft and APRS weather balloon launch. QSL or Certificate. Civil Air Patrol -- Aviation Explorers, Morgantown Municipal Airport, 225 Hart Field Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505. http://AvDays.org.

Apr 22-Apr 23, 1600Z-2400Z, Piscataway, NJ. Piscataway Amateur Radio Club, K2VOA. Former Voice of America N4SDM. "Days on the Farm" illustrating relay station WBOU. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Bill Toth, 6 Rivercrest Dr, Piscataway, NJ 08854. www.homestead.com/k2voa/.

Apr 29, 1400Z-2300Z, Paris, TN. Henry County Radio Society, KE4HC. Celebrating the 53rd Annual World's Biggest Fish Fry. 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Barry Sandefer, W4WYD, 4715 Guthrie Rd, Paris, TN 38242.

Apr 29, 1700Z-0000Z, Tarentum, PA. Skyview Radio Society, K3MJW. 38th Anniversary of Allegheny-Kiski Historical Society. 146.640 14.260 7.240. QSL. Robert Bastone, 308 Garden Hill Dr, Tarentum, PA 15084. www.skyviewradio. net.

Apr 29-Apr 30, 1400Z-2200Z, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Radio Club/ ManCoRad Radio Club, N9BQV. WW II Submarine USS *Cobia* AGSS-245 on the air. 14.243 14.070 7.243 7.080. QSL. Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 S 10th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220. www.gsl.net/ w9dk.

Apr 29-Apr 30, 1500Z-0500Z, Jacksonville, TX. Cherokee County Amateur Radio Club, K5JVL. 5th Annual Drakes on the Lake at Lake Jacksonville. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. Certificate. Cherokee System of Texas picnic. 21.200 14.230 County ARC, c/o Brad Low, K5BDL, 840 Henderson St, Jacksonville, TX 75766.

Apr 30, 1200Z-1700Z, Mt Clemens, MI. Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association, W8A. March of Dimes Walk America. 21.250 14.250 7.250. Certificate. USECA, PO Box 46331, Mt Clemens, MI 48046. www.useca.net.

Apr 30, 1200Z-2400Z, Oklahoma City, OK. Oklahoma City Autopatch Association, W5MEL. Sixth Annual OKC Murrah Building Bombing Memorial Marathon. 14.319 7.269 3.919. QSL. AE5MH, 3200 Del Rey Dr, Midwest City, OK 73110. www.qsl.net/ocapa.

May 4-May 5, 1500Z-1900Z, Smyrna, TN. Sam Davis Memorial CW Club, a working farm of mid 1800s. 14.058 7.058. QSL. Sam Davis Memorial CW Club, PO Box 54, 215 Camelot Ct, Smyrna, TN 37167.

May 5, 1500Z-2000Z, West Mifflin , PA. Belle Vernon High School Amateur Radio Club, KB3BKW. Amusement Park Physics & Communications Day. 14.260. Certificate. Belle Vernon HS Amateur Radio Club, c/o T. Thompson, 425 Crest

Ave, Belle Vernon, PA 15012.

May 6, 1400Z-1900Z, Byesville, OH. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, Inc, W8VP. 5th anniversary from Buckeye Central Scenic RxR Train. 14.260 14.250 7.245 7.235. QSL. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 1804, Cambridge, OH 43725. www. w8vp.org.

May 6, 1500Z-2300Z, Conway, AR. Faulkner County Amateur Radio Club. W5AUU. Toad Suck Daze 25th Anniversary Special Event Station. 21.350 14.260 7.260 146.520. Certificate. Faulkner County ARC, PO Box 324, Conway, AR 72033. www.w5auu.org.

May 6, 0300Z-1200Z, Abilene, TX. Armadillo Intertie, AI5TX. National Radio 14.050 7.250. QSL. Bill Lawless, W5WRL, 4000 Crestridge, Midland, TX 79707. www.armadillo.org.

May 6, 1500Z-2300Z, Cookeville, TN. Upper Cumberland Amateur Radio Association, W4W. Cookeville Railroad Rendezvous Street Festival. 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. Dennis M. Barrett, 1035 East 6th St, Cookeville, TN 38501. www. ucara.org.

May 7, 1530Z-2230Z, Fort Knox, KY. Owensboro Amateur Radio Club, W2P. VE Day, General George Patton, 3rd Army and 8th Armored Division. 14.248 14.048 7.248 7.048. QSL. Schley Cox, W4AMW, 1860 Antler Ave, Owensboro, KY 42303-1873. www.k4hy.net.

May 12-May 16, 0000Z-0000Z, North Wildwood, NJ. North Wildwood OEM, N2W. North Wildwood NJ Centennial Celebration. 147.400 14.240 7.100 3.850. QSL. William Farr, 311 E 8th Ave, N Wildwood, NJ 08260. www. northwildwood.com/events/sung.html.

TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name Tennessee CW Net Tennessee Slow CW Net Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net Tennessee Morning Phone Net	Freq. 3635 3682 3980 3980 3980	UTC 0100 0130 1145 1245 1400	Day T-Su T-Su M-F M-F Sa-Su
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3980	0030	T-Su

LOCAL HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

BRARC ''Junk in the Shade'' Hamfest 2006

Highland Park Observatory 13800 Highland Road Baton Rouge, LA May 6, 2006

Johnson County Amateur Radio Swapfest

Johnson County ARC National Guard Armory 1923 South Shady Street Mountain City, TN May 13, 2006

Delta Amateur Radio Club March 2006 Treasurers Report

Balance	\$6,587.60
Expense	
U of M Phone Bill Bell South Phone Bill	\$22.94 \$58.38
Total Expense	\$81.32
Income	
2006 Membership Dues	\$350.00
Total Income	\$350.00
Balance 04/0 3/2006	\$6,856.28

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

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