



# DRUMLIN'S RUMBLINS

DARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2005

## NEXT MEETING

**January 19, 2005**

**Doors open at 7:pm Meeting 7:30pm**

**New York State**

**EMO**

**Route 31 Newark, NY**

or try 146.745

## Minutes December 2004

Dec 15, 2004

Call to Order 1930.

**Attendance:** KC2HUP, KB2KBY, N2RUS, WA2SOK, N2JC, N2MKT, N2MLD, WB2QKO, W4ILN, WA2CQI, KB2ROP, KE4VHA.

Minutes Approved, 1st N2JC, 2<sup>nd</sup>, N2MLD,

**Treasurer Report:**

Approved, 1<sup>st</sup> N2MLD, sec. N2MKT.

**Repeaters:** 745 Good, 146, 685 in shop, 144,950 good, 444.950 Good.

**Ant committee:** Plans need to be made to rebuild dipoles.

**Activities & Contests:** dinner will be the January 15<sup>th</sup>, \$10.00 a plate, Rob Esciva, KC2DQN will be our DJ again this yr.

**Warecs, Races & Ares:** Yearly report should available by next meeting, KB2KBY.

**Remembrances:** Al Cook, K2MPE sent a card to club thanking them for their concerns.

**Old Business:** Starting Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am Tech classes at Walworth Town Complex.

Contact Info [kb2soz@arrl.net](mailto:kb2soz@arrl.net).

**New business:** Wed May 4<sup>th</sup>. Shywarn Training at State EMO. Wed, 6:30 PM. per KC2NFV.

As of today hamfest was registered with ARRL, Flyers have been sent out to possible dealers. Fest date April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Admission fee \$5.00, out doors 2.00. Inside 3.00..

**Program:** W4ILN gave a demo using 2 mtr. Radio, ¼ wave ant., and 2ah drill battery. Using a tape measure for ground plane.

**50/50 Winner:** Irv WA2SOK donated to Club..

Adjourned 2011, 1st. N2MKT, 2nd. KC2HUP

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Grice, KC2MBU

## RACES-ARES JANUARY 2005

Happy New Year! This means another start for a fresh year to get involved in RACES-ARES.

Participation in the 2004 year for the nets was a definite increase from the 2003 year. In 2003 we had an average of 4.9 check-ins per net. For 2004 there were 5.8 check-ins per net. This is a nice little increase from the year before. You may think it is not a big increase, but when you consider there were more nets in total compared to the two years, I was pleased.

I was very pleased to see how well the summer nets were attended this year. That is usually a low time of the year. I was pleased to see that did not happen in 2004. The summer is usually and understandably a busy time for all of us. So to see a good number of check-ins for this past summer was pleasing to see.

Also we had 6 more nets from the previous year. In 2003 we had 38 nets and 2004 we had 44 nets. Normally when you have more of anything statistically you normally have a lower average.

We had less events and/or drills this past year. That was due mainly to Ginna changing hands from Rochester Gas & Electric to Consolidated Electric. Fortunately for area of the country we had no disasters caused by "Mother Nature." In fact what we have seen across our country and the world this past year and even recently, New York State is even looking better. With certain holidays off for your families and friends, 44 is about the

Continued on page 3

## The Drumlins Leaders 04-05

President	Doug Peeso, KB2ROP	315-587-2889
V-President	Calvin Bruzee, KC2HUP	315-945-3077
Secretary	Thomas Grice, KC2MBU	315-573-7351
Treasurer	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Program Dir.	Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ	315-986-5779
Director 3 yr	Russ Millspaw, N2RUS	315-483-8024
Director 2 yr	Bob Wilkin, W2GIV	315-923-2620
Director 1 yr	Steve Elliott, N2COJ	315-789-2701
Sysop .745	Jeff Jenson, N2MKT	315-483-0817
Sysop .685	Bruce Blair, WB2QKO	315-597-9731
News Letter	Irv Walter, WA2SOK	315-597-2192
Club Trustee	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Web Master	Doug Wakeman, KC2BMI	315-331-2980

## W2RDX

**Hello Fellow Amateur,**

There are many Amateur Radio clubs in our area. Some attempt to cater to everyone and target no one. And some are very specific... Packet, VHF, etc. At RDXA we are active in areas that most hams seem to eventually wish to excel. To the point... *RDXA is the premier DX, Contesting and Field Day club in Western NY.*

A sample of our recent activities and programs would be:

- Member tour of the Antique Wireless Museum
- Consistent top 5 US Field Day scores in 3A class
- Writelog contest software presentations
- Speakers from Harris RF and ARRL
- Exhibitor at St. John Fisher Science Days & the RMSC
- Sponsor of NG2P PacketCluster
- Annual awards dinner with the RVHFG
- Homebrew gadget night
- Monthly meetings, followed by a social gathering
- RDXA Web page ( [www.RDXA.com](http://www.RDXA.com) )
- Logbook of the World

If your only interest is chatting on a repeater, that's OK, but RDXA is probably not for you. BUT, if you want to be an active participant in what Ham Radio has to offer, visit a monthly meeting. See what RDXA offers!

RDXA meets monthly at Gander Mountain (meeting room), Jay Scutti Blvd. at 7:00pm. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (except July & August).

We hope that you will consider joining RDXA. Need more info? Contact us at [RDXA@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:RDXA@Rochester.rr.com) If it is done in amateur radio, it's done at RDXA!

73 de RDXA

Received via Email

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Fellow Amateur Radio Operators,**

Welcome, one and all to 2005. As with any year 2004 ends and 2005 begins with a mix of good and bad. If you have seen the news at all this past few weeks you no doubt know about the tsunami disaster in south east Asia or the flooding that is washing away our west coast. I have already heard reports of amateur radio operators providing a much needed service and often the only means of communication out of an area. I suspect that these reports will be covered in detail in QST, CQ or the like. If we are truly lucky we will hear about such deeds in the main news media. In any event, it is always good to see those who can, helping others in need.

On a happier note, we have our annual Christmas/Winter dinner on Saturday January 15th. I hope to see as many of you there as can be. It is sure to be a good time. Thank you all for a great 2004 and here is to a wonderful 2005.

Doug KB2ROP

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maximum number of nets possible.

So I am pleased with the 2004 year. Bruce, WB2QKO, and I say, "thank you" for those that supported RACES-ARES. May 2005 be as "boring" for RACES-ARES as the last. Consider checking into the Sunday net, or even better to sharpen your skills being a net control. It is not just have good statistics but to help us to be prepared when we are needed. There will be a time. It would be good to see a bigger pool of operators that can be called upon. "Be prepared" is not just a good motto for the Boy Scouts. It is equally a good motto for RACES-ARES as well. Please give it your sincere to participate more for 2005.

Again-Happy New Year! May the year be a prosperous for you.

73, Dave KB2KBY

### CLUB ADDRESS:

Dave Taylor KB2KBY Club Trustee ,  
228 W. Jackson St. Palmyra, NY 14522  
Packet: Kb2kby-1 thru Newark Node  
Email: [kb2kby@juno.com](mailto:kb2kby@juno.com)

News Letter Stuff Send To: Irv Walter, WA2SOK  
57-2881 Macedon Ctr. Rd. Palmyra, NY. 14522  
Packet: DARC thru Newark 144.95  
E-mail: [wa2sok@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wa2sok@rochester.rr.com)

Web Page: <http://www.drumlinsarc.com>

## "It Seems to Us . . . " No Complaint, No Interference

By David Sumner, K1ZZ  
ARRL Chief Executive Officer  
January 1, 2005

*Editor's note: Typically, only ARRL members get to read the "It Seems to Us ..." editorials that run each month in QST. We're posting this editorial that appears in the January, 2005 issue of QST in the hope that both ARRL members and nonmembers might appreciate it and find it informative.*

You've probably heard the term "No harm, no foul." It appears to date back about 50 years to a policy that was intended to reduce interruptions in basketball games by instructing referees to ignore minor infractions that did not affect the flow of the game. As often happens with sports phrases, it has become part of the language. When it comes to interference to most radio communication services caused by Broadband over Power Line (BPL) spectrum pollution leaking from unshielded power lines, the FCC is taking "No harm, no foul" to a new level. In fact, the FCC has no intention of acting as a referee if it can possibly avoid it.

Never mind that international regulations, domestic law, and the FCC's own rules mandate protection for licensed services from unlicensed generators of radio frequency energy. Never mind that study after study shows that BPL systems operated at the FCC limits will cause harmful interference hundreds of feet from the power lines. To date, BPL system operators who have been unable to keep their systems even within those limits have been - allowed to continue operating with impunity.

The FCC clearly is not interested in preventing BPL interference in advance other than in the case of aeronautical communications and a couple of other narrow exceptions. Even public safety communications are not protected. BPL system operators will have 24 hours to respond to (not necessarily to resolve) a public safety complaint. The trial lawyers should already be lining up to take the first case of an avoidable fatality resulting from BPL preventing an emergency response vehicle from hearing its dispatcher.

But our purpose this month is not to whine about the FCC's shortsightedness. Our purpose is to make the best of the situation until relief comes either in the form of a successful petition for reconsideration or a successful challenge in a federal Court of Appeals. The FCC has decided, for better or worse, that resolving BPL interference will be a complaint-driven process. This means that if we as radio amateurs or shortwave listeners encounter harmful interference from BPL, we *must* file a complaint! If we don't complain, as far as the FCC is concerned the interference doesn't exist. Even worse, if we don't complain then the BPL operator will falsely claim that its system doesn't cause interference.

Radio amateurs who are located in the limited areas where BPL is already deployed are on the front lines of this battle. If you are one, the rest of us are counting on *you*. In some areas--Iowa, North Carolina, and Arizona immediately come to mind--teams of local amateurs have done an extraordinary job of documenting the harmful interference as well as the BPL operators' inept and unsuccessful attempts to resolve it. In other places, individual ama-

teurs have stepped into the breach. The Rochester (Minnesota) Amateur Radio Club has been able to work cooperatively with Rochester Public Utilities in their evaluation of BPL and has documented interference *to* as well as interference *from* BPL. There are other examples of good local effort--but there are others where amateurs have done too little or have been willing to settle for too little in the way of interference elimination. So, what should you do if you think you're being interfered with by a BPL system? It's best if you can work as part of a team of local amateurs, but you can also be effective as an "army of one."

The first step is to verify that the source is really BPL. There is a wealth of information at the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/bpl](http://www.arrl.org/bpl), to help you make this determination. If there is any doubt, contact Ed Hare, W1RFI, at ARRL Headquarters: [w1rfi@arrl.org](mailto:w1rfi@arrl.org). A direct link to guidance on how to report BPL interference is at [www.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/complaints.html](http://www.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/complaints.html)

Once you know that BPL is the source, contact the BPL system operator. Usually that will be your local power company, although they may refer you to another company that is operating the system on their lines. Eventually there will be a publicly accessible database with contact information.

The FCC says, "We expect both parties to cooperate to determine a mutually acceptable schedule to diagnose and resolve the interference complaint...." Note the term "mutually acceptable." When you file your complaint you should ask for a commitment that the interference will be eliminated by a certain date that is reasonable to you. If the system operator is unwilling to do so, point out to them that the FCC requires them to adhere to a schedule that you find acceptable. Also, don't settle for anything less than complete elimination of harmful interference on *all* amateur bands.

The FCC goes on:

Any complaints of interference that are not resolved in accordance with the mutually agreed schedule may be filed with the Commission along with the particulars of the interference case. Upon receipt of the interference complaint, the Commission will investigate the complaint and take action against the Access BPL operator if it is found to be causing harmful interference. If, on the other hand the Commission uses its resources to investigate an interference complaint that is found to be frivolous, the Commission will impose -appropriate sanctions for abuse of its administrative process.

We're not happy with the FCC's reference to "frivolous" complaints, which appears to have no other purpose than to discourage the filing of any and all complaints. What constitutes a "frivolous" complaint?

Given that several BPL system operators have told less than the whole truth, either deliberately or from ignorance, the FCC should be more concerned about the conduct of these unlicensed operators--who have no rights whatsoever under the Communications Act--than about the conduct of its licensees who have a proven record of responsible behavior.

From the ARRL Web Site

**RACES NET SUNDAY**  
**8:45 PM 146.685**

**WOPHT A TRUE STORY  
VERY INTERESTING STORY POSTED ON QRZ  
Posted: Jan. 07 2005,10:19**

When I was a teenager, I took to creative writing. I wrote fanciful Science Fiction stories and did a lot of daydreaming about adventurous deeds done by heroic people. My father always told me that real life was more exciting than fiction. It must have been my youth, but I never really believed him at the time. My father was a very practical man. He always fixed things himself and worked hard in his career to teach himself what was needed to get his job done. He never liked to sit around and watch TV or go to the movies but he loved to play the piano and expressed his creativity by inventing new things out in the garage. When I was five or six years old, he built a remote control car from scratch. It took him several tries but he wound up with a battery powered radio controlled car well before you could buy such toys in the stores.

My dad always had a talent for things electronic in nature. When he was a small boy, he modified a toy train to start and stop by talking to it. His parents and relatives thought it was magic. By the time he graduated High School, my father had become an Amateur Radio operator and had built every radio he used from scratch. Someone once told me that my dad had built his first radio from a hog trough. Having lived on a farm in Iowa all his youth must have been like living in a prison for his creative mind. He once told me that he had designed a way to automate the plowing of his father's fields by using a tractor that followed a wire buried deep in the ground. He never got that one working as the plow would dig up the wire. His intense interest in technology would lead him off the farm and into a future that would become increasingly reliant on electronics.

After High School, he took one semester of college and quit. Didn't like the English and Math 101 classes. So he took a job at Collins Radio in Ames, Iowa. There he met a student named Harold Nelson, a fellow Ham. Harold recalls my dad as being a very gifted radio designer who knew more about the Collins radios than some of their engineers. It was while working for Collins and helping to put together a large government equipment order, that my dad learned where the equipment was heading. It was to be used in South America as part of the Geodesic Survey for 1958. My dad asked if they needed any help and they replied that they

were in deed looking for a technician to be in charge of the equipment and assist a Physicist in taking measurements in regards to radio wave propagation.

My dad signed on and after three months in Bolder Colorado for training that included learning Spanish, he was on a barge drifting down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

Once in South America , my dad found out that he needed to hire body guards to protect himself and the expensive radio equipment from the bandits in Chile. The protection amounted to a few natives and their extended families. A letter back to his bosses in the States approved the expenditure of hiring the guards. My dad latter said that what he paid them was more money than they would normally have seen in a years worth of work. The extended family lived right beside my father's trailer for the entire year he was there. It wasn't until he left South America that he learned that the body guards he had hired were actually the bandits that he was warned about.

While my dad was in South America he would call back home to Iowa and talk with his parents on Amateur Radio equipment given to him by the government. Harold Nelson volunteered to act as the operator in charge letting the family talk to their son, half a world away. Over the course of the year that my dad was gone, Harold became quite close to the family. Some days the conditions allowed for only an hour of talking, other times the band would stay open all day. One by one my dad's relatives and friends would come over to the farm house and talk with my dad on the radio.

Harold remembers seeing my grandfather waiting for him in the window and as soon as he saw Harold's green car coming down the street, my grandfather would go turn on the radios and by the time Harold was parked and at the door they were warmed up and ready to talk. Harold remembers the conditions were often very favorable and like clockwork, he would call my dad's overseas call sign and my dad would respond. It was all magic to the farmer and his wife, but it was good magic that let them talk to their son, so far away.

**Activity and Work Nite**  
The first Wednesday of every month  
will be a Work & Activity Night at the State EMO,

**HAMFESTS:**  
Jan 29.....Lockport, NY  
Http://lara.hamgate.net  
Feb 26 .....Horseheads, NY  
n2sy@arast.org

**Web Page: Http://www.drumlinsarc.com**

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As the year progressed, my grandfather developed heart problems and by the end of the year the Doctor's realized that he didn't have long to live. Harold got the news late one evening and immediately turned on the radios to contact my dad. But he was not listening. Then Harold remembered that my dad would be checking in with the bosses at Bolder on a military frequency. His radio could tune that band and he quickly changed over to hear my dad reporting. It was not legal for Harold as a Ham to talk on the military frequency and he was very nervous about interrupting them. Putting the nerves aside, he broke in and gave my dad the sad news. The bosses in Bolder got on the phone immediately and had my dad a flight home within two hours. Then they told Harold to get off the frequency and go back down to the Ham bands to let my dad know the details.

Harold said it was the toughest thing he's ever had to do and he remembers it like it was just the other day.

My dad got off the plane in Miami and called home, worried about his father's condition. He was too late, grandpa Ken had passed away. The last time my father had heard his dad speak was on the military Ham radio. Years would pass, and my father stayed in the radio business, retiring as the Senior Products Engineer at Regency Communications. He later married, had two kids and raised them, traveling from one end of the country to another. All the while he held on to the little black military radios that he had last heard his own father speak to him from.

This past year my father contracted a cancerous brain tumor and died within a month after becoming ill. I last spoke to him on the phone, two weeks before he died. The tumor spread from his lungs that were as black as a chain smoker from second hand smoke. My dad never smoked a day in his life. But the other engineers he worked with did and over a 20 year career, that adds up. Up until the last few weeks, we thought he would pull through it with radiation treatment. But the cancer was too strong and late one evening I got the call from my mother to come quickly.

I got on a plane the next morning and flew to Arizona where they lived. A good friend of my dad's came and got me and raced me back to the hospital nearly getting a speeding ticket in the process. I made it to my father's side in time to be with him as he passed away. Something that he was never able to do for his dad. That was important to my family.

I had never been too interested in getting my Ham radio license until after my dad died. It just didn't seem right that his call sign, the same one he had when Harold had contacted him in South America, would go back into the pool and be assigned to a stranger. So I vowed to get my license and then take his call as my own. Three months later I was W0PHT

and the custodian of the family history it represented. All those years of listening to my father's radios in the garage and watching him talk to people all over the world had rubbed off on his oldest son and I now eagerly participate in the Amateur Radio hobby. All the radios I own are the ones my father had and used right up until his illness. Many of the rigs were designed or built by him.

I made a pilgrimage back to my mother's house and filled up my station wagon with all of my dad's remaining radios and antennas. I brought them back and built a new desk in my garage/ham shack to hold them. There was one set of old radios that he had held on to, all those years and I never knew exactly why. They were painted black and were military copies of Collins Radios. Complete with military frequencies and Ham frequencies. Nobody knew what they were for, but my dad always had them tucked away in the electronic junk in his garage.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking on the phone with Harold Nelson from his home in Arizona, not far from where my mother lives. In talking about the whole adventure he had with my father's family, he told me about the radios that the government had given to my dad to talk back to Bolder Colorado with. He said they were a copy of the Collins radios called Eldico, with both military and Ham frequencies. Low and behold, I had the very same radios that my father had last spoken to his father on back in 1958! Needless to say, I will not be parting with those particular radios. I'm currently studying for my next level of Amateur license so that I can talk to Harold on the very same radios he spoke to my father from all those years ago.

I don't know if my sons will ever become Hams, but my hope is that at least one will, so he can keep the call sign - W0PHT, and the radio in the family and pass them down to future generations. Who knows what further adventures lie in wait for those old radios? What ever happens, it's a fair bet that it will be far more interesting than any fiction I will ever write.

73,

Ken McConnell (W0PHT)

Gerald Lynn McConnell (formally, W0PHT) 1935-2004

### **"Dues are Due"**

This could be your last news letter,  
To those haven't sent in their dues Please do!!

To: David Taylor, KB2KBY  
228 W. Jackson St.  
Palmyra, NY 14522

# January 09, 2005 - February 19, 2005

## DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, LTD.

Sun Day	Mon Day	Tue Day	Wed Day	Thu Day	Fri Day	Sat Day
Jan 9  N2OLD B'Day N2PMG B'Day	Jan 10  KB2SAL B'day	Jan 11	Jan 12  KB2KBY B'Day KB2WPO B'day	Jan 13  KB2LEP B'Day	Jan 14  KB2GWV B'DAY	Jan 15  KB2GZM B'Day
Jan 16 <b>WARECS NET</b> 8:45 pm  N2PMF B'day	Jan 17 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b>  N2HLQ B'dAY	Jan 18	Jan 19  KC2KYC B'day	Jan 20	Jan 21  N2TKR B'day	Jan 22
Jan 23 <b>WARECS NET</b> 8:45 pm	Jan 24  W2GIV B'DAY	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27  N2OMS B'DAY	Jan 28  N2LPO B'Day AA2XG B'DAY	Jan 29 <b>Lockport Hamfest</b>
Jan 30 <b>WARECS NET</b> 8:45 pm	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4  KB2ROR B'day	Feb 5
Feb 6  <b>WARECS NET</b> 8:45 pm	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12 <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>  N2IZV B'Day
Feb 13 <b>WARECS NET</b> 8:45 pm	Feb 14  Valentine's Day	Feb 15	Feb 16  KC2KYC B'day	Feb 17	Feb 18  N2KQH B'Day	Feb 19

**“DUES ARE DUE”  
ITS THAT TIME AGAIN**

**RACES NET SUNDAY 8:45 PM**

**Breakfast at Alton Coffe Shop, Rte.14  
Saturday Mornings 7am.  
Check in on 146.685**

**Lunch at Tom Wahl's  
Rte. 31 Newark, Friday Noon**