



This Just In

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In Brief

- *New gear, old friends, the seemingly endless flea market:* Dayton Hamvention, featuring ARRL EXPO, was held May 16-18. A wrap-up appears in the article beginning on page 49.
- In late April, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit decided in the ARRL's favor on two major points in the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems. See Happenings beginning on page 57.
- Ham radio was part of the response to the massive May 12 earthquake in Sichuan Province, China.
- Special Event stations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games began operating May 18 and will be on the air through September 17.
- Ronald A. Parise, PhD, WA4SIR, passed away May 9 at age 57. He flew as a payload specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-35 on *Columbia* in December 1990 and STS-67 on *Endeavour* in March 1995.
- In separate decisions, the FCC denied two Petitions for Rulemaking, one having to do with digital spectrum issues and the other concerning additional spectrum for more repeaters, including digital systems.
- The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard co-sponsored the annual Military/ Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test May 10.
- News reports indicate that a potential Dallas-area BPL provider is selling its network to a regulated electric distribution and transmission company that will not be providing BPL service.
- The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for April is Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, for his article "Outpost: Packet Radio for Emergency Messaging."
- ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2006 and 2007 YA/LY1Y operations in Afghanistan have been approved for DXCC credit.
- Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket carrying six CubeSat research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies.
- The following conventions were held during May: Midwest Division, South Sioux City, Nebraska; EMCOMMWEST, Reno, Nevada; South Carolina Section, Spartanburg; Alabama State, Birmingham; Wyoming State, Casper; Atlantic Division, Rochester, and the Northwestern Division, Seaside, Oregon.
- These online course sessions began June 6, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013)

Media Hits

Allen Pitts, W1AGP

- The Federal Court decision remanding the FCC's rules on BPL is still getting coverage and made the news in many places. Among them were CNN news, CNet News.com, *Ars Technica* (Boston), *RCR Wireless News* (Golden, CO), *Radio World* (Alexandria, VA), *MRT* magazine (Chicago) and more.
- One of the major national hits in the past month had to be John Kanzius, N3TUP, on *60 Minutes* and again on the CBS *Early Show* April 13 and 14. Other media hits emphasizing the technology of Amateur Radio were found in stories of ARISS contacts. Among these were Rob Jennings' article in the Morristown, NJ *Daily Record* and the *Star-Ledger* (Newark, NJ) plus the *Independent Press* (New Providence, NJ) article on astronaut Garrett Reisman contacting Parsippany's Central Middle School.
- Seattle ACS got some great video coverage on the local Seattle channel. It is pretty hard to beat hearing Seattle's Emergency Services Director Barb Graff say "These (hams) are the people I can count on." Meanwhile, Chet Hallberg, K0TCB, got a double hit on ~~KMBC-TV 9 in Kansas City early May discussing Amateur Radio and plans for a SET drill based on a New Madras earthquake. The Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club in Omaha scored hits on local TV stations, including the WOWT news lead for the day, by aiding in emergency siren testing for the area.~~
- Lawton, OK hams and the emergency capabilities of the W5KS Club were featured on KSWO-TV while *The Star* (Shelby, NC) reported on Dewey Cook, KJ4BYU, the county's Emergency Management Director, and his use of ham radio. On April 28 the Fort Dodge, IA *Messenger* praised area hams and Chris Lewis, N9RPZ, while the Salon, IA *Gazette* added to the praise of ham weather spotters on May 3 as did the Tasley, VA *Eastern Shore News* on May 3 and the *Record Chronicle* (Denton, TX).
- *The Athens Messenger* (Athens, OH) had a major front page article on Professor John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, while Centereach's "Radio Central" ARC celebrations for Marconi's birthday were noted in the *Times Beacon Record* (LI, NY) and in *Suffolk Life* (Riverhead, NY). The Kishwaukee ARC's Ed Duy, W9QDK, scored a hit in the DeKalb, IL *Daily Chronicle*.
- Three of the best hits for the period were *The Huntsville Times* (Huntsville, AL) coverage of Drake Technical College and President McAlpine's promotion of ham radio as a teaching tool; *The Atlanta Journal* (GA) article May 2 on the ham radio roots of Hewlett-Packard and the multimedia coverage of our own PR guru Bill Morine, N2COP, as the old battleship USS *North Carolina* (decommissioned) made historic radio contact with the "brand new kid on the block," the submarine USS *North Carolina*.