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## Amateur Radio News



**Ohio amateur receives President's Volunteer Service Award** (Feb 1, 2005) -- President George W. Bush has presented the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) to Thomas J. "T. J." Powell, N8UIR, of Northfield, Ohio. Powell, 38, is an active volunteer with the Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corps ([NEOMRC](#)), a partner program of [Citizen Corps](#). The president has called on all Americans to volunteer two years or 4000 hours over the course of their lifetimes, and he created [USA Freedom Corps](#) to help foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility. Since March 2002, President Bush has met with more than 400 individuals around the country who, like Powell, have answered the call to volunteer service. NEOMRC provides medical support services for public events and emergency situations. As chief of NEOMRC and a certified emergency medical technician, Powell volunteers 800 to 1000 hours per year, helping with logistics, planning, Amateur Radio operations and first-aid for charitable fundraising events throughout Northeast Ohio. In addition, he assists local fire departments and emergency medical service agencies during incidents that impact public health. President Bush made the presentation during a January 27 visit to Cleveland. Powell, also a former American Red Cross volunteer and volunteer firefighter, greeting the President at Cleveland's Hopkins Airport (photo).--*thanks to Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Jon Anhold, N8USK, and Glenn Williams, AF8C*

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**Feature: ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up To Lately?** (Feb 1, 2005) -- This feature--including convenient Web links to useful information--is a quick monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of January.

[Full Story](#)

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**Echo (AO-51) satellite Kid's Day reset for Saturday, February 5** (Feb 1, 2005) -- AMSAT has announced that it has rescheduled its Echo satellite (AO-51) Kid's Day activity for Saturday, February 5 (US time zones). The activity will begin Saturday, February 5, at approximately 1415 UTC and continue until Sunday, February 6, at 0300 UTC. "We ask that all Amateur Radio stations give this short time window to promote satellite operations with kids," said Mike Kingery, KE4AZN, of the AO-51 control team. He says regular satellite operators can help by demonstrating to youngsters how to make contacts via AO-51, by providing a station to contact or by refraining from using Echo so other stations can make contacts with the kids. "During the event, please limit contacts to stations that are operating with kids at the microphone," he requests. "This should allow the kids to have a nice QSO and pass some information." For the exchange, youngsters can give their name, age and location and tell who's helping them operate on Echo. AO-51 will be configured with a different uplink frequency for the Kid's Day event--145.880 MHz FM voice with a 67-Hz CTCSS tone. The downlink is 435.300 MHz FM voice. Kingery believes the AMSAT Kid's Day activity on Echo not only offers AMSAT an educational opportunity but might inspire youngsters to become the Amateur Radio satellite operators of the future.--*AMSAT News Service*

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**Feature: "It Seems to Us . . ." Licensing Courses: How Long?** (Feb 1, 2005) -- While it is possible to earn an Amateur Radio license by studying on your own, most people take a course that involves attending classes taught by one or more instructors. As outlined in *The ARRL Instructor's Manual* the typical Technician course consists of eight two-hour classes, one night a week, with a ninth session for review. This is a tried-and-true formula that works for thousands of new licensees every year.

[Full Story](#)

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**ARRL member is Jeopardy "Teen Tournament" semifinalist** (Jan 31, 2005) -- The ARRL has learned that 16-year-old Michael Braun, K3LNT, from Silver Spring, Maryland, is among the semifinalists in the [Jeopardy!](#) Sony Pictures television quiz show's "Teen Tournament," Wednesday through Friday, February 2-4. The

program typically airs at 7 or 7:30 PM in most TV markets. A high school junior, Braun hold a General ticket, enjoys HF operating and is a member of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club ([MARC](#)). The Teen Tournament offers a \$75,000 grand prize. Braun says any winnings will go toward his college expenses and into savings. He also told *Jeopardy!* that he hopes to eventually work for a computer company and considers Microsoft's Bill Gates "somewhat of a role model." The *Jeopardy!* "Teen Tournament" finals take place February 7 and 8. Good Luck!--some info from *MARC*

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**ARRL to be well represented at Miami Tropical Hamboree** (Jan 31, 2005) -- Representatives of the ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) will be on hand February 5-6 for the 45th [Tropical Hamboree](#) at the Fair Expo Center, 10905 SW 24 Street (Coral Way) in Miami, Florida. Gates open both days at 9 AM, and parking is free. In addition to the vendors, flea market offerings and various presentations, ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, will update attendees on broadband over power line (BPL) issues. IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, and ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, will offer an IARU Report. The ARRL Forum gets under way at Sunday at 11 AM, led by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Frank Butler, W4RH, Vice Director, Sandy Donahue, W4RU, and Southern Florida Section Manager Sherri Brower, W4STB. ARRL Emergency Communications Course Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, will attend the 10th annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference, held at the National Hurricane Center in association with the Hamboree. He'll talk on Amateur Radio participation in the Florida hurricanes and tsunami. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, also will visit Hamboree. The South Florida DX Association hosts the DX Forum February 5, where ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, will give a brief presentation on [DXCC](#) and [Logbook of the World](#). He'll also be available during the Hamboree to check cards. Additional speakers include *QST* "How's DX?" Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who also edits [The Daily DX](#). The DX Dinner will take place Saturday evening. More information is available on the [South Florida DX Association](#) or stop by the SFDXA booth. The Miami Tropical Hamboree is sponsored by the Dade Radio Club of Miami. Complete [details](#) are on the Hamboree Web site.

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**DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit** (Jan 31, 2005) -- The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the R1MVI (Malyj Vysotskij Island) operation of September 10-13, 2004, for DXCC credit. For more information, visit the [DXCC](#) Web page. "[DXCC Frequently Asked Questions](#)," can answer most questions about the DXCC program. Current ARRL DX bulletins are available on the [W1AW DX Bulletins for 2004](#) page.

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**Feature: *The Amateur Amateur: The First Ten Years*** (Jan 30, 2005) -- We've graduated from being clueless newcomers to being clueless old timers.

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**ARRL Expo 2005 to Highlight League's National Convention in Dayton** (Jan 30, 2005) -- If you've never been to Dayton Hamvention, then this is the year. That's because Hamvention will host the 2005 ARRL National Convention May 20-22. A special feature of the event will be "ARRL Expo 2005," a separate area at Hara Arena that will highlight what the League means to Amateur Radio.

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**Feature: *The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler*** (Jan 29, 2005) -- Eclectic Electric #2

[Full Story](#)

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**Feature: *Surfin': CW on the High Seas*** (Jan 28, 2005) -- This week, we visit a Web site dedicated to maritime wireless telegraphy that features a fine collection of Morse code keys.

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**Amateur Radio volunteer among train wreck victims** (Jan 28, 2005) -- Amateur Radio volunteer Scott McKeown, KE6EMI, of Moorpark, California, was among the 11 people who died after two Los Angeles Metrolink commuter trains collided January 26 in Glendale. More than 200 people were injured in the mishap, which occurred after one of the trains derailed after striking a motor vehicle left on the tracks. McKeown, 42, served as [Ventura County ARES/RACES](#) Area 8 Moorpark Assistant Emergency Coordinator. He also regularly volunteered to support communications for the [Angeles Crest 100-Mile Endurance Run](#) and had assisted during

past runnings of the [Baker to Vegas Relay](#) Annual Challenge Run. A former City of Glendale employee, McKeown--a married father of two--was acting telecommunications manager for the City of Pasadena.

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**The K7RA Solar Update** (Jan 28, 2005) -- Solar activity was down this week. Average daily sunspot numbers were off by nearly 36 points to 53.4, and average daily solar flux dropped 31 points to 101.7.

[Full Story](#)

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**DXCC listings now available on the ARRL Web site** (Jan 28, 2005) -- The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date [listings](#) of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the Web site listing is more complete than the *DXCC Yearbook* ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band accounts for the previous year. "This lists everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type--band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports. "Under the new system, DXCC listings will updated *daily*," he emphasized. The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type. Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression. Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper.

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**Pennsylvania town drops BPL plans** (Jan 28, 2005) -- The Borough of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has decided against plans to offer broadband Internet service via broadband over power line (BPL) technology, according to a January 18 [report](#) in *Public Opinion*. The Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club ([CVARC](#)) spearheaded ham radio [opposition](#) to the plan in the eastern Pennsylvania community of some 17,000 residents through an informational campaign. "We were lucky, but only because many members of the local amateur community put time in to fight BPL right up front, before the municipality had thrown so much money at it that it had a stake in it succeeding," CVARC President David Yoder, KB3HUC, told ARRL. "I can't emphasize that enough--putting people in front of the decision-makers, working with the press and so forth paid off, because we jumped in as soon as we heard BPL was being considered." The *Public Opinion* article by Cathy Mentzer, quoted Chambersburg officials as saying there wasn't enough money in the municipality's Electric Department budget to go forward with a BPL deployment this year. Borough officials also cited state legislation effective last year that encourages telecommunication companies to provide broadband to consumers. While the BPL initiative is off the borough's 2005 projects agenda, *Public Opinion* quoted Borough Council President Bill McLaughlin as saying, "As far as I'm concerned, it's dead." *Public Opinion* also noted that CVARC members were pleased by the outcome. "That is good news," the article quoted Yoder as saying. "All Amateur Radio operators in the area are relieved to learn that apparently our concerns were taken into account, along with the recent legislation." Among other things, CVARC members had told the Borough Council last year that BPL would interfere with Amateur Radio and its ability to provide emergency communication. Chambersburg officials had been looking into leasing the borough's power lines to an Internet service provider as a way to generate revenue, and a consultant had recommended Chambersburg look into BPL.



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