



# COMMUNICATIONS

“Communications” is compiled by Editor Rachel Baughn KE4OPD from newsclippings from these fine contributors: Anonymous, Joe Craig, Norman Hill, Tomas Hood, John Figliozzi, HL4, Bart Lee, John Mayson, Ken Reitz, Doug Robertson, Larry Van Horn.

## AMATEUR RADIO

### Amateur Volunteers

#### American Red Cross Background Checks

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members who support American Red Cross disaster relief and recovery efforts often have to badge in as Red Cross volunteers. The ARC recently clarified its new policy that all volunteers must now give written permission for background checks, including credit checks.

Concern was widespread in the ham community about agreeing to credit checks and also about the fact that ARES members supporting the ARC were considered to be ARC volunteers.

The ARC believes the background checks are necessary in order to regain the trust of the American people, but clarifies that most volunteers will only receive the minimum routine check to confirm their Social Security number and conduct a search of the National Criminal File. Credit checks will be performed only in rare instances.

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N – whose department supports and oversees the ARRL Field Organization – believes the Red Cross stands to lose a fair number of volunteers because of the requirement – and not necessarily just ARES volunteers.

#### You Know the Drill...

One of the original purposes of the American Radio Relay League was the establishment of a nationwide amateur network to handle messages. This *National Traffic System* still runs 365 days/year thanks to the support of net managers and traffic handlers. Daily practice with routine messages builds operating skills and keeps the NTS machine greased and ready for the next disaster. Reporting these statistics to the ARRL helps to build the case for amateur radio.

#### Public Service Activity Report Online

Each year, hams donate thousands of person hours of supplementary public service communications in civil emergencies, official drills and events such as parades and marathons. Such events show Amateur Radio in its best light, and it is critically important that ARRL bring documentation of this public service work to the attention of the Congress, the FCC and other public officials. When you have a public service event, follow up with a report to ARRL Headquarters. The form can be completed online at: [www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd-157-online-form.php](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd-157-online-form.php)

### Ham Radio Song and Dance

Ed Yeary W4TEY forwarded the following web site for another great song video by the Hamband at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAOOd48j6WA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAOOd48j6WA)

The OZ1ADL/OZ5E contest station, “with lots of famous guest operators,” sings about the trials and tribulations of 48 hours of operation (What contest? See more on [www.oz1adl.com](http://www.oz1adl.com))

## BROADCASTING

### Broadcasters Support BPL

#### Court Appeal

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission’s Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion states: “MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum.”

As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

### Kenya Demands Reciprocal

#### Agreements

Kenya says it could halt broadcasts by foreign radio station in Kenya, if reciprocal licenses are not granted.

Assistant Information Minister Koigi wa Wamwere said, “If we are allowing BBC to broadcast in Kenya, KBC (Kenya Broadcasting Corporation) should also be in London.” Likewise, KBC should also be allowed to broadcast in Washington and Beijing, he added, as Voice of America and Radio China broadcast in Kenya. He said a refusal to reciprocate would be treating Kenyans “like idiots.”

“So they should either give us a license in London or go.”

### TDP Radio Celebrates Three

#### Years

TDPradio, the brainchild of Daniël Versmissen (Program Manager) was founded in 2003. TDPradio is the first and only dance radio station which broadcasts worldwide in DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale), shortwave stereo to Europe and North America.

Its mission is to bring the best audio quality on shortwave, utilizing only digital technologies from production to audience with the smallest number of encoding/decoding steps possible in the digital transmission chain. TDPradio also aims to offer unique, compelling content produced especially for DRM to promote the possibilities and quality of DRM.

Broadcasts take place daily from 1500-1600 UTC on 6015 kHz to Europe and from 0000-0100 UTC on 9790 kHz to Northern America. Each day a different flavor of dance music is broadcast to suit different tastes. You can also listen online 24/7 to the live internet stream. Check out [www.tdpradio.com](http://www.tdpradio.com) for more details. TDPradio is still looking for DJ talent!

### New DRM Yahoo Group

Avid DRM listener Christopher Rumbaugh has started a new DRM North America Yahoo group, and he’s hoping to get other devoted DRM monitors to join up. For more information, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/drmna/>

### Online Audience

KCRW, a public radio station in Santa Monica, now reports that its online streaming audience exceeds its airplay audience. The *Wall Street Journal* noted that the growth of the station’s podcast audience has resulted in some “listeners” who are not even aware that it is a radio station broadcast.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY: RFID

### Cloning a Card

No matter how safe radio frequency identification (RFID) cards are claimed to be, “It’s relatively simple to clone the cards,” says Chris Paget, Director of Research for IOActive, a computer security company in Seattle. Paget and his engineers were able to create a portable RFID reader from off the shelf parts purchased at a local electronics store for around a hundred bucks.

The homebrewed reader was connected to a laptop that was running software IOActive wrote specifically for this project. The reader and laptop were placed inside a regular computer bag.

Outside, on a busy street corner, Paget was able to read the author’s building security badge that was in his pocket as he stood on a street corner. The reader was only six inches away, but on a busy street Matt Markovich says would have never thought twice about a guy with a laptop bag next to him. It took just a matter of seconds.

### Implant Ban

In June, Wisconsin became one of the first states to ban the forcible implantation of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags into humans. The act dictates that no person may force another to have a microchip implanted in his body. Violators face fines of \$10,000 each day until the chip is removed.

A spokeswoman for Doyle said the law targets RFID technology, though it bans the implantation of any microchip without consent.

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