TERAC NEWSLETTER

TERAC, Inc.

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TERAC Meeting:

- **Time**:   **Feb 15th, 2008 6PM**
- **Place:** Round Table Pizza restaurant on Beaverton-Hillsdale Blvd. and Western Ave. Beaverton, OR

- **Talk-In:** 443.65 MHz Simplex

Board Meeting:

These meetings are now almost always e-mail. Normally they commence on the listed date for the board meeting. Anyone wishing to be included may request to be included on a month-by-month basis.

TERAC Meeting

For the February meeting Jim Fenstermaker K9JF will talk on "The Challenges of 160 Meters". NOTE THAT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO FRIDAY 15 FEB, to accommodate Jim, who lives in Seattle now. It will be at the Round Table Pizza restaurant on Beaverton- Hillsdale Blvd. and Western Ave.

FROM THE DESK (KEYBOARD?) OF THE PRES

Again we are at the Round Table Pizza on Beaverton Hillsdale @ western Ave. Hwy

We usually eat Pizza starting around 6 pm and program will start at 7:30 pm

WE are going to make this program work one way or another.

Gene has us a great program about 160 Meter operation finally!

Look for Gene's comments elsewhere in this news letter

We are still looking for that buyer for the TERAC truck. Anyone know of anyone or a group that would like to own a

M220 21/2 ton military van?   It has new batteries and a half tank of gas! It is in running condition and has low miles!!   It is also low cost!!

<div align="right">W7ADV</div>

<div align="right">W7ADV</div>

Upcoming Hamfairs and Events

Salem Hamfair, Rickreall OR, Saturday February 16, 9 AM, $8 in advance, or $9 at the door (probably in the rain). PDF of flyer at http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/salem08.pdf

Tacoma Mike and Key Club Electronic Show and Flea Market Saturday March 8, Puyalup WA www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm

Future TERAC Programs

We have a couple of really good programs ahead. For the February meeting Jim Fenstermaker K9JF will talk on "The Challenges of 160 Meters". NOTE THAT THIS MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO FRIDAY 15 FEB, to accommodate Jim, who lives in Seattle now. It will be at the Round Table Pizza restaurant on Beaverton-
 Hillsdale Blvd. and Western Ave.

Our old friend Roy Lewallen W7EL will do something a bit different for the March 13 program - a Q & A session, on antennas, of course. So be ready with the questions you never were really clear

about. And let's invite the new amateurs to this one.

<div align="right">Gene K7IUN</div>

NTIA REPORT ON BROADBAND IN AMERICA 2007 INFLATES BPL FIGURES

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, writes:

On January 31, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released its report "Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007" <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2008/NetworkedNationBroadbandinAmerica2007.pdf>. The NTIA is part of the Department of Commerce, so it is not unexpected that the report attempts to show that the Administration has largely succeeded in meeting President Bush's goal of "universal, affordable access" to broadband technology by 2007.

Those more expert than I on the general subject of broadband deployment will offer their own critiques of the NTIA report. My own expertise is with regard to broadband over power lines (BPL) and was reluctantly acquired over a five-year period in the course of addressing the serious problem of interference from BPL systems to the radio frequencies that are used by licensed Amateur Radio operators.

BPL technology uses power lines to distribute broadband signals. Unfortunately it has a propensity for polluting the radio spectrum, since broadband signals operate at radio

2

frequencies and the power lines are not shielded to prevent them from escaping. Despite this inherent flaw the Administration, through the NTIA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), has devoted considerable energy to promoting BPL. Yet, the FCC's own data show that BPL has failed to catch on. My particular interest in reading the NTIA report was to see the extent to which BPL would be credited with having contributed toward meeting the Administration's goal, thus justifying its promotional investment.

By the way, BPL manufacturers have made considerable progress in engineering their devices to avoid the radio frequencies that cause the most interference. The FCC deserves no credit for this, since the Commission has shown little interest in enforcing even the inadequate rules against radio interference that it hurriedly adopted in 2004 to promote BPL deployment.

At one time the FCC's semi-annual reports, "High-Speed Services for Internet Access," lumped BPL in with fiber optic lines. The FCC eventually recognized that this was inappropriate, since the two technologies have absolutely nothing in common, and stopped doing so after 2004. For some reason, the NTIA's report continues to treat the two together. Even so, reading the executive summary offered a glimmer of hope that the report would be realistic with regard to BPL; it notes that while "the total number of high speed lines delivered over fiber and power line connections grew 789 percent from December 2003 to December 2006...[f]iber optic lines...appear to be

almost entirely responsible for this expansion." (The latest FCC report that is available is for December 31, 2006; it was released in October 2007.) Less encouraging was the fact that the term "BPL" occurs no fewer than 45 times in the 60-page report, an emphasis that is hardly justified by BPL's miniscule market share.

Turning to the body of the report, on page 5 "removing barriers to innovative new applications such as...BPL" is mentioned as one of "...a number of targeted pro-growth telecommunications policies that have also contributed to robust technological development in the broadband sector." So, exactly how much "robust technological development" has occurred as a result of this policy of "removing barriers" to BPL that is described more fully on page 8 as a cooperative effort between the FCC and NTIA? One has to wait until page 26 to find the NTIA's answer -- and modest as it is, it is still startlingly at variance with reality. Here the report admits that "BPL has yet to make significant inroads in the broadband marketplace." Then comes the following incredible paragraph:

"Reliable BPL subscribership figures are difficult to find. The FCC's most recent data identify fewer than 5,000 BPL customers as of year end 2006. That figure appears low, however. TIA [Telecommunications Industry Association] estimates 200,000 current BPL subscribers, increasing to 700,000 by 2010. Another source forecast about 400,000 customers by the end of 2007, growing to 2.5 million by year end 2011. "

3

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? The FCC's data showing fewer than 5000 BPL customers -- a number that dropped in the six-month period covered by the report -- are taken from forms that service providers are required to submit. Why does the NTIA not regard this figure as reliable? The only way that it "appears low" is by comparison with the excessive industry and government hype.

Further distorting the picture, at the bottom of page 26 is an out-of-date map taken directly from the United Power Line Council (UPLC), an industry source with a vested interest in BPL. It purports to show BPL deployments "updated as of July 10, 2007." However, a number of those shown had already been decommissioned by that date and others have been taken out of service since then.

I have followed the ups and downs of the BPL industry very closely for more than five years. There are very few commercial deployments of BPL, and examination of the FCC data state by state shows all of the significant ones are included. The idea that there could be another 195,000 customers out there, happily connected to the Internet by BPL -- yet unreported by their service providers -- is utterly ludicrous.

Even more absurd is the NTIA's citation of the "forecast" of about 400,000 customers by the end of 2007, drawn from a year-old Web promotion for a $3000 "industry report."

It is indefensible that the NTIA chose to include in its report unsubstantiated industry estimates and forecasts that inflate the FCC-documented figure for BPL subscribership by 3900 percent to 7900 percent. If the agency wishes to retain a shred of credibility, it will issue a corrected report with the UPLC map, the TIA estimate and the unsupported forecasts deleted.

- Thanks to the ARRL Letter

This is an updated (as of 1-4-08) "Who's a 2008 member" list .

Please check to see if it's accurate for you and let me or Richard Stack know if any corrections are necessary.
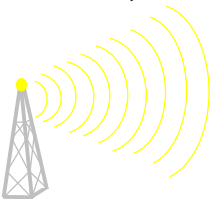
W7ADV   roger.mccoy@veris.com   K7TKK   rwstack@att.net

Who's a 2008 Member

Richard Ballard W7AND	Chuck Barrows K7BVT	Mike Boer KD7EFL
Steve Brandt N7VS	Margaret Byrd W7FVF	Philip Crosby
Ronald Forman-Kinder K7VMN	Tom Hill WA3RMX	John Horn AC7WS
Bob Jenkins W7BKN	Dee Lynch K7JRB	Roger McCoy W7ADV
Gordon Moyle	Glenn Pelikan K7GWP	Dick Pooley W7HUY*
Thomas Rousseau K7PJT	Ken Rosenzweig WA7BGF	Gene Single K7IUN*
Richard Stack K7TKK	Ralph Ulrich K7UVK*	

Application

TERAC, Inc.

Please complete and return with payment to:
TERAC, Inc., PO Box 5761, Aloha, Or 97006-0761

Name: Call:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Home Phone: Work Phone:
Unlisted: ○   E-mail Address:

License Class: ARRL Member: Emergency Service:
                        Yes ○   No ○   Yes ○   No ○

Membership Class:
  ○ Full   (currently licensed) $14
  ○ Associate   (not licensed) $14

TERAC Calendar			
Month	**Board Mtg.**	**Club Mtg.**	**Club Meeting Notes**
February		14-Feb	
March	3-Mar	13-Mar	
April	31-Mar	10-Apr	
May			
June	No Meeting	No Meeting	
July	No Meeting	No Meeting	
August	No Meeting	No Meeting	
September	2-Sep	11-Sep	
October	29-Sep	9-Oct	
November	3-Nov	13-Nov	Elections
December	1-Dec	TBD	Dinner Meeting
January	29-Dec	8-Jan	

TERAC

STAMP

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