

THE ANTENNA

The Official Publication of The Pennsylvania Avenue Radio Control Society Of Brooklyn, New York.

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November, 2004

2004 Executive Board

President	Scott Schultz
Vice-President	Mike Casey
Sergeant-At-Arms	Vinny Caratozzolo
	Mike Polumbo
Treasurer	Jon Gerber
Chief Field Controller	Bill Watson
Asst Chief Field Controller	Carmen Ciccone
	Rod Court
Recording Secretary	Luther Farmer
Corresponding Secretary	Dr. Sam Masyr
Webmaster	Walter Bellini
Newsletter Editor (Interim)	Scott Schultz

Contact Information:

Field Phone – (718) 951-8327

Club Website: www.flyparcs.com

PARCS 2004 NOMINATION RESULTS:

President: Mike Palumbo – Unopposed

Vice President – Jon Gerber – Unopposed

Treasurer – Luther Farmer – Unopposed

Corresponding Secretary – Dr. Sam Masyr – Unopposed

Recording Secretary – Roy Applewhite – Unopposed

**Sergeant At Arms – Mike Casey,
Vinny Caratozzolo – Unopposed**

Newsletter Editor – Scott Schultz (Appointed)

Webmaster – Walter Bellini (Appointed)

Chief Field Controller – TBD (See Ballot Below)

Assistant Chief Field Controller – TBD (See Ballot Below)

Assistant Chief Field Controller (Appointed) – TBD by elected CFC

New Members

Sal Bonsignore – Brooklyn, NY
Richard Coluccio – Brooklyn, NY
Anthony Gallo – Brooklyn, NY
Michael Roberts – Long Beach, NY
Eden Cohen – Brooklyn, NY

Good and Welfare

Our deepest condolences go out to our new member John Bewley's mother who passed away on October 1st.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/09 General Meeting/Elections – **Door Prizes and Refreshments**
- 12/17 Annual Holiday Party
- 1/11 General Meeting/Budget
- 2/8 General Meeting
- 3/8 General Meeting

Dues Renewal Information

A motion was passed at the September General meeting for a **\$ 25.00 Assessment** in addition to our normal dues. This was due in part to higher operating costs and a large drop in new membership. **When you send in your dues, please include the additional \$ 25.00 assessment, or your membership will not be renewed.** For further information, please contact our Treasurer Jon Gerber at (718) 984-8060.

PARCS 2004 Official Elections Ballot

Instructions: Check only ONE candidate per position. You must put your name and AMA# on the bottom of the ballot, or it will not be accepted. All ballot information is kept confidential and destroyed once the election is closed. You may submit the ballot in person at the November general meeting (Tuesday, November 9th) or mail it to the address listed below. Only one ballot per member is allowed.

Chief Field Controller: (Select One)

Asst Chief Field Controller: (Select One)

Bill Watson

Rod Court

Carmen Ciccone

Howard Jackson

Harry Botkowsky

Dmitry Kupershmidt

Return Ballots To:

Susan Salomon
c/O PARCS Election Committee
208-52 15th Road
Bayside, New York 11360

Name: _____

AMA#: _____

Frequency Issues

The Academy recently was appraised of frequency interference problems encountered during a major event held at Darby Dan Airport just outside Columbus, Ohio. The event, comprised primarily of turbine powered aircraft, suffered a number of incidents during the set-up day and the first official event day. The Academy was notified that the best the organizers could determine, through the use of scanners and/or a spectrum analyzer, activity in the 72 MHz band appeared to be causing the problems. Speculation at the site, at the time of the event, included a concern as to whether Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) activity might be a cause.

Inquiries made by the Frequency Committee through the Academy's attorney and the FCC indicated no activity in that area which would appear to create interference on the three frequencies noted. Additionally, none of the information accumulated by the Frequency Committee to that time had indicated any BPL activity being conducted in that area. The event was subsequently cancelled by the organizer.

As part of the Academy's continuing efforts to determine the possible effects of BPL activity, Dan Williams (AMA Frequency Committee), Steve Kaluf (AMA Technical Director) and Carl Maroney (AMA Special Services) traveled to the airport to investigate by using monitoring equipment and to possibly fly model aircraft in a controlled setting. The following represents a brief synopsis of their findings.

An initial spectrum analyzer sweep of the 72 MHz band revealed a very quiet background with no commercial transmitters or other devices which are normally interspersed between our frequencies. As is typical where a channel 4 television station is operating, its audio was noted at 71.750 MHz. This is below our frequencies. While an image problem could be experienced by receivers operating around channel 20 if they did not meet the AMA guidelines for narrowband operation, there would appear to be no concern for the lowest channel number affected during the event, channel 25. Additionally, it is extremely unlikely, with the type model aircraft being flown, that any non-guideline receivers were on site at the time of the event.

Flight testing was then conducted on the three frequencies reported having suffered interference during the event. An FMA FS 8 receiver and Flight Recorder were employed in the test aircraft. This allowed the opportunity to gather time-related information on any "glitches" or frame errors and the severity of those errors would also be recorded.

Flight 1 – Channel 25

There were 17 frame errors recorded within 27 seconds of take off, but none after that until just before landing, when 2 more were noted. There is a possibility that the conditions and positioning in reference to the hangar may have caused some reflections resulting in the frame errors. The error count is well below that which would be considered a problem. The model's flight showed no indication of being affected.

Flight 2 – Channel 35

There were 3 errors recorded immediately after takeoff and 2 additional within 20 seconds, for a total of 5 for the entire flight. The landing occurred in a slightly different area relative to the hangar.

Flight 3 – Channel 50

There were 4 errors recorded within 15 seconds of takeoff and no additional for the rest of the flight. The landing area was the same as flight 2.

In conclusion, there was nothing found by the testing on that day which would directly account for the problems encountered on those frequencies during the event. The overall lack of activity on the interstitial commercial frequencies is important to note.

The speculation that BPL may have been the cause of the interference problems requires some additional comment. The Frequency Committee has been actively engaged in monitoring the possible development of BPL. While the original information published by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) indicated possible activity between 1.8 and 80 MHz, all of the activity discovered has been below 30MHz. No evidence has been produced indicating that BPL can or will affect our activity as long as the operations are within Part 15 of the FCC rules. Members of the Frequency Committee have been attempting to monitor BPL activity, whenever possible, at the very limited number of sites which have been identified. Two members of the committee have been actively engaged in dialogue involving the development of guidelines for BPL operation which will assure that any emissions are within Part 15 of the FCC regulations.

In reference to the interference issue at Darby Dan Airport, one additional point must be mentioned. While clubs and groups generally determine what type of model frequency use exists within a few miles of their established site, they sometimes may not be aware of activity nearby a site being used for a special event on an infrequent basis. This is an extremely important point to consider! In the case of Darby Dan, since the event it has been suggested that there may have been model radio control activity within a relatively short distance of the airport. A report, while unconfirmed, that one or more individuals own and operate several models within a mile of the airport may account for the problems. Unfortunately, it must also be stated that on more than one occasion the Academy has received confirmed reports that purposeful interference has been created in an effort to force a field closure or prevent an event from occurring.

The Academy, through each district and at Headquarters, maintains a sizable inventory of scanners and Channel Analyzers. These may be used by clubs or groups desiring to monitor their site or any site which they intend to use. In addition, there are counters available which perform a similar function to that employed in the tests at Darby Dan. Contact your District Frequency Coordinator listed in the District Vice President's column each month, or Steve Kaluf at AMA Headquarters, extension 231.

AMA wishes to thank Fred Marks and FMA for making the equipment available for the testing.

AMA Frequency Committee

For Sale – Wanted

This is open to all members who wish to place a free ad in the newsletter.

FROM THE VP

IT HAS BEEN FUN AND CHALLENGING AS VP OF THIS CLUB AND I AM GLAD THAT SCOTT AND I WERE ABLE TO GET ALOT OF NECESSARY THINGS DONE SO THAT PARCS WILL HAVE A FIRM FOOTING AT F.B.F.

CONGRADULATIONS TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND GOOD LUCK TO THOSE WHO ARE RUNNING FOR POSITIONS

ANOTHER YEAR IS COMING TO A QUICK CLOSE AND THE COLD WEATHER IS COMING UPON US BUT AS FLYERS WE WILL ALWAYS BE OUT THERE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND ENJOYING THIS GREAY HOBBY. SEE YA AT THE FIELD!

Reminder: Anyone who wishes to CD an event for 2005 must submit their event date(s) no later than the December meeting to give enough lead time for advertising and sanctioning.