

# **SCARC News August 2009**

*Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SCARC Committee. Any comments should be addressed to the [secretary@scarc.org.au](mailto:secretary@scarc.org.au)*

## **Michigan Ham Dies in Tower Accident** (Jul 1, 2009)

A tower accident during Field Day preparations around 11 AM EDT on Saturday, June 27 claimed the life of Larry Prelog, KE4PM, of Niles, Michigan. Prelog, a member of the Blossomland Amateur Radio Association ([BARA](#)), was airlifted from Watervliet to a Kalamazoo hospital where he passed away early Sunday morning. He was 57. BARA Public Information Officer ([PIO](#)) Matt Severin, N8MS, told the ARRL that Prelog "...was very passionate about Amateur Radio and was very involved in club activities. He was the driving force behind the first high altitude balloon launch for our club. Larry was the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back even if he didn't have another one for himself. He will be dearly missed."

## **Ham radio tower concerns Penn Township residents** *Its not only here*

By [Paul Paterra](#) TRIBUNE-REVIEW *Friday, June 13, 2008*

Is the ham radio tower in a Penn Township yard screened properly from the adjacent properties? That's the question that faces the township's zoning hearing board.

In March, a permit was granted to Charles Mills, 60 Regola Drive, to place a tower in his back yard that will reach a height of more than 50 feet. Some neighbours have appealed the township's decision. That appeal was presented Thursday night to the zoning hearing board.

"We're not contesting the presence of the tower on the property, but the location," said John Ducar, a neighbour who lives at 4 Oakridge Drive. "There's ample room to position it on the property to do a much better job of screening it to the adjacent property owners."

Ducar is the lead applicant on a 54-page complaint filed with the township that contends Mills, who has planted two holly trees, has not properly screened the tower. "It's almost his way of doing the very, very minimal," Ducar said.

"I have a real nice view of that tower," said Susan Frey, of 2 Oakridge Drive. "We'll all be dead by the time those holly trees screen that tower." In April, township Solicitor Les Mlakar sent a letter to William Roberts, the community development technician, saying that the screening plan was adequate and moving the tower would be a burden to Mills.

At issue appears to be the township's ordinance concerning screening regulations, which is considered to be somewhat vague. Attorney Bernie Matthews said if ambiguity exists than the landowner -- in this case Mills -- is given the benefit of the doubt. Ducar said he feels the ordinance is pretty clear with the statement that neighbouring properties "shall be screened by evergreens."

Attorney Michael Lazoraff, who is representing Mills, said some neighbors just don't like the view of the tower. "Unfortunately, for reasons known only to them, some of the neighbours just don't like a radio tower in their neighborhood," Lazoraff said. "Under the law, the decision does not belong to the neighbors. The neighbors don't have the right to override federal law."

The federal law to which Lazoraff referred is Federal Communication Commission ruling PRB-1, which states local governments must reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas.

"The building permit was legally granted and it complies with the ordinance, as clear or as ambiguous as you may find it to be, and it complies with the federal preemption," Lazoraff said. "A few people don't like the visual impact. I'm sorry but the permit is valid and it should stay."

Mills, who has been a ham radio operator for 21 years, would only say that "I hope they render a fair decision." That decision is expected to be made when the zoning hearing board meets July 10. [*Footnote: Mills won the battle but will he win the war?*]

## **SCARC Club Report**

Stef VK5HSX has kindly volunteered to be the Club's reporter for the *AR Magazine*. If you have ideas or suggestions for articles promoting amateur radio and SCARC activities please contact Stef. Photos are beneficial when writing stories.

## **Vale Kingsley VK5HKT**

It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing away suddenly of our late member Kingsley VK5HKT. Sincerest condolences from all of the members of SCARC to his family and Ray VK5VRT and Jo at their loss.

## **Help Wanted**

Have you got a few hours to spare? If so, the Club needs your help. As we did last year we will be running a JOTA station at the Seaford-Meadows Scout Hall Railway Terrace Old Noarlunga on the weekend 17-18 October 2009. This is an opportunity for SCARC to publicize the hobby of amateur radio. Operators are needed for HF, VHF/UHF as well as Echo-link on both days.

You will not have to supervise the youth that attend the JOTA weekend, nor will you have to undergo a police check. Operators are kept well fed throughout the event by the host Scout group. Your task would be to assist the kids operate the various rigs to make contact with other scouts in VK and throughout the world as JOTA is an international event.

Please help by making some of your time available so that SCARC can make the event a success. The hobby needs younger participants and it is by making these events work well that we get new hobbyists. [*Is this a word?*] Let any office-holder/committee member know if you can help please.

## **Testing Equipment**

At the July General Meeting a question was raised if any member has test equipment available that could identify faults with radio equipment. There are several members with faults that need identifying for a nominal fee. If you can help please advise.