

Unapproved DRAFT Version

**Houston Echo Society Meeting
American Red Cross Building
October 10, 2005**

Officers & Chairs

President Marty Blaise, AG5T
 Vice President, Kent Marshall, W5TXV
 Treasurer Richard Banks, WC5O
 Correspondence Secretary Mike Nault, W5OFT
 Recording Secretary Lee Gaspard, WA5QXE
 Parliamentarian Phil Swartztrauber, W5GCT
 Web master Michael Urich, KA5CVH
 Membership Chair B. Frank Secor, Jr., KB5VSY
 Newsletter Editor _____ OPEN _____

K5NAV – Section Communications Manager

Members and Visitors Present

Name	Call Sign	ARRL Member?
Cynthia Beniretto	N5TGS	No
Jeff Beniretto	N5TGR	No
Richard Banks	WC5O	No
Howard Bingham	KE5APJ	YES
Charles Birkhead	Not yet	Yes
Marty Blaise	AG5T	YES
Larry M. Brooks	KE5FWN	YES
Mike Davidson	N5MT	YES
Charles "Frosty" Frost	K5LBU	YES
Lee Gaspard	WA5QXE	YES
Gene Horr	AD5UW	No
Steven Jenkins	N6UNI	Yes
Kent Marshall	W5TXV	YES
John Moore	KK5NU	No
Mike Nault	W5OFT	YES
Frank Robichaux	N5EJX	YES
Paul Rubin	N8NOV	YES
Glenn Sparks	KI5GY	YES
Phil Swartztrauber	W5GCT	
Mark Tyler	K5GQ	YES
Michael Urich	KA5CVH	YES
Bernadine Williams		

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The meeting was called to order approximately 7:30pm.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Kent Marshall (W5TXV) & Lee Gaspard (WA5QXE)'s presentation on the CenterPoint BPL Trial in Houston
- Old Business
 - Announcements
 - Correspondence
 - Status of Repeaters
 - Web site and Newsletter
 - Treasurer's
 - Discussion of Field Day results
- New Business
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 - Other business
- Projects/ Demonstrations

Marty opened the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Welcome

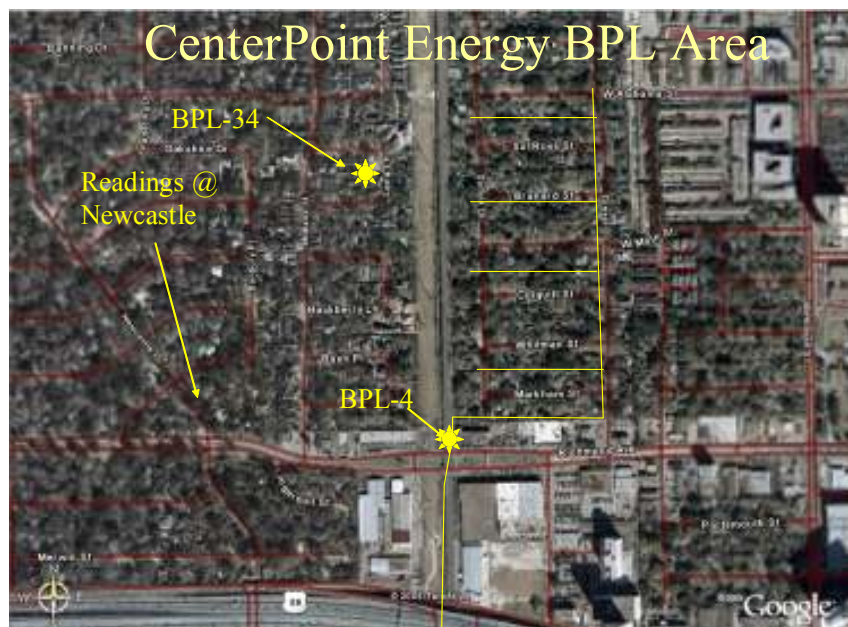
Everyone introduced himself or herself. Several first-time Echo Society attendees were welcomed and invited to come back.

Presentation

Kent Marshall (W5TXV) & Lee Gaspard (WA5QXE)'s showed much of the video but after much audience objection to the noxious buzzing, we stopped the recording (there was more buzzing left).

Kent and Lee narrated the film and then covered some of the material in a power point slide show. The power point slide show snap-shots of the video materials that was better understood at a lower frequency than 30 frames a second.

The BPL trial area, roughly bounded by Richmond on the South, Alabama on the north, Drexel on the east and Midlane



Street on the west is shown here:

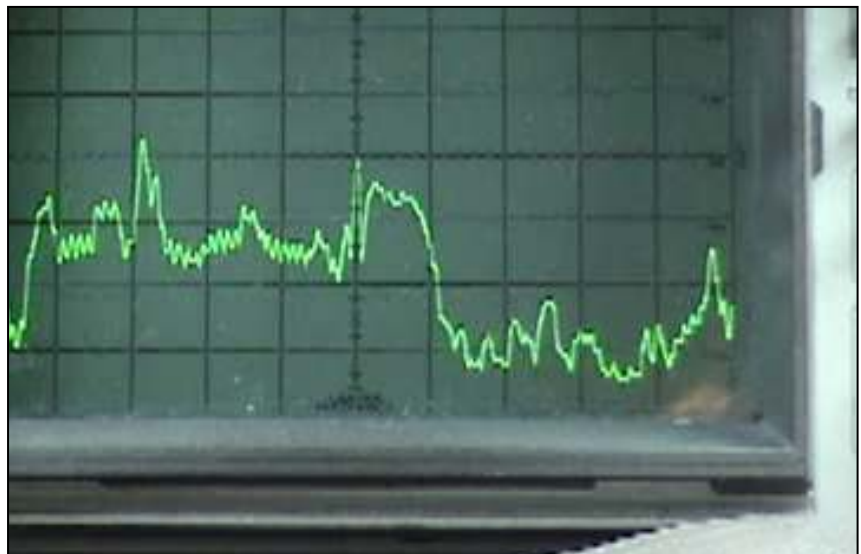
The slide show displayed various

waveforms as captured on an HP Spectrum Analyzer and Kent's ICOM 706 transceiver. An example waveform for the Mitsubishi BPL system is shown below – 8 MHz center frequency, 1 MHz resolution per



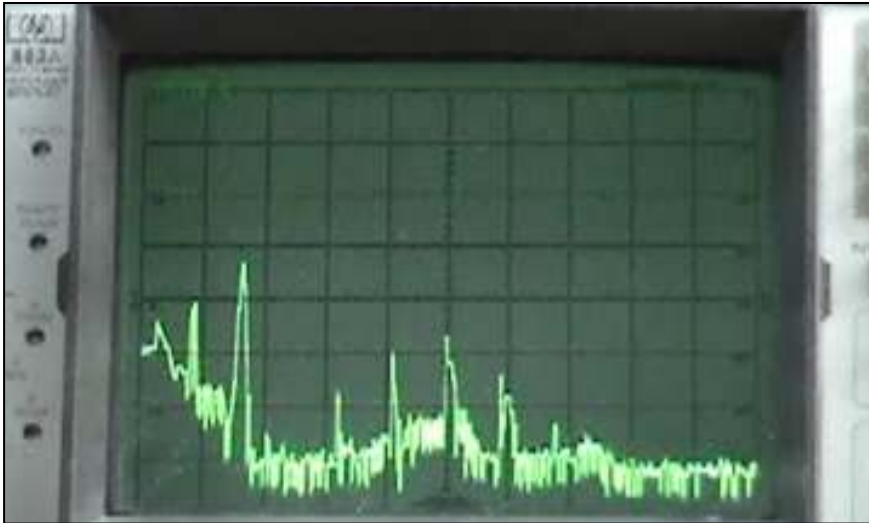
(horizontal) division about 40 feet from BPL-4 (Richmond and the Railroad tracks). It is apparent from looking at the wave form that the system is essentially idle. The Mitsubishi system uses a “half-duplex” form of signal transmission similar to Amateur Radio Packet systems.

One of the more interesting aspects of the system manifested itself when the energy in the Broadband over Power line system encountered the 20 meter Amateur Radio band-stop filters implemented at the BPL-4 site. The energy appears to “wash-over” an imaginary wall – similar to a wave washing up on the seawall at Galveston.



A sample of waveforms as captured on an HP Spectrum Analyzer for the Amperion System that is operating west of the railroad track is shown below. This waveform is shown with a 15 MHz START frequency, 2 MHz resolution per (horizontal) division on Newcastle north of Richmond near Staunton. It is apparent from looking at the wave form that the system is essentially idle.

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Information about CenterPoint's BPL trial and some of their planned uses can be found in the following brochure that is available online:

http://www.centerpointenergy.com/files/109016_CNP_BPL_brochure.pdf

Other BPL information is available at <http://www.texasbpl.com/> per Kent Marshall

Announcements:

Old Business

- Treasurer's report: \$2,812.86 in the bank as of July – not much has changed. Richard Banks was not at the meeting. Some unconfirmed reports spotted him on a beach in Hawaii!
- Repeaters Reports: 147.08 , 224.26, 147.32 all working
- Frank Robichaux made a motion to accept the minutes and Mike Urich 2nd as read.

New Business

- None

The meeting adjourned about 9:15 pm