

Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
P. O. Box 2112, Parkersburg, WV 26101

HOLLINGSWORTH SUGGESTS STEPS TO BRIGHTER AMATEUR FUTURE

Looking "beyond enforcement," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has offered his ten personal suggestions to secure a sound future for Amateur Radio.

Speaking at the ARRL New England Division Convention August 26 in Boxboro, Massachusetts, Hollingsworth recapped the nearly two years since he took over Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth proclaimed the Amateur Service "fundamentally sound" today and said complaints now are decreasing.

With some major enforcement issues out of the way, Hollingsworth encouraged amateurs to "seize the moment" to ensure a bright future for Amateur Radio. "Look beyond enforcement," he urged, "because if I do my job right, in five years you won't even remember my name." Hollingsworth said that while no one can predict the future, amateurs must invent theirs in an era of converging digital and RF technology.

And he reiterated a phrase that has become a Hollingsworth mantra: "There is no reason why our Amateur Radio Service can't be the envy of the rest of the world." Getting there, he suggested, comes with each amateur's taking responsibility for his or her behavior on the air. Amateurs should encourage arrogant, negative operators to "take their anger and hate to

the Internet," he said. "Every minute they are on the Internet is a minute they aren't on Amateur Radio."

Among other suggestions, Hollingsworth said hams should be proud of what they have accomplished. "Let the public know what you are, what Amateur Radio is, and why it's valuable," he said. He also urged hams to "operate as if the whole world is listening" and to never let ham radio "become the audio version of the The Jerry Springer Show."

He also called upon veteran hams to take newcomers under their wing and teach them "all you know" about the hobby.

Hollingsworth also expressed his support for the ARRL, which has backed his enforcement initiative on behalf of the FCC.

"Take care of the one voice you have," he advised. "You must never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world. They just did."

"Enjoy ham radio," Hollingsworth told his audience. "Celebrate it. But realize it comes with responsibility."

The complete list of Riley Hollingsworth's ten suggestions is available here.

New emergency communications Web page: An "Emergency Communications" Web Site now is available. The page provides a ready-reference Web Site with links to the latest ARRL bulletins, The ARRL Letter, and weather reports as well as to other Amateur Radio organiza-

tions active in emergency operations, such as the Hurricane Watch Net, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Net (SATERN), and SKYWARN. There's also an Emergency Communications "Q&A" section, and a link to contact various ARRL Headquarters personnel during an emergency. Other linked resources include The Net Directory, IARU member societies, ARRL field leadership and club-search.

SETI League receives moonbounce grant:

The SETI League Inc. has received a small equipment grant from the American Astronomical Society to help it construct a transmitter to bounce microwave signals off the moon's surface.

The project, "A Lunar Reflective Test Beacon for Radio Astronomy and SETI," will enable stable reference signal from a known point in the sky. "We should be ready to start bouncing interesting microwave signals off the lunar surface early in 2001," said Paul Shuch, N6TX, the SETI League's executive director. The SETI League, a nonprofit organization that's spearheading a privately funded search for evidence of extraterrestrial life has 1200 members in 59 countries. Many of them also are Amateur Radio operators. For more information, visit the SETI League Web site or e-mail info@setileague.org.--SETI League news release

IARU REGION III CONFERENCE CALLS FOR MORSE EXAM PHASEOUT

The 11th International Amateur Radio Union Region III Conference ended September 1 by resolving to seek the ultimate removal of Morse code proficiency as an International Telecommunication Union licensing requirement for HF operation. As "an interim measure," the conference agreed to support the reduction of all Morse code testing speeds to 5 WPM.

"IARU Region III strongly supports Morse code as an effective and efficient mode of communication," the resolution said in its preamble. "However, it believes that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is not relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio."

The resolution urged IARU Region III member societies to seek an interim 5 WPM Morse code testing requirement while looking toward eventually eliminating the Morse requirement altogether. "We recommend that, setting aside any previous relevant decisions of earlier Conferences, a policy of the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz be adopted by IARU Region 3," the Conference resolution declared.

Voting in accordance with ARRL Board policy, International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote on the League's behalf, although he voted in favor of an earlier motion to support 5 WPM as the top code speed for testing. The Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society abstained. The Asian and Pacific region's other member societies favored the resolution.

The Region III Conference, meeting in Darwin, Australia, recommended that the

IARU Administrative council adopt its position as IARU policy. Meeting September 3-4 in Darwin, the Administrative Council declined to act on the policy recommendation, however, until after the Region II conference next October in Guatemala.

Conference delegates addressed another concern related to ITU Radio Regulation S25, which requires that applicants demonstrate Morse proficiency to operate below 30 MHz. Some delegates worried over wording in a preliminary draft recommendation that includes reference to "radio telegraphy" among amateur license operating skills. Delegates were told that the ITU defines "radio telegraphy" to mean all digital modes, not just Morse. In a motion proposed by the Radio Society of Great Britain and seconded by the ARRL, the conference requested that the IARU Region III representatives to the IARU Administrative Council propose replacing the term "operating skills" with "methods of communication."

The conference also reaffirmed the IARU's determination to obtain an exclusive worldwide allocation of no less than 300 kHz in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Region III IARU directors were instructed to "treat achievement of this objective as a matter of the highest priority." The conference also supported seeking an Amateur Radio HF allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz and a low-frequency allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz or 160 to 190 kHz.

In addition to Stafford, those attending the conference from the US included IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; ARRL Executive Vice President and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and ARRL Technical Relations Manager

Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

The next IARU Region III Conference will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, in September 2003.--IARU; WIA



Mir

Mir to be permanently manned: AMSAT News Service reports that MirCorp's board of directors recently approved a permanently manned operation of the Russian Mir space station beginning next year. The announcement signaled a major milestone in the company's plan to use the unique facility as the world's first commercial orbital space station. A schedule of privately financed MirCorp flights begins with the launch of an unmanned resupply spacecraft to Mir this fall, followed by two long-duration missions with cosmonauts in 2001. The implications for Amateur Radio operation from the station remain unclear.--Florida Today/ANS



CALIFORNIA MAN ARRESTED FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

A California man with a long history of alleged unlicensed operation has been arrested. The FCC reports that Richard Allen Burton was taken into custody August 5. The action follows Burton's indictment in May by a grand jury for the US District Court for the Central District of California. Burton, a former amateur licensee, has been charged with six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934.

The FCC says Burton was operating without a license on Amateur Radio repeaters in Southern California after his license was revoked. Formerly WB6JAC, Burton's General ticket was lifted in 1981. He was convicted in 1982 on four counts of transmitting without a license and two counts of transmitting "obscene, indecent or profane words, language or meaning." Burton initially was sentenced to serve six months of an eight year prison term, with the remainder suspended. Upon appeal, the US Ninth District Court of Appeals upheld the unlicensed operation conviction but threw out his obscenity conviction. The FCC says that Burton transmitted without a license while on probation in 1984 and again in 1990. After the second incident, he was fined \$2000 and received a year's probation.

In 1992, Burton attempted to get his Amateur Radio license back, but the FCC refused to reinstate him. He was briefly successful in getting a ham ticket in 1996, when he passed a Technician exam at a VE session. The FCC granted Burton a new license and the call sign KF6GKS, which was promptly set aside as soon as the Commission realized its error.

The FCC said that bail for Burton was set at \$20,000. He's out on bond. Burton pleaded not guilty at his arraignment, and a trial has

ARRL AND REACT STEP TOGETHER

ARRL and REACT--Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams took some first steps together this summer. The ARRL Board of Directors approved a memorandum of understanding between the two radio organizations at its July meeting.

The ARRL was on hand July 26-28 for the REACT 2000 International Convention in Kissimmee, Florida. The event included attendees from the US as well as from Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager Phyllisan West, KA4FZI, coordinated activities for ARRL's representation at the event with Walt Young, convention chairman for the 25th annual REACT gathering.

"REACT folks are dedicated to public service, responding dependably to cover emergencies, marathons and other charity events," said West, who set up and staffed an ARRL exhibit table at the REACT event. "They operate mainly on GMRS and FRS to avoid problems of unlicensed CB channels, and are excited about working more closely with hams."

West said that copies of the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual at the ARRL table were snapped up. "REACT folks were interested in how hams handle NTS and tactical messages," West said. While a lot of REACT members already are amateurs, West said she encouraged those who were not to get ham licenses "to enhance their ability to participate in emergency communications."

While REACT has been associated primarily with Citizens Band in the past, the organization has widened its focus to embrace amateur and other services. Young called

REACT "just another radio group that is doing the same basic job as ham radio operators" that provides emergency communications when and where needed.

"The trick is to get various groups to work together," he said. Approximately one-quarter of the REACT conventioners were ham operators, and one of the official events at the convention was the Amateur Breakfast, at which West and her husband, Art, were guests. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, presented an FCC seminar during the REACT convention.

REACT International has a Web site at <http://www.reactintl.org/>. Satellite enthusiasts to hear spy satellite history: When North America's ham radio satellite enthusiasts convene this fall in Portland, Maine, they'll be treated to once top-secret details about intelligence gathering methods used during the early years of the Cold War. The occasion is the 18th Space Symposium and AMSAT-NA Annual Meeting, October 27-29, at the Holiday Inn Portland West. The Saturday, October 28, banquet speaker will be R. Cargill Hall, chief historian of the National Reconnaissance Office. For the first time in a public forum, Hall will discuss overhead reconnaissance and the history of CIA-NRO activities. The Symposium Chairman is George Caswell Sr., W1ME. More information is available at on the Web or from w1me@amsat.org.--Peter Hurd, N1SS

FCC TURNS DOWN CB DX PETITION

The FCC has denied a petition that would have amended the FCC's Part 95 rules to permit DXing on the 11-meter Citizens Band. The petition sought to amend §95.413 of the rules that prohibits communications or attempts to communicate with CB stations more than 250 km away and to contact stations in other countries.

Designated RM-9807, the petition was filed by Popular Communications Contributing Editor Alan Dixon, N3HOE.

"Dixon's request is inconsistent with the purpose of the CB Radio Service and could fundamentally alter the nature of the service," the FCC said in turning down the petition.

The FCC action was adopted August 18. The Order was released August 21.

The FCC said CB operators generally supported the proposal and stated that the present rule was unenforceable. The ARRL commented in opposition to the petition. "The Amateur Radio Service is the proper forum for the desired long-distance communications sought by the Dixon petition," the League told the FCC.

The National Association of Broadcasters also opposed Dixon's petition. The NAB said that the restriction was necessary to deter CBers from operating at excessive power levels and that consumers must be protected from illegal CB transmissions that interfere with radio, TV and other consumer electronics.

The FCC agreed with the ARRL and said it did not intend to create a service paralleling the Amateur Service when it authorized the Citizens Radio Service. "Amending the rules to permit long-distance and international communications would undermine the purpose of the CB Radio Service rules and compro-

mise one of the core distinctions between the CB Radio Service and the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC concluded.

Amateur Radio to the rescue--again:

Amateur Radio operators in the Dayton, Ohio, area sprang into action August 10 to assist in the search for a missing boy in the suburb of Huber Heights. Rob Taylor, KC8LNO, an avid scanner enthusiast, monitored a police dispatch for a missing eight-year-old mentally challenged boy who was in need of vital medication. The boy, named Zachary, had last been seen pursuing an ice cream truck near his home. Taylor called Jim Ebner, N8JE, a fellow member of the Huber Heights ARC, who, in turn, called local authorities to offer Amateur Radio assistance. Police accepted the offer, and other amateurs in the area were summoned to the scene via a local repeater and deployed to assist in the search. A mobile amateur communication command post was set up using a mini motor-home provided by Bob Beach, W8LCZ, and communication was conducted on the Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club's 442.95 MHz repeater and on 2-meter FM simplex. The three-and-a-half hour search ended happily when Zachary telephoned from a residence a half-mile from home. He soon was reunited with his family. The family and the Huber Heights Police Department thanked amateur operators who assisted in the search for their quick response and for a job well done.--Phil Thomas, W8RMJ

RF SAFETY RULES NOW IN FORCE FOR ALL AMATEURS

The time has come! Starting Friday, September 1, every US amateur was required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines.

The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation. MPEs are both frequency and power-dependent.

"These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, the League's point man on RF exposure issues. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation."

By and large, the FCC has put hams on the honor system, but compliance with the RF exposure rules is not optional.

"Even aside from the fact that every US amateur is required to follow the RF safety regulations, amateurs owe it to themselves, their families, their neighbors, and the general public to follow the FCC guidelines to the letter," said ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, in urging compliance.

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site. (Cont on p. 5)

The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

The topic of RF exposure and safety also has been covered extensively in QST (see "FCC RF-Exposure Regulations--the Station Evaluation" by Ed Hare, W1RFI, January 1998 QST). Hare also wrote the standard Amateur Radio reference on the topic of RF exposure, RF Exposure and You, published by the ARRL. The book is aimed at answering all questions about meeting the FCC RF exposure regulations. It includes simple step-by-step worksheets for hams to use to help determine if their stations comply with the rules--and, if not, how to correct the problem. (RF Exposure and You is \$15. Order item #6621 from ARRL.)

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, .

Hospital program teaches kids to operate Amateur Radio:

A program at Tampa Children's Hospital St Joseph's is introducing Amateur Radio to some of its young patients. TCH patients can participate in Amateur Radio learning sessions with physicians and hospital staff who are ham operators at the hospital's Kids Space Ham Radio. "I love teaching children about the workings of Amateur Radio," says TCH pediatric cardiologist and Amateur Radio operator Dr. James Huhta, AA4MD. "The Kids Space Ham Radio program not only helps get the children's minds off of their illnesses, but it also exposes them to a hobby they may enjoy the rest of their lives."--Greg Brostowicz, St Joseph's-Baptist Health Care

CHANGEOVER TO CORES REGISTRATION TO BE TRANSPARENT



When the FCC moves its Taxpayer Information Number/Social Security Number registration system for amateurs from the Universal Licensing System to the new FCC Commission Registration System, the changeover will be largely transparent to users.

Steve Linn of the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau says once the changeover is in effect, the CORES/FRN system will be linked from the ULS home page. In addition, those already registered in the ULS will--in most cases--still be able to use their ULS password to access CORES.

Amateurs will not have to start signing up in CORES until sometime next year, however, and those already registered in ULS won't have to do a thing. For now, Linn says hams should simply stick with ULS "TIN/Call Sign" registration until CORES registration becomes mandatory.

"Don't even worry about CORES," Linn said. "If you have a letter from CORES, hang onto it for your FCC Registration Number." The FCC recently sent letters to every licensee who was registered in the ULS as of June 22, 2000. The letter contains the individual's new FCC Registration Number--or FRN--and a few words about CORES. Linn says the FCC has suspended mailing out CORES/FRN

letters for now.

Described as an agency-wide registration system for anyone filing applications with or making payments to the FCC, CORES assigns registrants a unique 10-digit FCC Registration Number. The FCC says it will modify its licensing and filing systems--including ULS--over the next several months to accept and use the FRN. The FCC says use of the FRN will allow it to more rapidly verify fee payment.

Until CORES assumes the registration function, Linn encouraged hams to register in ULS, which will continue to house the FCC's Amateur Service database even after CORES registration is implemented. Just when in 2001 that will happen Linn was not able to say. "There are a lot of factors involved," he said.

Individuals who register in CORES are not automatically registered in the ULS database (an individual does not have to be licensed to register in CORES). ULS TIN/Call Sign registration is eventually reflected in the CORES database, however, Linn confirmed.

The CORES on-line filing system and further information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC Web site and clicking

**PARK/ARES
NET
TUESDAYS
@ 9:00 PM
146.97**

AO-27 IS BACK ON THE AIR!

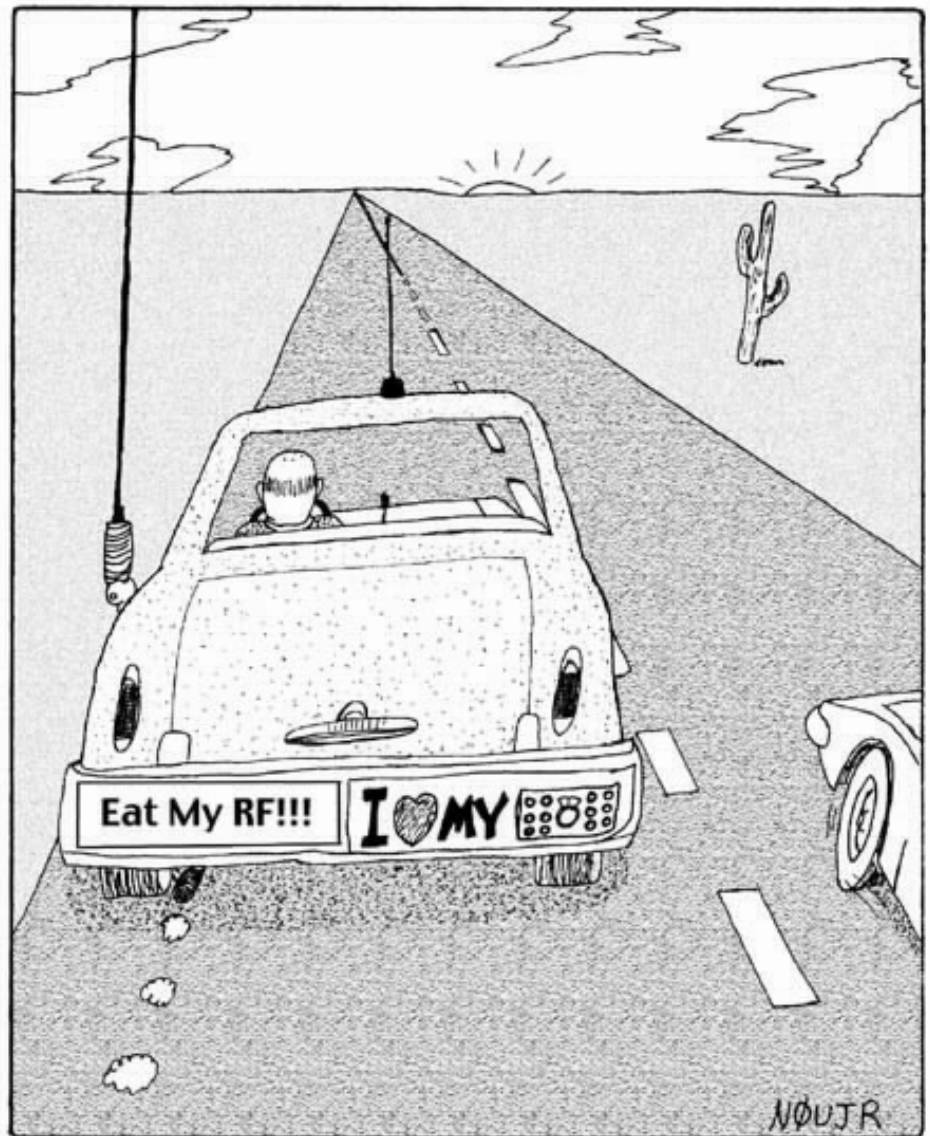
The AO-27 satellite has returned to analog Amateur Radio service. AO-27 ground controller Chuck Wyrick, KM4NZ, reports the satellite showed up on its first North American daylight pass on September 9.

Wyrick advises operators to wait until they hear the satellite in analog mode--ie, no data being sent--before transmitting on the 145.850 MHz uplink frequency. AO-27's downlink is 436.800 MHz.

Wyrick says the AO-27 analog FM repeater will be turned off for a few days at a time over the next few months so ground controllers can gather whole orbital data to verify the health of the satellite.

AO-27's computer crashed July 31, and it took more than one attempt to reload the software and get the satellite up and running again.

"A lot of work has saved AO-27 for many more enjoyable amateur QSOs," Wyrick said in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board.



QCWA members with an attitude...

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