

Di-Dah-Dit

*Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
1733 Gihon Rd. Parkersburg, WV 26101*

NEW MEXICO, WEST VIRGINIA BECOMES LATEST STATES TO ADOPT PRB-1 LEGISLATION

New Mexico and West Virginia this week become the 14th and 15th states to adopt Amateur Radio antenna bills based on the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1.

In New Mexico Gov Gary Johnson signed House Bill 314 on March 5 after it easily passed both houses of the legislature last month with just two opposing votes during a short session that typically only deals with appropriations bills. West Virginia Gov Bob Wise signed House Bill 4335 into law March 7. Acting with uncharacteristic speed, the West Virginia Legislature okayed the measure less than 30 days after it was introduced. West Virginia ARRL Section Manager Hal Turley, KC8FS, said Gov Wise--whose late father was a ham (WA8AYP), also proclaimed March 7 as "Amateur Radio Operators Appreciation Day."

New Mexico's "Emergency Communication Preservation Act" was sponsored by Rep Mimi Stewart and Sen Ramsay Gorham. It stipulates that municipal or county ordinances regulating Amateur Radio antennas "shall not obstruct or preclude amateur radio service communications" and "shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications."

The bill further provides that antenna structures "may be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications," but it does not include a minimum regula-

tory height schedule. It also exempts Amateur Radio "antenna towers" constructed prior to the effective date from subsequent zoning regulation changes.

As with most PRB-1 bills, municipalities or counties in New Mexico will still be able to require Amateur Radio antennas or support structures to meet screening, setback and placement, construction and health and safety standards. Such regulation "must be the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the local municipality's or county's purpose," however.

New Mexico ARRL Section Manager Joe Knight, W5PDY, gave Mike Stuart, AC5ZO, an ARRL member from Corrales, much of the credit for getting the New Mexico bill through the legislature. Stuart said that while all involved had hoped to have a more powerful amateur antenna bill, "the practical and political realities dictated otherwise."

The West Virginia measure also incorporates language very similar to that of PRB-1 into articles of the Code of West Virginia. Under the bill, any county or municipal ordinance or order concerning the regulation or placement of Amateur Radio antennas would have to comply with all FCC regulations, rulings and orders; reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communications; and represent "the minimum practicable regulation."

West Virginia's bill would not

prevent a county commission or municipality from taking action to protect or preserve historic buildings, structures, sites and districts established by federal, state or local law.

Turley credited "the tireless efforts" of Kanawha County House of Delegates member Sharon Spencer, KC8KVF--an ARRL member from Charleston--for helping to get the bill through the legislature as well as for her "dedication and commitment" to Amateur Radio. He said that amateurs from all corners of The Mountain State actively participated in promoting the bill's passage and by contacting their elected representatives. "And I am certain there are many legislators in our state who now know a lot more about Amateur Radio than they did a month ago," he said.

An Amateur Radio antenna bill awaits the governor's signature in Wisconsin, a PRB-1 bill recently was introduced in Tennessee and similar measures have been proposed for introduction in other states.

More information on antenna regulation is available on the ARRL Antenna Restrictions Web page
<<http://www.arrl.org/FandE-S/field/regulations/antenna-restrictions>>

AMATEURS RESPOND TO APPALACHIAN FLOODING

Appalachian amateurs this week responded to assist after heavy rains caused flooding in several states in the region. Flooding closed numerous roads, damaged or destroyed many structures, forced residents from their homes and was blamed for at least seven deaths.

In Kentucky, ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, says the Red Cross asked amateurs to assist with damage assessment in Knox County. According to press reports, hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded out as heavy rain spread throughout the eastern part of the state after earlier affecting the Harlan area. The Salvation Army also has responded to assist.

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings for Carroll and Owen counties where the Kentucky River had overflowed following up to four inches of rain March 19. Flooding also forced Morehead State University to close March 20 after more than four inches of rain fell there. Emergency declarations were issued in at least eight counties and five cities in Kentucky. No Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) activations were reported.

In extreme Southwest Virginia, heavy rain over the March 16-17 weekend swelled streams and rivers beyond flood stage, reportedly covering highways and sweeping away some bridges and forcing more than 1000 residents to flee their homes. ARES and RACES teams were called up March 17 to staff the Scott County Emergency Operations Center.

"Many major highways were under water for a period of time, and quite a few secondary roads are still impassable," Scott County EC Jimmy Flanary, K4GV, reported. Although shelters were set up, most people refused evacuation, he said, opting instead to stay with friends or relatives. ARRL District 14 Emergency Coordinator Phil Mohon, KU4RK, said hams in Tazewell County volunteered to help out in any way they could, but there was no formal ARES activation. Amateurs also were reported to have activated informally in Lee, Wise, Washington and Russell counties.

Additional flooding occurred in West Virginia. West Virginia ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Mac McMillian, W8XF, reported that several counties and the state EOC were put on standby, but no ARES/RACES activations were necessary. Up to three inches of rain fell March 20 in West Virginia, forcing 100 residents in at least three counties to leave their homes. Flooding also occurred this week in eastern Tennessee.

ARRL ASKS FCC TO ELIMINATE, "REFARM" NOVICE CW BANDS

The ARRL has asked the FCC to eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand the phone allocations on 80 and 40 meters. In a Petition for Rule Making filed March 22, the League requests that the FCC revise its Amateur Service rules in accordance with the modified Novice band "refarming" scheme the ARRL Board of Directors okayed in

January. The Petition has not yet been put on public notice for comment.

"The opportunity to eliminate the Novice and Technician-Plus telegraphy subbands and the reapportionment of those inefficiently deployed segments will allow alleviation of significant, sometimes critical, overcrowding in the popular Amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said in its Petition.

The ARRL also cited "substantial advancements in the use of digital techniques" in the HF bands--such as PSK31--to bolster its assertion that a re-farming plan for the underutilized Novice HF subbands "cannot wait longer and must proceed now." The re-farming plan adopted was based on the recommendations of the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee following a survey of the amateur community last year. Under the proposal, no operator class would lose privileges, and most would gain.

If the FCC approves the plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (ie, Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees would be permitted to operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. For General and higher class operators, the ARRL wants the FCC to implement changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter "phone" bands.

On 80 meters (3500-4000 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 3725 kHz for Extra, at 3750 kHz for Advanced and at 3800 kHz for General--another 25 kHz for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 40 meters (7000-7300 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 7125 kHz for Advanced and Extra and at 7175 kHz for General--25 kHz more for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 15 meters

(21,000-21,450 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 21,200 kHz for Extra, at 21,225 kHz for Advanced and at 21,275 kHz for General--no change for Extra and Advanced but 25 kHz more for General. On 10 meters, the ARRL has recommended no changes other than to accommodate CW, RTTY and data by Novice and Tech Plus licensees at 28.0 to 28.3 MHz.

The ARRL suggested that its proposed configurations strike the right balance between the need for additional phone spectrum and the important goal of encouraging further development of narrowband data modes in the CW segments.

The ARRL's "omnibus" petition also asks the FCC to permit amateurs to use spread spectrum on the 222-225 MHz band; expand the pool of special event call signs beyond the 1x1 format to include identifiers for US territories and possessions that do not provide for mailing addresses; clarify its rules to indicate that modulated CW (MCW) is permitted for repeater station identification; and to incorporate into its rules a 1990 FCC waiver authorizing amateurs in certain areas of Colorado and Wyoming to operate on certain segments of the 33-cm band. The League invited the FCC to consolidate its omnibus petition with other pending Amateur Radio-related petitions now before the FCC.

A copy of the ARRL's complete Petition for Rulemaking is available on the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/announcement/regulatory/refarm/>>.

PARKERSBURG

AMATEUR RADIO KLUB FEBRUARY 11, 2002

The February 11th meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by President Blaine Auville.

The 50/50 RAFFLE was won by Brenda Beverlin (\$17).

The President asked for the introduction of 41 members and guests. Jerry Wharton read the Secretary's Minutes as Georgia's meal ticket was lost by the Restaurant and she was still eating. The minutes were approved.

Jane McGuffey gave the treasurer's report as being \$2,708.87.

KC8SSZ Charles Janes presented his application for membership into the club. Bob Lyons motioned the Club accept Charles' application. It was seconded by Mike Johnson. Motion accepted by the Club.

The President reminded members the classes would start tomorrow (Tuesday February 12th).

Blaine asked Ray Bodie to attend a meeting being held by the County Commissioners on the height of towers and etc. A bill has been introduced at State Level in the Senate. Blaine urged members to contact their Senators on how they feel about HOUSE BILL #4335.

There will be a HAMFEST march 16th at Coonskin Park in Charleston.

The Half Marathon will follow the same 'Course' as last year. Safety Communications will be handled by Kenny Harris.

The President asked for a FIELD DAY CO-ORDINATOR. Members upgrading were Bill

Thomas, Dan Owens and Nancy Owens.

Chad Day volunteered to repair the MIRAGE AMP. Curt will order the parts.

Jim Palmer motioned we adjourn at 7:55. Lynn Palmer seconded the motion. Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

THE PARKERSBURG RADIO KLUB MEETING

The March 11th. Parkersburg Amateur Radio club meeting was called to order at 7PM by President Blaine Auville

There was an introduction of 29 members and guests. .

The Owens family won the 50/50 RAFFLE (\$13.50).

Secretary Georgia Milhoan read the minutes. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Jane McGuffey gave her report as 2927.07

Ray Bodie reported he attended the County Commissioners meeting on tower heights. Amateur Radio is exempt from Senate Bill #4335. Governor Wise has signed the bill.

The President said there were 6 or 7 people attending tin Radio Classes.

James DeSouza presented his application for membership into the Club. Harold Dooley motioned we accept his application. Paul Anderson seconded the motion. Motion accepted by club.

The President reminded members that DUES AAS TO BE PAID BY APRIL 1st.

Jane McGuffey asked if the Club would be interested in sponsoring a "WALK FOR CANCER" group to be held at the City Park. The date will be the weekend the Dayton Hamfest is held. No one was willing to help. Georgia Milhoan motioned the Club donate \$50 to the Cancer Walk. Harold Dooley seconded the motion. Motion Passed the Club.

The speaker for the evening was Terry Brown, 911 Director of Emergency Communications for Wood County. He stressed that each individual person has to decide if his or her call is an emergency.

Peggy Phillips motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Curt Fouse (alias Jim Palmer. Meeting adjourned at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

Ten-Tec

Ten-Tec ORION to replace OMNI line: Ten-Tec plans to introduce details of its new ORION HF amateur transceiver March 9-10 at the Charlotte Hamfest in North Carolina. Ten-Tec Amateur Radio Products Manager Scott Robbins, W4PA, says the ORION "represents an entirely new concept in high-performance HF transceivers" and will include features never before available on an amateur transceiver. The ORION will retail in the \$3300 price range and will replace the OMNI VI Plus--already discontinued--as Ten-Tec's top-of-the-line amateur HF transceiver. Anticipated features include dual 32-bit DSP processors; full dual-receive capability; 590 independently selectable IF-DSP filters in each receiver; adjustable receive filter shape factors; "superior dynamic range" due in part to the ability to narrow roofing filters down to 250 Hz for improved close-in performance in the vicinity of strong signals; extremely low phase-noise synthesizer; adaptive DSP noise reduction; and a continuous, real-time spectrum display that works on either receiver. Full details are available on the Ten-Tec Web site <<http://www.tentec.com/TT565.htm>>. The ORION is expected to be available later this year. A prototype may be ready for display at Dayton Hamvention

in mid-May, but it will not be on the market by then. "We are very excited about this new product," Robbins said. "Stay tuned!" He notes that complete technical specifications for the ORION remain to be determined..

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST AT THE MALL

Each friday for the last two years or more a group of hams has been meeting at Caesar's Restraunt in the Vienna, WV mall. between 8:00-10:00am for breakfast and fellowship.

Some of the hams attending are: John Dobson (W8WEJ), Paul Anderson (W8PAR), Ellen Anderson, Archie Carpenter (W8GWR), Carol Carpenter, Harold Dooley (N8KO), Tim Dooley (N8WO), Jim Palmer (K8BOT), Ray Bodie (N8TWV), Emily Bodie (KB8YPB), Larry Dale (KF8NW), Dennis Dale, Don Kesterson (WA8AUX), Mercedes Kesterson, Jay Stowe (K8JAY), Jerry Yancy (KB8PZR), Ann Yancy, Bill Hathaway (N8MPR), Carroll Ayers (K8BXW), Bill Hurte (N8KM), Bill Thomas (KB8ZSN), Chuck Duncan (kg8wr), Sam Maze (kd8bc),

While this breakfast is very well attended we would like to extend a welcome to other hams to join us.

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