



Di-Dah-Dit

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

ARRL OFFICIALS UPBEAT ABOUT REACHING 5-MHZ COMPROMISE

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, say they're optimistic about reaching a resolution to issues that could otherwise block plans for a new 5 MHz band. Until surprise opposition surfaced from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the FCC appeared to have put ARRL's request for a new, domestic-only, secondary amateur allocation at 60 meters on the fast track.

In an eleventh-hour move a month ago, the NTIA recommended in a letter to the FCC--sent after the comment deadline--that the Commission not go forward with a proposal for an Amateur Radio allocation at 5250 to 5400 kHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government.

"We are working together with the Federal agencies involved toward a solution of the impasse raised by the NTIA letter," Imlay said after he and Haynie attended a series of meetings September 19 in Washington, DC.

Acting NTIA Associate Administrator for Spectrum Management Fredrick R. Wentland had said in an August 21 letter that critical federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the US Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, were making extensive use of 5 MHz frequencies. He worried that the 5 MHz proposal the FCC put forth last May at the ARRL's request "does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations."

After initially huddling this week with NTIA and FCC officials and staff members, Haynie and Imlay met face-to-face with representatives of the agencies involved to share mutual concerns.

"They are willing to work with us," Haynie said. "Chris and I left feeling a whole lot better." Haynie said hammering out some differences will involve some further meetings--including one with the US Navy--but that he and Imlay were feeling much more positive about the situation.

"I feel confident we'll get something," Haynie said. "I don't think we'll get everything we want, but it's certainly a start, and it's a lot better than what it was this time last week."

One difficulty in the negotiations is that some of the information on the government's use of the 5-MHz frequencies involved is classified. "We were given some hints about the sensitivity and the seriousness of some of the activity that's going on," Haynie said, "and we fully appreciate that now--more so than before--because we just didn't, and couldn't, know. The important thing is that we have established a good working relationship with the Justice Department and the Coast Guard."

Imlay said the discussions tended to center on power restrictions and frequencies but emphasized that no decisions were reached. The ARRL proposal called for a 150-kHz wide band and the full legal power limit. Imlay hinted, however, that perhaps a smaller band than the one requested coupled with some power output limitations, was a real possibility.

The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and has asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Until the

latest snafu, the FCC had been expected by early next year to issue a Report and Order on proposals for the 5-MHz band, a new low-frequency allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz and primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

HAM-LED TEAM ATTEMPTING TRANSATLANTIC MODEL AIRPLANE FLIGHT

A team of model airplane enthusiasts led by Maynard Hill, W3FQF, is attempting a record-breaking crossing of the Atlantic by a model aircraft. A model plane dubbed "The Spirit of Butts Farm" was launched August 20 and was on its way to Ireland. Monitoring the flight, TAM-3, the third in a series, from Newfoundland, Canada, Hill's team reports the plane was last heard from August 21 at 0428 UTC. "We are still uncertain what happened," said a terse announcement on the team's Web site.

The Transatlantic Model Aircraft--or TAM--project is Hill's brainchild the president of the Society for Technical Aeromodel Research. Hill and his design team have spent four years on the ambitious project. The TAM aircraft are hand-launched and guided to an altitude of 1500 feet by radio remote control. Upon reaching that altitude, a sophisticated GPS-based autopilot system takes over. The aircraft sends periodic position reports to the flight team, and these are

posted on the TAM Web site
< <http://tam.plannet21.com/index.html> > .

The first two TAMs failed soon after launch. The last position report for TAM-3 indicated that it had completed better than one-fourth of its journey before contact with the airplane was lost. TAM-4 will be the final attempt--at least for now.

A successful flight would mark the first transatlantic crossing by a true model airplane--an aircraft weighing 11 pounds or less with an engine with no more than 10 cc displacement, as specified by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) < <http://www.fai.org/> > . It would also set a new world record for straight-line distance by a radio-controlled, piston-powered model airplane.

More information on this historic effort is available on the TAM Web site
< <http://tam.plannet21.com/index.html> > . An article on the flight appeared in the on-line edition of National Geographic
< http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/08/0805_020805_transatlantic.html >



PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

Minutes

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their August 12th meeting at the Bonanza Steak House on Pike Street with Connie Hamilton presiding in the absence of the President.

The 50/50 RAFFLE was FINALLY won by Lloyd Boston. \$14.00)

Connie asked for the introduction of 27 members and guests.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved.

Jane McGuffey gave the Treasurer's report as being \$3,112.14.

Connie asked for nominations of officers for the coming year:
President - Blame Auville
Vice-Pres. - Paul Anderson
Secretary - Denise Mills
Treasurer - Ray Johnson
Newsletter Editor - Jerry Wharton

A Thank You card from Randy Sims was read.

Gene Gildow said the Marietta Club meeting will be held Tues. August 13th at 7PM.

Irene gave a report on Curt who has been in the hospital for a week.

The KLUB'S September meeting will be held 4 the Veteran's Park near the Airport. It will be a combination of Picnic SWAP MEET.

Paul Anderson motioned for adjournment at 7:25PM. Mike Davis seconded motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

Minutes

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their September 9th meeting after the PICNIC held at the Veteran's Park on Route 31 near the Airport. with President Blaine Auville presiding.

There was introduction of 33 members and guests.

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was given as being \$3,127.52. The following slate of incoming officers are:

President - Blame Auville
Vice President - Paul Anderson
Tech-Vice President - Jim Palmer
Secretary - Denise Mills
Treasurer - Ray Johnson

Bob Lyons motioned that these officers be voted in by acclamation. It was seconded by Mike Davis. The motion was carried by those present.

Bob Lyons said he needs people to conduct the NET on Tuesday nights.

The President reminded everybody that the CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held December 14th at 6PM. Everyone is to bring a covered dish WITH FOOD IN IT. The KLUB will furnish the Ham and Turkey and drinks.-- The Dinner will be held at The Washington Bottom Community Building below DuPont.

The Picnic Food was very delicious! If you don't believe me ask Ellen Anderson and THE YELLOW JACKETS.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Milboan, Secretary

AMATEURS AID IN ACID SPILL AFTERMATH

Dozens of Tennessee hams passed the acid test after a train derailed near Knoxville the morning of Sunday, September 15. The wreck of the Norfolk-Southern freight dumped more than 10,000 gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid, some of which leaked into Ft Loudoun Lake along the Tennessee River. The resulting vigorous thermal reaction generated a hazardous mist, prompting a massive evacuation. Two amateur Radio emergency teams activated to assist responding agencies.

ARRL Knox County Emergency Coordinator Greg Williams, K4HSM, says authorities ordered the evacuation of all residents--some 9000 households--within a 1.3-mile radius and recommended those within five miles also get out of the area.

Williams said the Middle East Tennessee Emergency Radio Service (METERS) was called up at 12:30 PM on the Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville repeater system. Nearby Blount County activated its ARES net as the potentially toxic cloud drifted south by the prevailing winds.

"There were several immediate concerns," Williams said. "One was a bike tour sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Society that had cyclists traveling near the affected area." Williams said hams assisting with the MS Bike Tour were alerted to the spill. Event personnel promptly called off the remainder of the tour, evacuated the few remaining cyclists and had paramedics check them for any symptoms.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross set up shelters to handle evacuees, and the emergency operations centers for Knox and Blount counties activated.

Williams said Amateur Radio assistance, although offered, was not immediately needed by the emergency services overseeing the situation. But the Red Cross requested ARES activation by mid-afternoon due to overloaded phone lines and a need to communicate with shelter workers. Amateur operators were deployed

throughout the afternoon and into the evening to all shelters in Knox and Blount counties.

According to Williams, more than 50 amateurs checked into the METERS net over the course of the 10-hour activation, which drew praise from Red Cross officials. Williams reports that more than 50 amateurs checked into the METERS net during the activation.

FLORIDA MAN IMPRISONED, FINED FOR DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE

Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo will spend a total of 15 months in federal prison--including two months already served--and pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. He'll also spend a year on supervised probation following his release, during which he cannot own radio gear or firearms. Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on eight misdemeanor counts. The sentence is believed to be a record for convictions of this type.

"It's sent a shock wave across the Amateur Radio and CB communities in South Florida," said Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, who was among the amateurs targeted by Flippo and who testified at his trial. "The CB guys are running for cover. You can buy an illegal CB amplifier pretty cheap right now," he quipped. Hams were surprised by the severity of the sentence.

Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley imposed the sentence August 29 on Flippo, of Jupiter. He had been found guilty June 19 of four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. Flippo has remained in custody since the guilty verdict and underwent a psychiatric evaluation prior to

sentencing. The judge also said he wants a full financial disclosure from Flippo, who may face other legal actions unrelated to his radio operation convictions.

At the sentencing, Flippo reportedly wept, said he'd turned over a new leaf and claimed he was sole support for his wife and two daughters. None of his family members was in the courtroom for the sentencing, however.

The judge was not persuaded, telling Flippo, 60, that he was old enough to have considered the consequences of his actions. Hurley also alleged numerous incidents of perjury during the course of Flippo's testimony during his June trial, which ran six-and-one-half days. The jury took about a half hour to determine that he was guilty on all counts.

According to trial testimony, Flippo primarily had targeted members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.

Flippo had faced a maximum of eight years in prison--one year on each count--and up to \$80,000 in fines. Available opinions were mixed on whether the sentence Hurley imposed was appropriate. Petzolt, who assisted the FCC in gathering evidence and, at one point, had his car rammed by Flippo's vehicle, said he felt Flippo should have received at least three years.

"I thought it was a slap on the wrist," said Petzolt, the 1999 ARRL International Humanitarian Award winner who also testified at the trial. John Criteser Jr, KC4JLY, agreed. "I think he should have gotten more--at least five years," Criteser said outside the court-

house. Other amateurs who attended the sentencing session, including Jupiter-Tequesta club member Bert Moreschi, AG4BV, were satisfied with the penalty, however.

Last year, Flippo was convicted in state court of criminal mischief--also a misdemeanor--after ramming Petzolt's vehicle. He was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered him to dispose of his radio equipment. A ban on possessing radio gear also was a condition of his federal bond, which Hurley revoked during the trial.

Federal authorities arrested Flippo in July 2000. The criminal charges of which he now stands convicted covered violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. The defendant already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment.

Hurley ordered Flippo immediately back into custody to start serving his sentence. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

VINTAGE 1AW QSL BRINGS RECORD PRICE

We're not certain if ARRL co-founder and first president Hiram Percy Maxim would have been proud or surprised to know that one of his old 1AW QSLs apparently set a price record for the sale of a single QSL card. A 1923-vintage HPM 1AW card recently went for \$2125 on the eBay auction site
< <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISA-PI.dll?ViewItem&item=2131624991> > .

Neither the seller nor the buyer have been identified, but ARRL member Paul Cassel, VE3SY, of Petersburg, Ontario, Canada, acted as the sale agent and posted the card on the auction site. "The winning bidder is in California and is a very serious QSL collector," he said after the auction closed. Cassel pledged to donate half of his sale commission to the W1AW Endowment Fund
< <http://www.arrl.org/endoww1aw.html> > .

The 1AW card appears to verify reception of 9CTR on a wavelength of 193 meters rather than a two-way contact. "You were calling another 9," Maxim wrote in the card's "Remarks" section. Although the card proclaims "American Radio Relay League Station 1AW" across the top, the now-famous call sign was Maxim's own personal call sign at

the time, not the League's, and Maxim operated from his home on Hartford.

Until the 1AW card sale, Cassel says the highest known price paid for a single QSL card was more than \$1100 for an AC4YN QSL from the Tibet DXpedition of Sir Evan Nepean, G5YN, who died last March at age 92.

* RS-12/13 DEAD?

The Russian RS12-13 appears dead: Jerry Brown, K5OE, reports he's received word from Russian sources that the RS-12/13 satellite is apparently dead. Word is that RS-12/13 went dark as a result of severe solar flare activity in July and August. Efforts are under way to restore the satellite, but hopes for success are dim, according to Brown's Russian acquaintances. RS-12/13 were integrated into the COSMOS 2123 Russian navigation satellite, launched February 5, 1991. Beacons have not been heard since August 20. Information about RS-12 and RS-13 can be found on the AC5DK RS-12/13 Satellite Operators page
< <http://www.qsl.net/ac5dk/rs1-213/rs1213.html> > .

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