

Next Day Licenses! They're Here!

It's hard to imagine Amateur radio licenses available for use the day after a VE Licenses exam, but that's, just what is happening at a number of test sites throughout the country! With Electronic Filing of examination results and the change in FCC regulations permitting the use of an amateur license "when granted by the FCC" rather than "when received and signed by the applicant," new hams can be on the air as soon as the day after the exam. Electronic Filing is the Secret.

Here's how it works. We will use a EARC/VEC test session in Kernersville as an example. The session is held 0 Saturday morning. Applicants who achieve a new license or upgrade are issued a CSCE [Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam] and the information for the entire test session is forwarded to the VE([Volunteer Examiner Coordinator] b, the VE [Volunteer Examiner] team.

In the case of TEARC/VEC and a Kernersville session, the information is delivered to the VEC, test results are checked and applicant information verified, and data for transmission to the FCC is prepared. Saturday evening,

the data is filed electronically with the FCC, where computers consolidate data filed by all VECs for that day process the data very late Saturday night, grant the licenses, and update the Amateur database available on the Internet-

Late the same night or the next morning, applicants or volunteer examiners may access the FCC database to obtain the new call sign and the license is "available for use" by the applicant.

Since it is important to get information to a newly licensed amateur as quickly as possible, those applicants with access to the Internet via computer can access the data directly or receive an E-mail from the VEC (E-mail address: tearcvecc-daol.com.) Applicants without a computer or \ access generally receive a call from a member of the VE team with their new call sign.

That's a far cry from the weeks of waiting by a mailbox for a new 0 upgraded license. As recently as 1994, some amateurs reported waits of 15 weeks for upgrades and new license were running 10-12 weeks on a routine basis.

This dramatic increase in ser-

vice to the amateur radio community was made possible by the FCC's new computer system, along with a cooperative effort of the FCC and VECs to develop streamlined procedures for the electronic filing of examination information. The VEC system developed in the 1980s when the FCC transferred the responsibility of amateur license test in to the amateur radio community. FCC regulations provided for license examinations to be given to applicants by a team of at least three accredited volunteer examiners.

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator were established, each operating under an agreement with the FCC, to oversee and coordinate the effort and activities of volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for Amateur operator licenses. There are currently 15 VECs in existence and no additional VECs have been permitted by the FCC since the program was developed in 1984.

The nation's two largest VEC! (W5YI and ARRL) currently administer more than 80% of exams given. Each has a large number of volunteer examiners, a permanent paid staff of administration and gives exams over a

wide geographic area.

Under FCC regulations, the administering VEs have 10 days to forward to the VEC and the VEC in turn has 10 days to process the information and forward upgrades and new license information to the FCC. Typically, a VE team will forward the exam session information to the VEC by Priority Mail or an overnight delivery service. The information is processed by the VEC and then transmitted electronically to the FCC, and VECs keep in close contact with the FCC concerning amateur radio examination processing.

And here's where several of the smaller VECs have a time advantage because they typically conduct exam sessions near the VEC "headquarters", the time needed to get the information from the VE team to the VEC is less (in many cases, the same day) and the time to process the information at the VEC is low because of the relatively small number of exams administered. Additionally, because the smaller VECs do not have paid staffs, they typically process information on the weekends and at night rather than during regular "business hours." One or two day turn around for new licenses is common at these VECs.

There are currently three VECs located in the Southeast. TEARC/VEC is located in High Point, NC, WCARS/VEC is headquartered in Knoxville, TN, and CAVEC is located in Huntsville, AL. All three are active in testing within the region. Several other VECs headquartered outside the region are also active in administering exams within the Southeast.

Amateur radio examinations are currently available at major ham-fests and many VE teams test on a fixed, routine schedule. Additionally, many VECs offer special scheduled exams upon request for persons with disabilities or special circumstances. Via SERA 7/96

Hi Gang--

JUNE - that always means Field Day for hams!! At this time about 11 days before Contest weekend, we're still getting ready and reminiscing about past Field Days. As Roy, N8YYS, Field Day Chairman mentioned at this month's meeting, all of our members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Come on out, watch how it's being done by those operating, and then take your turn! We all tire after so many hours of QRM and "ditty dah dittys" on top of other signals. As I looked around the room at last night's meeting there were many new faces that were not at last year's Field Day and we hope they will come out, this year. Like Jep said, "I'll be there at least to tell some stories and enjoy the ice cream!" Whether we are new ops, Journey-men (or women) or old timers, we are looking forward to June 22 and 23- we make our Klub what it is, and I think our Klub is GREAT!! After all, sharing stories and ideas, learning from one another, making new friendships is where our satisfaction and enjoyment actually live.

Our committee on a vanity Klub call is in place and will be meeting to make a decision soon. It

President's Corner



Lydia White, AA8UL

will be fun to hear all the different calls on the air from all over the country!

A Big thanks to Tim and Curt and all those helping with the Swap meet on June 8th. Lots of sales and big money exchanged - hi! Hi! Everyone had a great time.

As I am sure most of you are aware, there is a group after 144-148 and 420-450 MHz bands. The organization represents the mobile satellite service.. Check July QST and other amateur periodicals for further details. Let's stand up and fight for our rights, but As Dave Sumner of the League says, Let's be sure to do so in an educational manner and not in an intimidating way!!

Remember Parkersburg Homecoming will be here August 16, 17, and 18 and we will need workers for chair rentals.

I am always thrilled when we have a big turnout for meetings and thank everyone for your faithful attendance and willingness to help out!!

The best of 73 to all - see you at Field Day!!!!

In Amateur Fellowship,
Lydia - AA8UL

Olympic Calls

FCC approves Olympic Call signs for Georgia hams -from QRL Letter

Hams operating within the state of Georgia will be able to use special call signs from April 15th until August 31, to commemorate the 1996 Olympics. The approval came as a Special Temporary Authority (STA) issued by the FCC.

Licensed Amateurs in Georgia operating with a "4" in his call sign may replace that number with "96" representing the year, or "26" commemorating the 26th Olympiad.

Hams with "4" or any other numbers in their call signs, operating within the state of Georgia may add "00" to the existing number to mark the centennial year of the Olympic Games.

For instance: AC4MU in Georgia can use: AC96MU, AC26MU or AC400MU. Licensed hams with other numbers in their call signs, such as KBOY can use KBOOOY Likewise N5DWU can use that call or N5OODWU if he prefers.

The Olympics start in July.

VIA SERA Repeater Journal

Summer 96

Barb Fills In!

Barbara Marsh, KB8GGG To fill in as West Virginia Correspondent

We received word at press time that Barbara A. Marsh, KB8GGG of Shady Spring, WV will accept the job temporarily filling the vacancy of West Virginia Journal Correspondent- Our long-time WV news editor, Ted Wolfe, WD4KHL has been ill for the past few months, and does not know when he will be able to return to writing.

Barbara said she was looking forward to the new endeavor. She has been licensed since 1989, and is the wife of Dale, N8MRD and mother of Kevin, N8KEE.

She asks that WV hams send her information, news, and stories and she will write them up for the Journal. Write her at: 126 Up Left Fork Road, Shady Spring, WV 25918-9802. You may call her between 3:00 PM and midnight daily at (304) 763-3559.

VIA SERA Repeater Journal

Summer 96

Dear Happy Hamette,

By Cindy Rogers KR4LS E-Mail n4fhm@costalnet.com 545 Waterbury Drive Fayetteville, NC 28311

Dear Happy Hamette,

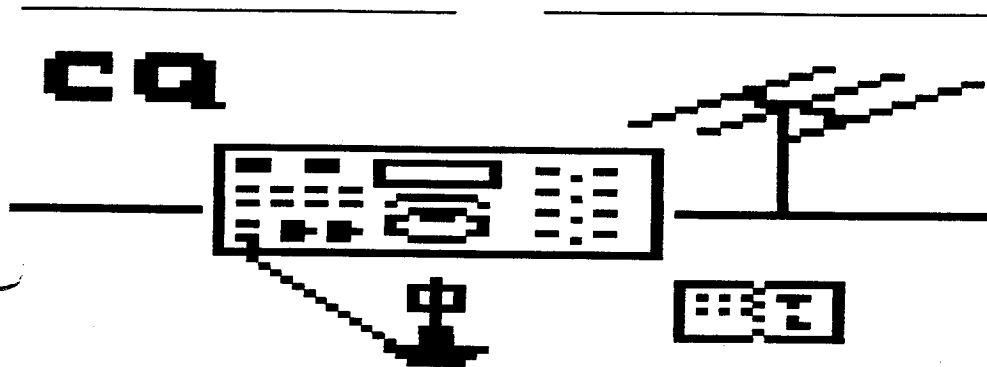
My husband, Rud, just loves his ole radio more than me! He talks and talks on that thing from morning to night. I think he'd sleep with the little varmint if he could get it in the bed without pokin' the mud outta, Martha, his coon dog. Waaah! What does it have that I don't? I don't light up or nuthin' like it does. He claims I'm still prettier than his truck but not as good as sweet as his dog. Waaah! I think he just says that so I will fry his chicken every night. I watch him get lit right regular with his radio, What a pair. When he lights up, sister, I jus' turn off. He doesn't love me. Waaaah! I'd like to take that 2-motor thing-a-ma-bob and whup it upside Bud's head. But, Happy Hamette, if I did that, then I wouldn't have my Buddy no more. What can I do? Waaah! Signed, Litless & Loveless in Fayetteville.

Dear Litless & Loveless,

Honey, if he gets lit with that radio, then you got to get, lit, too. No, chile, I don't mean getting into his moonshine. You light up the radio, too! Get one of those Codeless Tech books and read, read, read. Don't let the radio be your enemy, Hon. You become its friend- When you pass the Technician test, then you can get your own radio and light it up, too. Sug, if you can't beat 'em, get on the radio and join em. Then, he will- shut up and listen.

VIA SERA Repeater Journal

Summer 96



Here's to Ted

The Ted that long ago as a school boy
Heard "hams" on AM;
And the "ditty dah ditty" of Code
At his old friend's home.

The Ted that hung in there
And completed his work on the Amateur Extra Class.

Here's to Ted that listened to that Code night after night
When it seemed he couldn't get nothing right!

Here's to Ted when time was running out
On his year of eligibility and he "beared down"!

But, Ted, you tackled it!
"Wallered" it up and down the bands,
Listening to that "ditty dah ditty" and
Brought home that Amateur Extra Class on April 27, 1996!

So, here's your recognition -
We wish you well!
And, as the years go by on the bands
Remember we're your fans!

Anonymous

Without Roy, Where Would We Be?

Without Roy where would we be?
Certainly not on anyone's TV!
Without Roy where would we be?
Not at Field Day drinking tea!

Without Roy where would we be?
We followed him through those classes
And we had to use our glasses!
But now, thanks to Roy, we are amateurs
THANKS, ROY!

Anonymous

KLUB / ARES Net
on 148.970
Tuesday's at 9:00



Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub
P. O. Box 2112
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Get out a pen and paper, or boot up your computer. There's work to be done! Your help is needed to defend two meters and 70 cm. Yes, that's right -- the two most popular and crowded amateur VHF/UHF bands! Don't panic, and don't "go ballistic."

Here's what's happening, and what you can do about it.

The United States is preparing for the 1997 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-97. In the past, the public has been able to participate in the preparations for such conferences by responding to FCC Notices of Inquiry. In March, the FCC announced a streamlining of its International Bureau's preparatory processes for WRCs. Under the new scheme, the NOIs have been eliminated in favor of increased emphasis on WRC Advisory Committees.

For WRC-97, a series of Informal Working Groups (IWGs) of the Advisory Committee has been created to address specific agenda items. The output of each IWG will go directly to a joint FCC-NTIA-Department of State Steering Committee of the Advisory Committee. There, draft proposals as received from the IWGs will be reviewed and forwarded to the FCC for possible release as preliminary U.S. proposals for public comment.

In announcing the streamlined WRC preparatory process, the FCC tried to reassure those who might be concerned about reduced opportunities for public participation: "Interested parties should note that input to the Advisory Committee may be sent at any time directly to the Chair of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee; the Chairs of the Advisory Committee's Informal Working Groups; Cecily C. Holiday, the FCC's federal officer of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, or C. Ladson, the alternate federal officer."

Hold that thought while we shift gears to the substance of the issue.

One of the WRC-97 agenda items includes consideration of possible additional frequency allocations for the mobile-satellite service. So-called "little LEOs," low-earth orbit satellites below 1 GHz, already have allocations. Their proponents claim these are inadequate and are trying for more. The needs of little LEOs are being addressed in IWG-2A, chaired by Warren Richards of the Department of State. The ARRL technical relations staff participates in IWG-2A to represent Amateur Radio interests.

At the May 7 IWG-2A meeting, an industry representative proposed a list of "candidate bands" for little LEOs. The list includes a number of bands that would negatively impact existing services, and does not include others that would be technically more feasible but to which strong objection from incumbents could be expected -- the point being that some political, rather than purely technical, judgment already has influenced the list.

Incredibly, 144-148 and 420-450 MHz were included on the list! This is the first time in memory that another service has been proposed for the two-meter amateur band. We must make sure it is also the last time.

We do not need to explain to ARRL members the extensive use that is made of these bands by amateurs. The two bands provide the backbone of our local public service communications effort. Voice and data, mobile and fixed, even television -- the list of present amateur uses is a long one, and of future uses is even longer. Both are already used for satellite services and for moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power.

Apparently we did need to explain all this to the little LEO industry representatives, so we did just that -- both at the meeting and in our letter on May 15. We also explained that we had to regard the matter as extremely serious. No one with the slightest background in radiocommunication could possibly believe that a mobile-satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future amateur operations. Therefore, we said, if we did not receive

assurance that they would be taken off the list of candidates. The deadline for this issue of QST, we would have no choice but to bring the matter to the attention of the entire membership.

The response we received was unsatisfactory. In effect, we were told the little LEO industry would consider our views but that until their spectrum needs are satisfied, all bands must remain under consideration.

So, this is a call to action. We must get across to the industry and government participants in IWG-2A that the 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz bands cannot be considered as candidates for mobile-satellite services. We need to drive the point home so forcefully, with so many grassroots responses, that no one is ever tempted to try this again.

Which brings us back to that invitation for "interested parties" to send input "at any time." There's no time like the present! Here are the key addresses, including those of the mobile-satellite industry folks who seem to have started the ruckus:

Cecily C. Holiday, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; choliday@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-0748.

Warren G. Richards, Chair, IWG-2A, Department of State, CIP 2529, Washington, DC 20520; richardswg@ms6820wpoa.us-state.gov; FAX (202) 647-7407.

Tracey Weisler, FCC Rep., IWG-2A, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; tweisler@fcc.gov; FAX (202) 418-2824.

Mary Kay Williams, Final Analysis, Inc., 7500 Greenway Center, Ste. 1240, Greenbelt, MD 20770; FAX (301) 474-3228.

Leslie Taylor, LTA, 6800 Carlynn Court, Bethesda, MD 20817; ltaylor@lta.com; FAX (301) 229-3148.

Do comment. But be civil. Don't abuse people who are simply doing their jobs. We have to get across that casting covetous eyes on amateur bands is counterproductive, and contrary to the public interest. To accomplish this we need a lot of comments, including yours. But remember that the objective is to educate and persuade, not to intimidate. We don't need to. The fac
ENTER COMMAND: B,J,K,L,R,S, or Help >