



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## ARRL BOARD REAFFIRMS, MODIFIES ITS RESTRUCTURING PLAN

In a special meeting October 24, the ARRL Board of Directors reaffirmed the bulk of its July 1998 Amateur Radio License Restructuring plan with some modifications. Among other things, the Board's July plan would eliminate the Novice and Tech Plus license classes. To provide a logical entry path to HF for Technicians, the Board now has suggested offering CW privileges to Technicians in the current General CW allocations on 80 through 10 meters. Technicians would be permitted up to 200 W PEP.

"The July plan eliminated the HF door by eliminating the Novice license," observed ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "This is, in effect, a replacement for the Novice, but without an additional license class." The Board also agreed to replace its originally proposed A, B, C, and D license class designations with Extra, Advanced, General, and Technician.

Under the July plan and under the FCC's proposed streamlining the entry-level HF license would be the General. Board members at the October 24 meeting near St. Louis expressed

concern that the leap to HF privileges under the July plan could prove too daunting, especially for younger newcomers. Under the ARRL plan, it would require passing two written examinations plus a 5 WPM code test to become a General. Some also were troubled about the growing gulf between the "traditional" HF operator and the newer VHF-only amateurs.

Addressing the Morse code requirement in the International Radio Regulations, Sumner summed up the Board's position by saying that the new privileges would amount to self-testing. "By their very nature, you can't use the privileges until you know the code," he said.

The special ARRL Board meeting was called to consider the League's comments on the FCC's amateur licensing "streamlining" proposals in WT Docket 98-143, released in August. Comments are due December 1. During the daylong session, the Board also proposed that the FCC rules ban multiple-choice Morse code tests and establish that a passing grade for a code test be either 70% correct

answers to 10 fill-in-the-blank questions or one minute out of five of solid copy. The Board affirmed its proposals in RM-9196 to improve the procedures for granting Morse code exam credit on the basis of a physician's certification of a disability. It also affirmed "its strong desire" that written exams be modified as necessary "to demonstrate better the depth of the applicant's current radio technical knowledge and operating skill."

The Board supported retention of the topic definitions to be included in written exams, as contained in 97.503(c) of the FCC rules, with some modification to accommodate the new four-class structure. The Board also reaffirmed its desire that Advanced class volunteer examiners be permitted to administer General class exams, and it renewed its request in RM-9115 for several rules changes involving RACES stations. The Board noted that it had "heard and considered the views of thousands of ARRL members" on the amateur licensing issues raised in both the ARRL and FCC proposals.

## FCC CRACKS ENFORCEMENT WHIP ON JERSEY HAM

The FCC has begun to crack its amateur enforcement whip. A New Jersey ham has been ordered off 40 meters until further FCC notice after allegedly causing interference to the ANARC Net on 7.240 MHz October 18. The FCC also issued an Official Notice of Violation October 21 against James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown, New Jersey.

Thompson, 58, was accused by FCC inspectors out of the Langhorne, Pennsylvania, FCC office with illegally retransmitting programs from a standard Broadcast (AM) station on 40 meters and willfully interfering with the amateur net. The FCC also charged Thompson with failing to properly identify.

It's the Commission's first amateur enforcement action since the FCC announced it would consolidate amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau under the coordination of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the CIB's legal advisor for enforcement.

Hollingsworth said the FCC acted in the Thompson case on complaints from amateurs, but FCC inspectors did all the legwork. FCC inspectors at Thompson's home found an AM receiver "positioned adjacent to the Amateur station's microphone and tuned to 1450 kHz," the FCC said. Hollingsworth said FCC personnel used a combination of

long-range and local monitoring and tracking to zero in on Thompson's QTH as the source of the interfering signal. Hollingsworth said he anticipates additional amateur enforcement cases to develop as a result of calls to the Amateur Enforcement Line, 202-418-1184.

### ARRL TO DEBUT WEB MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 1

The ARRLWeb Extra, the new ARRLWeb publication, debuts September 1 on the League's new Members Only Web Site, <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. The ARRLWeb Extra will offer news and features, photos and sounds from the world of Amateur Radio and the ever-changing communication scene.

A totally new online publication, The ARRLWeb Extra, will publish Amateur Radio news and features--including insider news, technical and how-to topics, additional information on Product Review items, "First Looks" at upcoming products that will be reviewed in QST, and occasional offbeat items, a "Foto Gallery," and information about--and links to interesting Web sites. From time to time, The ARRLWeb Extra will explore subjects only indirectly related to Amateur Radio. Web publication also will make it possible for Product Review and New Products items to include sound

and more pictures that we might not have room for in QST.

Members now get a chance to actually hear what a new transceiver sounds like, for example. The first edition of The ARRLWeb Extra takes a closer look at the new SGC SG-2020 transceiver, providing sound clips of CW and SSB reception (in RealAudio format) plus interior photographs not included in QST. The full-blown SG-2020 Product Review will appear elsewhere on the Members Only Web Site as well as in October's QST.

The Members Only Web Site will make current and past QST Product Review columns available in a searchable archive as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The QST Product Review Columns page lists all Product Reviews from 1990 to the present.

The premier edition of The ARRLWeb Extra will feature several general-interest articles. There's an exciting narrative by Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, of how he used ham radio to help save the lives of a missionary family, caught up in a hostage situation in a remote section of Guatemala. Sound clips of actual transmissions are included. Ralph Katz, KB8ZOY, tells the uplifting tale of how "Two Honest Hams" who also happened to be pretty good detectives retrieved his H-T, lost at the Dayton Hamvention.

News items for the Extra

will be updated as soon as possible, which means that breaking stories sometimes will be available before they're published in The ARRL Letter or issued as W1AW bulletins. Whenever available, pictures and sound cuts will augment our news coverage. The ARRLWeb Extra is free of advertising and other "commercial clutter." News and article submittals are welcome via e-mail to [awextra@arrl.org](mailto:awextra@arrl.org).

To access the ARRL Members Only Web Site welcome page, League members need only point their browsers to <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. Register by providing your call sign and your ARRL membership number found on your QST mailing label. You'll also be prompted to select a password. If you're not a member, you can join the ARRL online via the ARRLWeb site at <http://www.arrl.org>.

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### Kenwood manuals on the Web:

Kenwood operating manuals for all of its currently available Amateur Radio equipment now are downloadable via the Kenwood Web site (<http://www.kenwood.net>). From the main page, click on FTP Site. The files are available as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The Kenwood FTP Site does not include manuals for older kenwood gear, but current on-site manuals will remain in archive, even after an

item ceases production. The service is free.

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### THE SAFEX II

The SAFEX II 70 cm repeater aboard the Mir space station remains semioperational in both repeater and QSO mode and is reported to be active, although it is not available on every orbit. The repeater uplink is 435.750 MHz FM (with CTCSS tone of 141.3 Hz). The downlink is 437.950 MHz. The SAFEX II 70 cm QSO Mode uplink is 435.725 MHz FM (with CTCSS tone of 151.4 Hz). The downlink is 437.925 MHz FM. The SAFEX team is interested in hearing from anyone who has recently used the SAFEX repeater. Send reports to Joerg Hahn, DL3LUM, e-mail [jh.hahn@gmx.net](mailto:jh.hahn@gmx.net), or Thomas Kieselbach, DL2MDE, e-mail [tom.kieselbach@t-online.de](mailto:tom.kieselbach@t-online.de). Mike Sequin, N1JEZ, can provide copies of a how-to-operate article from The AMSAT Journal. For an e-mail copy, send a request to N1JEZ at [Mike73@aol.com](mailto:Mike73@aol.com). --AMSAT News Service The ARRL Letter

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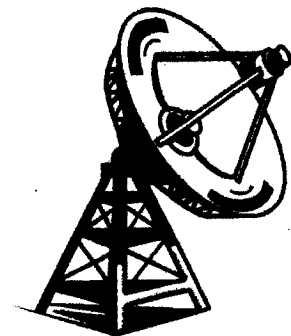
### MORSE MAGAZINE GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

The Morse magazine *Morsum Magnificat*, which had been on the verge of ceasing publication, has a new editor and publisher. Zyg Nilski, G3OKD, will take over the reins of the magazine following the publication of the December 1998 issue. The

magazine's banner proclaims "Still flying the flag for Morse." The magazine's current Consultant Editor, Tony Smith, G4FAI, said that subscriptions will be transferred to the new publisher. Nilski, 55, lives in England and has been a ham since 1960. His almost life long interest in CW encompasses line telegraphy as well as the history of telegraphy and Morse technology.

*Morsum Magnificat* was first published in Dutch in 1983 by the late Rinus Hellemons, PA0BFN. A special English edition was put out in 1985. The following year, Smith a writer specializing in Morse topics (and later chair of the European CW Association) joined the magazine as its English language editor. When Hellemons died in 1987, the Dutch edition ceased publication, and the magazine moved to England. Since 1990, Smith and Editor Geoff Arnold, G3GSR, have jointly produced the magazine.

Note -All Material Via ARRL Letter Except local news.



## TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY:

**I**COM plans to one-up the still-unavailable Yaesu FT-100 with yet another IC-706 model that will include 70 cm and more power on 2 meters! ICOM has told dealers its new IC-706MkIIIG will be available at Amateur Radio retailers in December or January. It will offer 50 W on 2 meters and 20 W on 70 cm. The new "G" model also will have backlighted switches for night-time operation, and tone squelch as standard features. ICOM estimates it will sell in the \$1600-1700 price bracket.

The IC-706MkII will remain available. Yaesu's new multiband, all-mode FT-100 compact transceiver, introduced at Dayton, will cover all amateur bands from 160 meters through 70 cm, except for the 222 MHz band. Yaesu now says the FT-100 will be on the market "in the fall." On the street: Ten-Tec's PC-controlled RC-320 receiver is on the street. The model RX-320 is the first "black box" receiver from a US manufacturer.

Carrying a price tag of \$295, the RX-320 offers reception up through HF. RFconcepts on the block: Kantronics President Phil Anderson, W0XI, is soliciting a buyer for the company's RFconcepts product line of VHF and UHF amplifiers. A fax recently went out to several QST advertisers this month. Kantronics says the RFconcepts

line "does not fit within our strategic plan for the future" but would be an "excellent buy" for someone else. Kantronics, headquartered in Lawrence, Kansas, bought the RFconcepts division in 1989 and moved it from California. Kantronics will continue to manufacture its line of digital products. The company recently introduced its KAM '98 single-port multimode HF/VHF TNC. The sale would include the RFconcepts name, current and non-current designs and manuals, finished goods, raw inventory stock, tooling, and vendor and dealer lists. Interested? Contact Anderson or Kay Runge, plant manager; Tel 785-842-7745; e-mail [sales@kantronics.com](mailto:sales@kantronics.com); <http://www.kantronics.com>).

## FCC ADOPTS UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM

Amateurs can say good-bye to the FCC Form 610 series in a few months. The FCC has adopted its long-proposed Universal Licensing System, which replaces Form 610 with a new, electronic Form 605, the Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator; and General Mobile Radio Services. Applicants may continue to use the old forms for six months after the new rules go into effect, however. The FCC also adopted proposals to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US, pursuant to recent interna-

tional reciprocal operating agreements.

The FCC said the ULS will "fundamentally change" the way the Commission receives and processes wireless applications and makes licensee information available to the public. The rules adopted September 17 will in the FCC's words-- "consolidate, revise, and streamline" license application procedures for radio services under the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Access to the ULS is via <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>.

When the FCC first aired its ULS plan, some licensees expressed concerns because ULS registration would require applicants to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number, typically a Social Security Number. In its public notice, the FCC assured that "all TIN information will be kept confidential."

The FCC's action consolidates 40 existing forms into four ULS application forms, including the new Form 605. Electronic filing in the ULS will not yet be mandatory for individual amateurs. Hams will have the option of filing electronically or on paper. However electronic filing via the ULS will be required for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the Amateur Service. manda-

tory electronic filing requirements go into effect July 1, 1999 or six months after the use of ULS in a particular service whichever is later.

An official Report and Order detailing the FCC's actions is expected to be released soon. The FCC's Public Notice is available on the FCC Web site at [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless\\_News\\_Releases/1998/nrwl8040.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless_News_Releases/1998/nrwl8040.html).

### LOWER VANITY FEE BOOSTS APPLICATIONS

According to FCC numbers out of Gettysburg earlier this month, the new, lower vanity call sign application fee induced an additional spurt of applications from the typically thrifty ham radio community. The FCC reports getting 281 applications on September 14, the first day of the new \$13 fee, and another 78 applications the next day.

That's in sharp contrast to the 130 or so applications received between August 25 and September 2. In fact, during all of August, the FCC received just shy of 600 vanity applications.

**PARK / ARES  
NET:  
Tuesdays  
9:00 PM  
146.97**

### Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

Minutes of the October 1998 meeting:

The meeting was held at Bonanza Steak House Oct. 12, 1998.

In the absence of a president, Jerry KA8NJW started the meeting at 7:05 PM. (Several wanted to be president but Jerry could speak the loudest and he got it!) The attendance was 22.

Jane N8MOW conducted the usual raffle which was won by Peggy Phillips. Jane then gave the financial report, giving a balance of \$2011.62 in the treasury.

Jerry reported that we need both a president and a secretary for the coming year.

Applications for membership were read for Art Ellis W8PBO and Thomas Watkins, KC8KUK. Art lives in Ravenswood, Wv. and is an ARRL member. Tom lives in Waterford, Ohio. Both applications were approved.

Jerry had rosters for the NCS stations for the Tuesday night nets. He also announced that anyone wishing to be on the roster, please let him know and they will be included on the next roster.

There was discussion on whether we needed to have tone access on the 97 repeater. No action was taken.

Under new business, the annual Christmas party was planned for DEC 19 (1st choice) and Dec. 12 as our second choice.

Blaine was going to take care of the reservation of the Washington Community Building. It was hoped that Irene and Georgia would co-chair the dinner arrangements. Jane N8MOW made a motion to this effect and it was seconded by Lydia, AA8UL. Naturally it was passed by vote of the members present.

Lydia asked about a Santa. Any volunteers?

A motion was made to have the raffle of a \$100.00 Wal-Mart gift certificate. This was seconded by Gene W2INO and passed. This is the same as last year, and the extra tickets from last year can be used.

Jerry announced that about 80 newsletters are now being mailed after streamlining the roster.

Archie, W8GWR set up some antique railroad telegraph equipment and gave a demo of how the old clickers sounded.

Art, W8PBO had a new and still unbuilt, CW paddle kit for show and tell.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM with the usual eyeball qso's following.  
73 Curt K8UC

**RAFFLE!**  
You will find in this newsletter 12 raffle tickets to sell for the PARK Klub. They sell 6 for \$5 or \$1 each. The drawing will be the night of the Christmas dinner so turn tickets in then. For more tickets see  
**KA8NJW**

## John N8NBL Silent Key

John McGuffey N8NBL A valued Klub member became a silent key on October 24. John was quite a guy and a real asset to our Klub. Bill Thomas KB8ZSN performed the service and Jim Palmer K8BOT read the passage from the New Testament relating the story of the Good Samaritan. The passage was very apt and reminded us all that John never met a stranger and never passed a person in need. He would always lend a hand and do what he could. He will be greatly missed.



John, Ham of the Year 1998



*Each day of my life,  
like a carousel turns,  
There are chances to take,  
and lessons to learn.*

*Caught up in problems,  
that each day would bring,  
Chances slip by,  
to catch the brass ring.*

*Whenever I felt my  
ride slowing down,  
Your gentle hand would  
push me around.*

*Picking me up each  
time that I fell,  
You rode beside me on my  
Carousel.*



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