



Di-Dah-Dit

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

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 1999 INTRODUCED

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23.

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. Rep Frank Pallone Jr, a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act. Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in

the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

Mansfield also hopes the bill can take advantage of a desire on the part of the House leadership to move a lot of legislation through this year. "I'm hoping our bill will get caught up in their enthusiasm," he said. A copy of the measure is available via the Thomas Web site, <http://thomas.loc.gov/> <ARRL>

CQ QRM!

Japan is saturated with mobile phones,

...much to the displeasure of people in hospitals, schools, movie theaters, museums, high-end restaurants ...even on airliners. In an attempt to get people to shut off their phones

in public places, the Japanese government may soon legalize small, low-power jammers on mobile-phone frequencies. These cigarette-pack-size units with flip-up antennas may be offered for sale to business owners, under controlled conditions. The Wave Wall, made by a company called Medic Inc., costs about \$480. Battery-operated, they can be used anywhere. The Wave Wall is already being offered in Europe and it is only a matter of time before they hit our shores. The potential for abuse is immense! <Newsline>

Cellular Location?

The FCC requires all cellular telephones by the year 2001, ...to give their location to within 125 meters whenever they dial 911. This will help emergency workers find callers who need help and don't know where they are, or are unable to speak legibly. <Newsline>

DX'ers Investigated

The United States Postal Service is reportedly investigating about a half a dozen U.S. Hams for alleged postal fraud. This, involving the way that they allegedly prepared Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes sent to QSL managers of X'peditions.

The inspectors are trying to determine in the hams deliberately misplaced postal stamps in such a way as to avoid being automated canceled and making them reusable at a later date.

The investigation is being coordinated by the Postal Inspector in Phoenix, Arizona where the alleged fraud was uncovered. The inquiry reportedly includes radio amateurs residing in New Jersey, Ohio, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kentucky and Florida. A number of overseas hams are also alleged to have taken part in the scheme. <mewslne>

Web TV!

Motorola is branching out into the consumer TV set-top box business! The "big M" will announce its new TV interface box in mid-September at the International Broadcasters Convention in Amsterdam. The box will offer computer and broadcast television programming, telephone service, high-speed Internet access/browsing, e-mail, movies-on-demand, electronic commerce ...and more! It will be a major introduction. Motorola is entering a new product line to offset declines in its semiconductor and cellular phone business.

Hedy Lamarr

An exceptionally well-rendered drawing of 1940's movie actress Hedy Lamarr ...appears on the cover of the latest version of Corel's popular CorelDraw computer software. Look closely; at first glance you'll swear it's a photo.

Ms. Lamarr (still alive, perhaps to Corel's surprise) is suing the company, alleging that they used her name and likeness without her permission. In her youth Ms. Lamarr came up with the idea of using split-second, frequency-hopping radio transmissions to control torpedoes by remote control, for which she was granted a patent in 1942. This spread spectrum technique today controls cellular telephones.

Commodore 64

The Commodore 64 (at least its name) is making a comeback!

Another Internet machine was introduced recently at the Hanover (Germany) computer trade show. A startup firm in the Dutch Antilles is calling it the "Commodore 64 WCI" (for Web Computer International.) Cost will be around \$400. And like the original Commodore 64, it uses a TV as a monitor. It has 16 MB of RAM, a floppy drive and a 56Kbps modem. Operating system is Windows 3.1, browser: Netscape Navigator. And, yes! it also runs C64 software. <W5YI>

No to Microbroadcasting!

Congressman says no to microbroadcasting! Just when you thought that the clouds were clearing for the future of low power radio a new obstacle has popped up on its horizon. This one is powerful enough to possibly stop legalized microbroadcasting in its tracks. Tony Valdez, KC6LXQ, explains:

A key telecommunications lawmaker is asking federal regulators to set aside plans to legalize micro-broadcasting. Louisiana Republican Representative Billy Tauzin, has said in a letter to FCC Chairman William Kennard that he requests that you take no further actions on this agenda. Tauzin is the chairman of the powerful House Commerce telecommunications subcommittee. He says that he is worried that Federal Communications Commission proposals for a low-power service would create interference to existing stations and could cut into advertising for minority and other radio stations.

In remarks to radio broadcasters Tauzin expressed concern that the new service could be used by racist groups. FCC officials have said that the licensing process wouldn't automatically disqualify a person or group based on their political views - - even if those views are white supremacist, for example, or offensive in some other way. Tauzin also believes the FCC is overstepping its legal authority by advancing the proposals.

But FCC officials said the commission clearly has authority to act in this area. They say that their proposals would create thousands of licensed low-tech FM radio stations from 1 watt to 1,000 watts and give voice to the people.

With Tauzen opposed to a Microbroadcasting service, the future could be very bleak for its creation. <Newsline>

End Of MIR!

End may be near for MIR. Senior Russian space officials report that efforts to find private investors to keep Mir aloft are failing, and the station might be dumped into a watery grave in the Pacific Ocean by late summer.

The Mir space station has been staffed almost continuously since its core module was launched in 1986. Sixty cosmonauts and astronauts from around the world have conducted research there, including 7 Americans that visited the station between 1995 and 1998. Nine U.S. Shuttle flights were also flown to Mir as a precursor to construction of NASA's new International Space Station. (AMSAT BBS)

Jordan's King Hussein, JY1 - SK

Jordan's King Hussein, JY1, has died. The end came on Sunday, February 7th following his majesty's lengthy battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma -- a form of cancer.

In his more than four decades as ruler of his Hashemite Kingdom the sixty-three year old monarch had been a key force for stability in the turbulent Middle East. He was also one of the worlds best known and best liked personalities within Amateur Radio.

In Amman, mosque loudspeakers began sounding verses from the Koran, the Muslim holy book, as a sign of mourning. According to a Jordanian

Cabinet minister. King Hussein's funeral was scheduled for Monday, February 8th. This, in keeping with the Islamic tradition of swift burial. <Newsline>

Big CB Fine

Wayward ham radio operators are not the only private radio users feeling the government's enforcement arm. This as a Portland, Oregon CB radio operator is fined \$14,000. The CB radio service operator was notified of the large monetary forfeiture for alleged willful violation of several sections of the FCC's Part 95 Citizens Radio Service Rules. (FCC)

For Sale

And finally the story of a ham trying to sell his radio and a newspaper that just could not get the ad right. Graham Kemp, VK4BB of Q-News says that this one will leave you laughing:

The VK6 Radio Oldtimers Club has forwarded the following which is an advertisement from a local newspaper which appeared four days in a row - the last three hopelessly trying to correct the first days mistake.

MONDAY: For sale: R.D. Jones has one FT 101 Radio for sale. Phone after 7:00 PM and ask for Mrs. Kelly who lives with him. Cheap.

TUESDAY: We regret having erred in R.D. Jones ad yesterday. It should have read, One FT 101 Radio cheap. Phone and ask for Mrs. Kelly, who

lives with him after 7:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY: R.D. Jones has informed us that he has received several annoying phone calls because of the error we made in yesterdays classified ad. The ad stands correct as follows: For sale - R.D. Jones has one FT 101 Radio for sale cheap. Phone after 7:00 PM and ask for Mrs. Kelly who loves with him ...

THURSDAY: I, R.D. Jones, have no FT 101 Radio for sale. I smashed it. Don't call again as I have had the phone Disconnected. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Kelly. Until yesterday she was my house keeper but she quit!.

All this goes to prove that a Swapmeet might be the safest way to sell your unwanted gear. (Q-News) via <Newsline>



From Jep K8BOT viaTWV and GWR

Repeater	Tone	ID, Location, Notes
146.970-		N8NBL P.A.R.K.
147.390+		WD8CYV P.A.R.K. (open autopatch, 911 accessible)
146.745-		WF8U MOVARC (Parkersburg)
147.255+		WA8LLM W.C.E.C. (for priority, emergency traffic, not ragchew, autopatch, weather)
145.490-		WV8G (Parkersburg) (May not be on full time)
145.330-	141.3	N8OJ (Belpre)
147.315+	103.5	W8JL (Belpre, HAMTALK linked system Clarksburg, Morgantown, Spruce Knob, Canaan Valley, Birch River, Glenville, Keyser, Fork Mountain VA.)
146.670-		WD8JNU JCO (Ravenswood)
146.880-	91.5	W8HH MARC (Marietta OH, autopatch)
147.300+		WB8NSL (Ritchie County)
146.700-	173.8	(Pomeroy OH, autopatch)
146.520		Simplex calling frequency
442.900+	141.3	(Belpre OH)
444.000+	141.3	
443.400+	91.5?	(Marietta OH, linked to 146.880)

Some a little farther, but maybe still reachable:

147.030+		WB8ECC (St. Marys)
145.450-		N8LGY (Grantsville)
146.985-		KF8LL (New Martinsville)
145.150-		WD8RIF (Athens OH)
147.150+		WD8LWC (Athens OH)
146.625-		FARA System (Athens OH) (Wide area OH, KY, IN, MI--members only)
146.850-		W8VP (Cambridge OH)
146.820-	67.0	WD8AHV (Zanesville OH)
147.285+		KF8XK (Caldwell OH)

Hollingsworth on RAIN

"The sleeping giant has awakened now and we are coming in and I don't want to see a lot of good, qualified, long-term operators get fines and revocations because they were jamming the jammers." Hollingsworth

Words of ham radio wisdom coming from the man in a position to know. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH who is the new Legal Advisor on enforcement to the Compliance and Information Bureau says that the commission is out to clean up the ham bands.

Hollingsworth's remarks came in an exclusive interview with RAIN producer Hap Holly, KC9RP. During their conversation, Hollingsworth said that he understands the frustration faced by many amateurs over a lack of enforcement on the part of the FCC. But K4ZDH also says that has recently changed:

"I understand why they are frustrated. And I know that they saw no presence from the FCC and they think that they are helping to police the bands. But we need them to back off and let us take the hard core riff-raff out - so as to speak." Hollingsworth

And how will the FCC accomplish this: "We are talking about fines, and revocations. I know that in the past its usually been one or the other, but if we open a case now it will be for both." Hollingsworth

You may be wondering

just how dedicated the FCC and Hollingsworth are to this ham radio clean-up. The answer is that it's a total commitment. To find out for yourself, we suggest that you visit RAIN, the Radio Amateur Information Network and listen in on part one of Hap Holly's interview with K4ZDH. It's on line right now at (847) 827-7246. The interview is also available in RealAudio at: www.rainreport.com <Newsline>

Park Minutes February 8, 1999

President Jerry Wharton started the Business meeting started at 7:12.

The raffle winner was Irene N8KYP. The amount was \$11.00

Dave White was a visitor.

Treasurer Jane McGuffey reported \$168 collected in dues. Current balance is \$1,870.41.

There was discussion on the PKB node. A committee of W2INO, Gene and WA8LLM, Kenny will decide what will be done.

Carl Long K8OWL has volunteered to teach the radio class.

Larry, KF8NW will do the publicity.

Jerry said we mailed out 86 news letters.

Jerry announced that Dave WD8CYV had secured a number of blaze orange vests. Mary KB8BOA will figure out an appropriate logo for them.

Wa8llm announced the date August 21 for the half marathon. also W5YI testing February 13.

Jep moved we adjourn. Jerry said wait.

N8TWV announced that the Wheeling hamfest had been canceled.

Jep moved we adjourn.

Jerry said he is looking for a 486DX chip.

Jep moved we adjourn. Archie seconded. It carried.

Meeting closed at 7:53.

Minutes of PARK Mar 8, 1999

President Wharton started the meeting at 7:13 PM. There were 29 members in attendance.

Jane N8MOW, done the raffle which was won by Curt Fouse. The amount was \$13.00. (Curt considered this a lucky 13)

Jane read the financial report. The current balance is \$1807.27.

Jerry said we need more students for the licensing class, but that this would probably be the last week to sign up.

When asked for an update on the PKB committee, Kenny Harris, in W2INO'S absence, said it is planned to wait on good weather to work on the node.

Mary KB8BOA, read a note that will be mailed out to de-

linquent past members.

Someone reported that Trish Scott KC8KNR, is not on the mailing list. Same for Tom Watkins.

NEW BUSINESS:

A report was given on Art Ellis' recovery from a heart attack. Linda Thompson is recovering from a car wreck and is at Dave's mother's house.

New members accepted into the club: Harlod Dooley KC8JHG, and Jeanna Dooley, KC8JHF.

Charleston Hamfest to be March 20 (or 21).

A skywarn meeting will be held in Charleston Mar 27 from 10 AM to 3 PM.

W5YI testing April 10 at 6:00 PM at the Eastwood fire station.

The former Wheeling Hamfest may be held at Martin's Ferry August 8.

K8BOT moved we adjourn.
Seconded by KB8BOA.
Meeting closed at 7:36.

Acting sect' Curt Fouse

TEXAS HAMS MOUNT PRB-1 EFFORT

At the request of radio amateurs, a bill was introduced in the Texas House of representatives to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption, PRB-1, into state law. The measure, HB 1345, was introduced by State Rep Patricia Gray at the request of Karl Silverman, N0WWK. Silverman is president of the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club.

The bill **would** amend the Local Government Code in Texas to prevent local jurisdictions from enacting or enforcing ordinances that fail to comply with PRB-1. The bill further would require ordinances dealing with Amateur Radio antenna placement, screening, or height based on health, safety or aesthetics to "reasonably accommodate amateur communications" and "represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's or county's legitimate purpose."

A hearing on the bill

before the Land and Resource Management ommittee is set for March 1. Silverman is scheduled to speak on behalf of the bill, and other speakers also might have an opportunity as well.

A letter Silverman circulated to Texas clubs to gain their support for the measure cites the success of Virginia hams in passing the nation's first and only specific tower protection bill. Silverman's appeal asks hams to contact the governor and state lawmakers to express support for the pending legislation. He's also asked Texas hams to turn out for the committee hearing March 1 (8 AM CST, Room E2030, Capitol Building).

Last year, the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) was instrumental in negotiating a amateur tower compromise in that Texas city in the wake of concerns over Amateur Radio antennas and interference. The compromise would permit 50-foot towers or units that could be cranked up to 75 feet while in use without requiring a special-use permit.

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