



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## ARRL BOARD ADOPTS NEW LEAGUE IDENTITY!

New Radio Amateurs of Canada President Ken Oelke, VE6AFO (left), chats with ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA. Oelke addressed the ARRL Board.

The ARRL Board of Directors unanimously has approved the use of a new identity for the League. Meeting July 16-17 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, the Board accepted the recommendation of the ARRL Executive Committee to emphasize the initials "ARRL" in conjunction with the tag line "The national association for Amateur Radio." The new identity--which is not a legal name change--will appear on League correspondence and publications. The traditional--and legal--name will be retained but de-emphasized; a new ARRL letterhead design includes "American Radio Relay League" at the bottom.

Further discussion of any possible new name for the League has been deferred until the Board meets again in January.

The ARRL Board also approved a proposal to hold a Hiram Percy Maxim 130-year anniversary on-the-air event in September. The event will mark the

130th anniversary of Maxim's birth, September 2, 1869. It will take place September 2-11.

In other matters, the Board unanimously authorized a mail vote of full members in the proposed new West Central Florida Section, which includes nine counties that now are part of the Southern Florida Section. A group calling itself the West Central Florida Section Committee filed a petition with the League earlier this year to create a third section in the Sunshine State.

Ballots will go out within a few weeks to ARRL members in Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota counties. Results of the balloting will be reported to the Board on a county-by-county basis. The proposed section is home to more than 2500 League members. If a simple majority of eligible members voting approves the change, the Board will review the entire petition file and vote to approve or disapprove the requested change. That decision is final.

ARRL-VEC Manager  
Bart Jahnke, W9JJ (left),

and Pacific Division Director Brad Wyatt, K6WR, meet during a break in the action.

The ARRL Board also discussed the recent Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Central States VHF Society and plans to file timely comments on the proposal. The petition would amend FCC rules to formally segregate wide-band and narrowband modes on VHF and UHF bands to eliminate interference from FM and packet in the so-called weak-signal portions of 6 and 2 meters and 70 cm. The FCC has assigned RM-9673 to the SCVHFS petition. Comments are due by July 28.

The League's comments will support the intent of the petition, but the Board unanimously agreed that the petition, as submitted, "does not sufficiently establish a basis for the regulatory relief requested." As an alternative to the SCVHFS petition, the League will suggest doing a better job of educating the amateur community about ARRL band plans. The League also plans to again try to get the FCC to acknowledge that VHF and UHF operation in accor-

dance with ARRL band plans is "good amateur practice" and will seek supporting compliance efforts by the FCC.

In other action, the Board

directed Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, to study the development and implementation of electronic QSL submittals for ARRL-sponsored awards.

Directed Sumner to develop and implement strategies to induce developers "and others who have influence in these matters" to relax restrictive covenants pertaining to Amateur Radio and antennas "so that Amateur Radio activities might be broadly accommodated." heard "A Vision for Amateur Radio: Progress Report" from Sumner that addresses where Amateur Radio will be in 2010 and the challenges the League and the hobby will face. Officially recognized "the historic and benevolent contributions of the National Traffic System and its operators to the ARRL and the public service program," on the occasion of NTS's 50th anniversary.

Directed the Headquarters staff to review the effects of contest rules pertaining to rovers and to make recommendations for promoting the participation by rovers.

Presented a National Certificate of Merit to Nate Brightman, K6OSC, "for his dedicated efforts" that have resulted in continuous operation of the W6RO station aboard the Queen

Mary by an Amateur Radio staff of more than 100 volunteers.

Additional details and complete minutes of the July Board meeting are posted on ARRLWeb (<http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-9907/>) and will appear in the September issue of QST.

## ULS HAM RADIO PHASE-IN PERIOD BEGINS AUGUST 8

The FCC begins phasing in the Universal Licensing System for the Amateur Service August 8 at 4 PM Eastern Time. That's when the FCC stops accepting new or upgraded licensee data from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators under the current amateur licensing system.

The ULS ushers in an era of electronic, interactive filing and handling of Amateur Radio applications. Being phased out under ULS is the familiar paper FCC Form 610 series. A "universal" Form 605--primarily designed for electronic use but also available on paper--will take its place.

A July 23 FCC Public Notice says the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will begin using the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16. Existing Amateur Radio licensing data will be trans-

ferred into the ULS database during a weeklong phase-in period. During the phase-in period, the FCC will not process new or upgraded licenses.

Electronic filing of Amateur Radio license renewals using FCC Form 900 ends August 9 at 9 AM Eastern Time. Electronic filing of vanity call sign application Form 610V terminates August 13 at 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Hams should not attempt to file renewal or vanity applications until the ULS comes up August 16.

Starting August 16, hams registered in the ULS may file the new FCC Form 605 electronically at any time of day, seven days a week. FCC Form 605 will be used for license renewals, modifications, cancellations, vanity call sign application, application withdrawals and amendments, as well as requests for duplicate licenses and administrative updates (ie, a change of address or other clerical license modification). Applications for new or upgraded licenses will continue to be filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Automated processing of electronically filed applications will occur nightly each business day, but five days a week instead of seven. There will be no weekend processing under the ULS. The FCC has warned that applicants should anticipate processing delays during the first couple of weeks. Cont. p. 5)



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Truly macho hams clip their speaker/mics directly on their skin.

## HAMS REQUEST NEW BILL TARGETING ILLEGAL CBERs

Legislation to permit local authorities to crack down on illegally amplified CB transmitters is poised for reintroduction in the 106th Congress. According to an early draft of the bill being worked on by Rep Vernon Ehlers of Michigan, the new legislation would permit state or local governments to pass and enforce laws prohibiting unauthorized Citizen Band radio equipment. Direct enforcement of telecommunication matters is usually considered a federal responsibility, and state and local authorities ordinarily don't step in except in particularly serious cases such as interference with aircraft or police and fire communication.

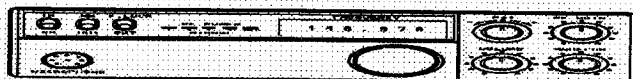
As outlined in Part 95 of Title 47 of the Federal Regulations, illegal equipment would include CB gear that isn't type ac-

cepted, that has been internally modified, that exceeds transmitter power output limits, or that is equipped with an external power amplifier.

Ehlers says that he became interested in the issue when a group of amateurs in his district complained to him about CB enthusiasts using transmitters equipped with high-power linear amplifiers. The illegally amplified CB radio signals were interfering with legitimate ham radio gear, as well as with televisions, telephones and other consumer electronics. Ehlers' district is in the Grand Rapids area.

The bill is patterned after S. 608 introduced last session of Congress by Wisconsin Sen Russell Feingold and substantially modified at the ARRL's request to protect law-abiding Amateur Radio operators. The Feingold bill had been introduced at the request of municipal authorities in Beloit, Wisconsin, who had been unable to stop illegal CBERs driving Beloit residents crazy with RFI. Ehlers also introduced similar legislation last session.

The new Ehlers bill contains provisions specifying that possession of an FCC license in any service—including the Amateur Service—would preclude action by the state or local government. ARRL originally requested that section be added to the Feingold bill so that hams would not be inadvertently targeted by local authorities lacking the technical expertise to differentiate between amateur and CB gear. ARRL also requested that the bill require the FCC to provide technical guidance to states and municipalities and that it outline an appeals mechanism for individuals affected by such laws. The ARRL changes were included in a draft of the Ehlers legislation League officials reviewed. --Steve Mansfield, N1MZA



The FCC will stop accepting most Form 610 applications next February 16, but club station Form 610B will continue to be valid beyond the six-month transition window to allow time for the FCC to implement new handling procedures.

Among the advantages of the ULS, the FCC says, are fast and easy electronic filing, improved data accuracy through automated checking of applications, and better electronic access to licensing information. One feature of the new ULS is a renewal reminder sent 90 days prior to a license's expiration date. ULS also will simplify the process of submitting fees to the FCC, and the FCC said it anticipates that the ULS will be capable of accepting credit card payments on-line in the near future.

Registration in the ULS is required. Applicants should use FCC Form 606 for both electronic or manual filing. To register on-line, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/> and click on "TIN/Call SignRegistration." A paper FCC Form 606 is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or from the FCC's Forms Distribution Center, 800-418-3676.

The FCC will not process future license grants, upgrades, modifications or renewals for any applicant not registered in the ULS. Individuals eligi-

ble to hold a Social Security Number must provide this number to the FCC in order to be registered in the ULS.

A copy of the July 23, 1999 Public Notice is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>. Additional information on ULS will appear in the Washington Mailbox column in the September issue of QST.

## FCC's Hollingsworth

**D**raws temporary duty: The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been temporarily assigned to manage the FCC's National Call Center, 888-CALL FCC (225-5322) at the Commission's Gettysburg office. The assignment will continue until October 1 while NCC Director Cynthia Jeffries is detailed to other FCC duties involving the Y2K issue. Hollingsworth says his Amateur Radio enforcement duties will continue and will "in no way" be affected by his additional temporary Call Center re-

## Outgoing QSLs

**O**utgoing QSLs top the 1-million mark: For the first half of 1999, the Outgoing QSL Service has mailed 1,025,390 cards. That's up 162,900--or 18%--from the same date last year.--Martin Cook, N1FOC

## New and improved FCC Web site:

**T**he FCC's Web site has a completely new look to go along with its move to The Portals. The new site, still at <http://www.fcc.gov>, features an image of the FCC's new home and logo and contains more graphics. Current news "headlines" are in a highlighted box that runs down the middle of the home page, while the lefthand part of the screen is devoted mainly to comments (a video clip also is available) by FCC Chairman William Kennard.

The righthand side of the screen focuses on "major initiatives," such as the V-chip, area codes, "parents, kids, and communications," and other hot topics. Clicking on the associated image or headline takes you to a page on the subject. Unchanged (so far at least) is the FCC's Amateur Radio page at <http://www.fcc.gov/web/amateur/>. Comments and suggestions on the updated site go to Sheryl Segal, [ssegal@fcc.gov](mailto:ssegal@fcc.gov).



## W5LFL: PHASE 3D, ARISS WILL CHANGE FACE OF HAM RADIO

Owen Garriott, W5LFL (left), chats with ARRL Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, at the Dayton Hamvention. [Photo by Rick Lindquist, N1RL]

Past astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL--the first ham to use Amateur Radio from outer space--predicts that Phase 3D and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station projects will change the face of ham radio. "Educational value, technical value, it's all there right in front of us," he says of P3D and ARISS.

Garriott believes that Phase 3D--which could launch as early as this fall--can serve as a conduit for US students, with coordination from local amateurs, to hook up with youths in other countries to practice foreign language and for on-air cultural exchange. Garriott also pointed out that Phase 3D's eccentric orbit will make it visible from large portions of Earth for long periods of time. "P3D is going to open up a whole new opportunity that we did not have in low-Earth orbit like the space station or other low-altitude

OSCARs," he said.

Garriott also says that astronauts on the ISS could include a brief daily ARISS transmission from the perspective of space aimed at school-agers "to stir up even more interest in our young people" about Amateur Radio. He discussed his ideas during forums at the Dayton Hamvention as well as in an interview with the ARRL.

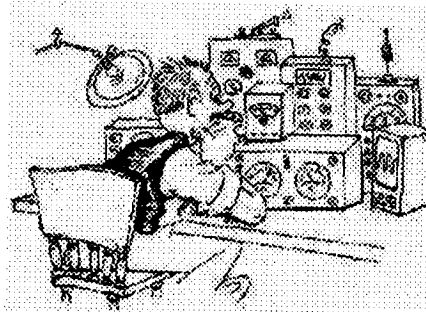
In 1983, Garriott pioneered the SAREX program by working dozens of earth-bound hams on 2 meters using an H-T and an antenna mounted on the inside of the shuttle's window. "It's grown much further than any of us would have forecast back in 1983" when there were two astronaut-hams, Tony England, W0ORE, and himself.

Today, Garriott points out, there are more than 80 astro-hams, and Garriott is looking forward to Amateur Radio's playing a major role aboard the ISS. "The impact on the space program has been substantial," he said. Not only has Amateur Radio in space been good public rela-

tions for the hobby, but "it's very good for crew morale," Garriott said. This will be important for ISS crews in particular, since they'll spend longer periods in space.

Licensed for more than 50 years, Garriott says ham radio has been a very strong influence in his life and professional career from the very beginning. He also says he's encouraged by the number of young people joining the hobby, especially since the advent of the Technician license. "People may feel that it's not adequate progress or bemoan the fact that we are not fur-

NOTE All articles in this Newsletter were obtained VIA ARRL Letter. - KA9NJW



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