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

SHARING SPECTRUM WITH OTHER SERVICES- A HAM RADIO REALITY

NOTE!

This is the first Newsletter to be sent to most of the members VIA e-mail. This is still in the experimental stages and I am looking for the best format to use I can send it out in almost any format. I will try to use text and HTML formats for this first issue so you may be getting this mailing twice.

KA8NJW Jerry

MINUTES PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their October 8th meeting at the Bonanza Steak House on Pike Street with Acting President Curt Fouse presiding.

Curt asked for the introduction of 35 members and guests.

Lynn Palmer held the 50/50 RAFFLE. It was won by Paul Anderson with \$17.50 going to each.

Curt announced that President Blaine Auville has reserved the Washington Community Building for our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. The date will be December 15th. We will eat at 6PM. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish (marked with name) and place setting. The meat and drinks will be furnished by the KLUB.

The Boy's Club does not have room available for the classes. The Red Cross will be contacted to see if it has a room available. More discussion will be held at the November meeting.

Curt asked for nominations of officers:

President - Blaine Auville
Vice-President - Curt Fouse
Secretary - Georgia Milhoan
Treasurer - Jane McGuffey
Technical Advisor - David Thompson

Jerry Wharton asked for someone to take over the NEWSLETTER. He said practically every article came from the ARRL NEWSLETTER. Jim Palmer motioned the KLUB discontinue the NEWSLETTER. Harold Dooley seconded the motion. After much discussion pro and con Jim withdrew his motion. Curt said the NEWSLETTER issue will be postponed until the November meeting.

911 Acting Director Terry Brown will speak at the November meeting.

Chad Day K18FS was accepted as a member into the KLUB. The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

NOTE ALL NEWS ITEMS FROM
THE ARRL LETTER VIA
ARRL.COM

SHARING SPECTRUM WITH OTHER SERVICES A HAM RADIO REALITY

Amateur Radio operators can get mighty territorial when they perceive that some other radio service is intruding upon "their" turf. What many hams often don't understand, however, is that Amateur Radio is a secondary service in the US on several popular bands or subbands. As such, it's subject to interference

from primary radio service occupants and, by law, must avoid interfering with them. And, of course, ham bands are not all the same everywhere in the world.

Hams share most of their spectrum—especially the UHF and microwave allocations—with other users, typically the US Government and Fixed and Mobile services. The popular 70-cm band, 420-450 MHz, is a good case in point, says ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Brennan Price, N4QX.

"Amateur use of the 70-cm band is secondary to government radiolocation services in the US, so hams must tolerate interference from the primary service and may not QRM it," Price explained. No operation in the 420-430 MHz band is permitted north of Line A which extends just south of the Canadian border from Maine to Washington state. 50-W output power limitations apply to operations near certain US military installations as documented in Section 2.106, US Footnote 7 and mentioned in The ARRL's FCC Rule Book.

Price notes, however, that military use of the band is not confined to these areas, and the band is utilized aboard aircraft. "We occasionally receive inquiries from amateurs who complain of 70-cm disruptions when military planes fly overhead," said Price, who also serves as the ARRL Monitoring System coordinator. "We have every reason to believe that the current spate of widely heard disruptions is due to high-altitude airborne operations by the band's legal, primary occupant—the US Government." The 420-430 MHz segment is allocated on

a primary basis worldwide to the Fixed and Mobile (except Aeronautical Mobile) services.

Two meters—144 to 148 MHz—is an exclusive allocation in ITU Region 2, which includes North and South America. US hams who have taken along an H-T while vacationing in Europe or elsewhere in Region 1, however, know that the 2-meter band in that part of the world is 144-146 MHz. In Region 3, hams have exclusive access to 144-146 MHz and share 146-148 MHz on a co-primary basis with Fixed and Mobile Service stations.

Six meters—50 to 54 MHz—is an exclusive ham allocation in Regions 2 and 3, but the band is allocated exclusively for broadcasting in Region 1—although certain countries do allow limited 6-meter operation.

The sharing news is much better in the higher HF bands. The 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10-meter bands are allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis worldwide—with a few minor exceptions for the high end of 20. In other HF bands, some sharing occurs.

In 30 meters—10.1 to 10.15 MHz—hams are secondary to non-US Fixed Service stations throughout. Amateurs must avoid harmful interference to these stations.

The 40-meter band is currently the focus of an effort supported by the International Amateur Radio Union and ARRL to obtain a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive allocation. Most of the world does not have access to the 300 kHz-wide swath from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz that US hams enjoy. In the rest of the world, the upper two-thirds of 40 is dominated by broadcasters. This issue is on the agenda for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/WRC-03/>>. One suggested remedy would shift the allocation downward to create a 300-kHz worldwide band at 6.9 to 7.2 MHz.

The 80/75-meter band—3.5 to 4.0

MHz—is exclusive to the Amateur Service in the US. Elsewhere in Region 2 hams have exclusive status from 3.500 to 3.750 MHz and share the rest of the band with foreign Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis. Amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 share parts of the band with Fixed and Mobile. There is no amateur operation allowed above 3.8 MHz in Region 1, which includes Europe.

The 1.8 to 1.9 MHz segment of 160 meters is exclusive to US amateurs. Hams in the US are secondary on 1.9 to 2.0 MHz to the primary Radiolocation Service (government and non-government).

A table of US Amateur Radio allocations is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/USbands.pdf>>. The "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide" details band plans for Amateur Radio <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/conop.html>>.

"BAND THREAT" PROCEEDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR E-COMMENTS

The FCC conceded this week that it had failed to properly post the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 on its Web site. As a result, those hoping to voice their opinions in the proceeding—which poses a potential threat to Amateur Radio—were unable to find the document to add their electronic comments. An FCC spokesperson blamed human error.

The ARRL contacted the FCC earlier this week in an effort to rectify the problem. The NPRM&O now is available on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. When searching, enter "01-278" in the "Proceeding" box in the "Search for Filed Comments" window.

The ET 01-278 proceeding deals

in part with a potential band threat to the popular 70-cm band from a Part 15 RF identification device proposed for deployment by SAVI Technology (see the Threats to our Amateur Bands page <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/>> for details). The ARRL has argued that the FCC lacks authority under the Communications Act of 1934 to permit unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential and that such devices must be licensed.

The ARRL also is looking into the interference potential posed to 20 meters by a proposal to increase the maximum emission levels permitted in the 13.56 MHz Industrial, Scientific and Medical band as well as the maximum level of out-of-band emissions.

Commenters are advised to read paragraphs 20-27 of the NPRM&O (also available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories-2001/10/19/1/290a11.html>> before commenting.

The proceeding incorporates two earlier rule making petitions, RM-9375, and RM-10051, which had existing document lists for the addition of comments. The FCC told ARRL that those wishing to file comments need only reference ET Docket 01-278, however. Comments need not be copied to the existing RM-9375 and RM-10051 lists.

Members of the Amateur Radio community may file comments using the ECFS <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include their full name, US Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rule making number—in this case ET 01-278.

It's also possible to e-mail comments via the ECFS. To obtain e-mail filing instructions, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the words "get form <your e-mail address>" in the body of the message. A sample form and directions will be sent by reply e-mail.

HAMS UNDERTAKE A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS IN FLORIDA

It had very little if anything to do with ham radio Saturday, September 21, when the Dade County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps organized a group of active hams in Southern Florida to spruce up the Flight 592 Memorial. Many of the hams involved had helped provide communication in the aftermath of the 1996 ValuJet crash in the Everglades.

The amateur volunteers put in some 40 work hours pulling weeds and grubbing out their roots, killing ant colonies, applying herbicides, cutting grass, sweeping, refilling missing sand, re-leveling brick walkways and piling up the debris—mostly natural overgrowth. About a dozen hams participated in the effort.

"These folks do this kind of thing without request, but because there is a need to care," said ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR. "This group of amateurs are very special people with hearts as big as the whole world."

Family members of Flight 592 victims also expressed their appreciation for the effort. This comment was typical of several posted on the Flight 592 Memorial Web site

<<http://www.flight592.com/>>: "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did. It was a wonderfully selfless act and greatly appreciated. Those of us who live too far away and are unable to see to the care of the memorial are greatly touched by the generosity of strangers. Thank you again and God bless you."

Additional information and photographs are available on the South Florida FM Association Web Page <<http://sffma.net/cleanup.htm>>. Said Ray Vaughan, KD4BBM "To everyone who helped, we did make a difference. Let's do it again."

ISS CREW CHIEF ADDS SOME SPICE TO JOTA

Although he's been licensed a relatively short time, International Space Station crew commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, sounded like a contesting pro last weekend during Scouting's Jamboree On The Air. A former Boy Scout himself, Culbertson—operating NA1SS—worked a string of JOTA participants in the US and abroad October 20-21. Culbertson even brought along his Scout T-shirt.

Among the happy customers was Al Lark, KD4SFF ("Scouting for Fun"), who reports that at least three Scouts spoke with NA1SS over the weekend from Lark's N4ISS backyard JOTA setup in Greenville, South Carolina. "Frank was also excited to speak to a Scout from his home state of South Carolina," Lark said the Scouts now are very interested in obtaining their ham tickets.

On a Sunday pass over the US, Culbertson also logged contacts with K2BSA—the official Boy Scouts of America station near Dallas, as well as with other stations in the Southwest, Midwest and Northeast.

In Louisiana, Cedric Walker, K5CFW, said he had 16 boys from Troop 48 in New Orleans on hand to participate in JOTA. Walker said the QSO with Culbertson was crystal clear and was "an unforgettable thrill for every one of them."

In Oklahoma, Boy Scouts from Troop 850 in Guthrie and Troop 116 in Oklahoma City managed a quick contact with Culbertson on a Saturday pass. "At 17,000 miles per hour, he didn't have much time to chat," explained Assistant Scoutmaster John Dronberger, N5YZA.

From Australia, Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, in Paringa said a young woman in his Scouting group of about 60 also snagged a contact with Culbertson. "Frank did a fine job over Australia on the sched-

uled pass," Hutchison said.

While over Europe, Culbertson whipped through a series of contacts—some with JOTA operations and others with non-participating stations. Recently, Culbertson has been more active in making casual FM voice contacts, and he's also been averaging two ARISS school contacts a week.

SATERN ENDS WORLD TRADE CENTER SUPPORT OPERATION

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network (SATERN) Amateur Radio volunteer support effort in the wake of the World Trade Center attack in New York City has ended. SATERN Amateur Radio Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, says the operation wrapped up October 18. The Salvation Army now is relying on Nextel and cellular telephone service.

During its five weeks of service, several dozen Amateur Radio operators from all over the US assisted the Salvation Army's relief efforts. REACT International provided volunteers in the early weeks of the activation. Ham radio primarily was used to provide logistical support for the organization's canteens and feeding centers.

Among the more recent volunteers were Steve and Kim Merrill, KB1DIG and KB1GTR, from New Hampshire. They did a tour of duty October 7-18. Working anywhere from 10 to 14 hours a day, the couple called their time in New York City "a very humbling experience."

"There was so much devastation," the Merrills recounted. "Nothing read in the newspapers or seen on TV could have prepared us for the actual sight of all of this."

The Merrills said they came away from their SATERN volunteer experience feeling as though they had "lived a lifetime in a few short days," but with "friendships that

will last a lifetime" and "stories that have no end."

"Salvation Army SATERN is to be commended," they said. "They were more than nice to us. We felt like a part of a family!"

Schneller has urged all Amateur Radio operators to prepare for the future by first getting acquainted with and joining their local ARES or SATERN teams, then by taking the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>>

SENATE BILL'S PROVISION NOT VIEWED AS THREAT TO SURPLUS RADIO FANS

Amateurs who also collect military surplus radio "boat anchors" apparently have nothing to fear about a provision contained in the Senate version of the huge Department of Defense appropriations bill, S.1438. The provision, Sec 1062, would create governmental authority to "ensure demilitarization of significant military equipment."

That provision, now a topic for discussion on news groups and Web sites, would require anybody possessing "significant military equipment formerly owned by the Department of Defense" either to

have it "demilitarized" or to return it to the government for demilitarization. The provision also has the National Rifle Association and a large number of firearms enthusiasts up in arms and wondering whether it would affect their hobby if it's included in the final legislation.

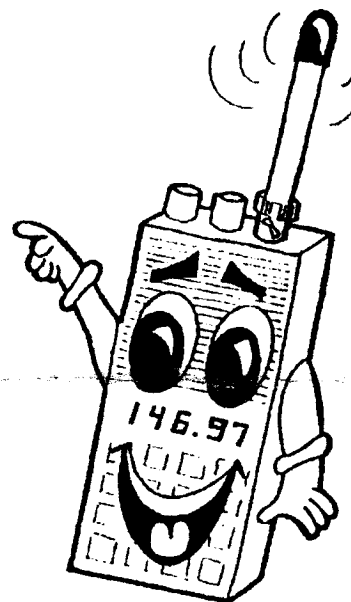
ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, looked into the issue and determined that those with surplus radio gear have nothing to worry about. "While we cannot speak reliably for the issue of firearms, we did contact one of the top lawyers for the Senate Committee on Armed Forces, where the provision was added to the bill," Mansfield said, "and he assured us that it would not be an issue unless a ham somehow had custody of some kind of top-secret and highly sophisticated military radio gear."

Mansfield said his Capitol Hill contact explained that the definition of "significant" derives specifically from the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2778), and that, in turn, was intended to provide "control of arms exports and imports" and not the typical ARC-5 transmitter or BC-348 receiver.

"In other words, it does not refer to radios, but rather to large shipments of large military ordinance

like missile guidance systems and rocket launchers," Mansfield said.

The text of federal legislation may be found on the Thomas Legislative Information Web site, <<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html>>. Mansfield said the ARRL will continue to monitor the issue.



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