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Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
1733 Gihon Rd. Parkersburg, WV 26101

ARRL IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT WITH FCC ON WIDE-RANGING PROPOSALS

The ARRL told the FCC this week that it substantially agrees with the Commission's proposed wide-ranging changes to Part 97 Amateur Service rules. The League filed comments June 15 in the so-called "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15. The proceeding addresses several largely unrelated Amateur Radio petitions for rule making, including some filed by ARRL. Although the NPRM&O does not take up comprehensive Amateur Radio restructuring, the League said it sets the stage for the FCC to act on a far-reaching restructuring plan. While complimenting the Commission for a well-considered document, the League pointed out that some petitions will have been on the table for between three and four years before the FCC concludes the proceeding.

"It is hoped that other petitions filed subsequent to those addressed in the instant Notice and which are pending before the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau can be more expeditiously addressed," the ARRL commented.

In a significant item related to license restructuring, the NPRM&O recommended adoption of the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan, spelled out in RM-10413. The League's later license restructuring petition, RM-10867, incorporates

refarming--a realignment of HF subbands. Noting that the approaching low point of the sunspot cycle typically means a migration to the "substantially overcrowded 80 and 40-meter bands," the ARRL urged the FCC to act swiftly on the ARRL-proposed band realignments.

"The proposed changes will assist greatly in redistribution of some of this overcrowding," the ARRL told the FCC. The League said its refarming proposals "will benefit all licensees," and it expressed gratification that the FCC agreed with the petition.

Under the now FCC-endorsed ARRL plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (ie, Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees could operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. The plan also would mean changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter phone bands for General and higher class operators.

The ARRL strongly favors the proposed FCC adoption of a rule to limit the number of applications a licensee may file on a given day for the same vanity call sign. Some amateurs have filed multiple applications for the same call sign on the same day to greatly enhance their chances of getting their first call sign choice.

"This manipulative practice clearly should be discouraged," the ARRL said. "While it is unclear to ARRL why this practice has not been prohibited by Order, it should be prohibited now." The League further suggested the FCC expand the scope of its proposed rule change to preclude the filing of more than one application on a single day for the same call sign choice(s). The FCC's proposed rule addressed only the first choice. The ARRL further recommended that the FCC dismiss the vanity applications of any violators.

The League advised the FCC against adopting a Quarter Century Wireless Association petition to let amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam after they die. The ARRL said such a change would effectively give licensees property rights over their FCC-assigned call signs. "Vanity call signs are not assignable, and the Commission's rules do not permit trafficking in call signs," the League commented.

The ARRL praised the FCC for proposing to essentially eliminate its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. "The proposed amendments are welcome and will enhance amateur use of the 10 meter and 12 meter

amateur bands," the League commented. "It will also allow amateurs to enjoy the benefits of construction projects without unnecessary restrictions.

" Although in opposition to an earlier, broader proposal, the League now says it supports an amendment to permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz--with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz--in addition to frequency segments already authorized. Kenwood Communications had asked for the change in 2001 as part of an effort to make legal the use of its Sky Command system, which permits users to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver. The ARRL said the proposal would "enhance the development of sophisticated amateur communication systems.

" The League said the FCC should retain its rule requiring a public announcement of test locations and times as a means to prevent abuses. The ARRL also called on the Commission to require volunteer examiners and Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, such as ARRL-VEC, to submit or forward exam session paperwork within 10 days. The FCC proposed eliminating both requirements.

The ARRL proposed in RM-10413 and the FCC supported a rule change to permit spread spectrum (SS) emissions in the 222-225 MHz band. Current rules prohibit SS emissions below 420 MHz. However, the League disagreed with an FCC proposal to also permit SS on 2 and 6 meters.

The League further asked the FCC to make two changes relating to World Radiocommunication Con-

ference 2003 actions to bring the language of Part 97 into line with the international Radio Regulations.

A copy of the League's comments in WT 04-140 is available on the ARRL Web site.

HAM RADIO SUPPORTS FLOOD RELIEF IN APPALACHIAN COMMUNITIES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members in Western Virginia gave up their Memorial Day weekend to assist American Red Cross flood recovery efforts in extreme Southwest Virginia. Heavy rainfall in late May caused creeks and small streams to overflow in Appalachian Mountain communities in Russell and Tazewell counties. Virginia Gov Mark Warner has declared a state of emergency in the two counties, where the flash floods May 25 affected hundreds of residents. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) says flood waters destroyed more than 40 single-family homes and five businesses in Tazewell County, while upward of 200 homes suffered damage in Russell County. Dozens of other homes and businesses were damaged, but no injuries were reported. ARES South Piedmont District Emergency Coordinator Glen Sage, W4GHS, has been working directly with the Red Cross in deploying ARES volunteers.

"We've set up two communications centers at two distribution points," said Sage. Because the affected communities are situated in narrow mountain valleys, ARES volunteers have been using both VHF and HF.

The Red Cross's own radio systems are meager and cell service virtually non-existent in the area, Sage explained. "We are their communication, and I'd say we saved them 1000 to 2000 hours in work." Ham radio ingenuity also came in handy. Since a lot of the newer Red Cross vehicles have fiberglass bodies, the typical amateur mag-mount antenna was useless. Sage said the ARES team made up J-pole antennas and simply taped them onto the vehicles' non-metallic bodies instead. "Our communication has been very very solid using this system," he said.

In addition to shadowing Red Cross volunteers to provide necessary communication, Sage said, ARES volunteers also have helped those coming in from outside the isolated region to find their way around. "We have a couple of local hams who know the area very well," he explained. Some hams also brought along their GPS units.

The area has been under a flash flood watch for most of the days since ARES activated May 28. In the midst of it all, Sage and Red Cross personnel were called away to Lee County--near the very tip of western Virginia--to follow up on a tornado that destroyed a couple of houses and damaged a few others.

In Russell and Tazewell counties, Sage said the Red Cross had arranged for local motels to shelter anyone displaced by the flooding and at least one shelter was opened. Most of those forced to flee were staying with family members and friends, however.

"We got stories of some people who just barely got out," he said. "Some of them linked arms, and one person had on waders and water was

coming over his waders, and if anyone would have slipped and fell, it probably would have taken them all." One area received four inches of rain per hour at the height of the downpour, Sage said. "It was real intense in a small geographical area.

"Floodwaters also took out bridges that connect those living near overflowing creeks with the rest of their communities. Some local highways were washed out, and a few schools were closed in both counties.

ARRL Assistant Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, says it was slow-going for Red Cross damage assessment teams as the rain continued. "They worked in the mud," he said. Sokol said the ARES volunteers also have assisted the Red Cross in distributing food and water, delivering needed medications and passing out vouchers for groceries and household necessities.

Sage had high praise for the Red Cross volunteers. "At this point, the only active group I've seen out in the field has been the American Red Cross," he said. "And they've just been doing a yeoman's job." While cooperating during the relief effort, Sage said the ARES and Red Cross volunteers have developed a great deal of mutual respect. "My back is sore from being patted by the Red Cross," he remarked. "They're just thrilled to death.

"The vast majority of the ARES responders turned out from counties and towns well away from the stricken region. In all, Sokol estimated that some three dozen ARES members participated in the flash flood activation, which was expected to wrap up by week's end.

JUNE 14, 2004

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their June meeting at the Bonanza Steak House on Pike Street with vice-president Connie Hamilton presiding.

Connie asked for the introduction of 21 members and guests.

Georgia Milhoan won the 50/50 raffle of \$16.00.

Ray Johnson gave a treasurer's report of \$3,817.29..

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Lloyd Boston, FIELD DAY CO-OROINATOR, said those operators who operate an hour or more will be given a chance on 2004 MANUAL. The name will be drawn from those Who operate.

Georgia and Irene will CoChair the picnic with Libby Auvill's help. The KLUB will furnish chicken, drinks, ice and etc. The large tent, and Port-a-John have been ordered.

Little John said the third Monday in July will be "GRASS CUTTING DAY" at the Repeater Site. Call Little John for the time.

Gene Gildow said the Marietta Club's Aug 10th meeting will be held at Ryan's Restaurant in Marietta. The speaker will be Joe Phillips K8QOE.

The vice-president urged all to enjoy FIELD- DAY. Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully summated,
Georgia Milhoan,

**PARKERSBURG AMATEUR
RADIO KLUB
JULY 12, 2004**

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Kiub held their July 12th meeting at the Bonanza Steak House on Pike Street with President Elaine Auville presiding.

The President asked for an introduction of 25 members and guests.

Jeannia Dooley won the 50/50 drawing of \$12.00.

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given as being \$3,655.90!

Ray Bodie gave a report on FIELD DAY. Mike Davis won the 2004 MANUAL. Mike said he enjoyed FIELD DAY but Saturday nite was COLD.

Dave Wright (KC8ZZX) presented his application for membership into the KLUB. Harold Dooley motioned the KLUB accept Dave's application. Ray Bodie 2nd the motion. Motion carried by those present.

The President mentioned that nomination of officers will be held at the September meeting.

Blaine said the KLUB needs people to operate the NET on Tuesday evenings.

A report was given on Ron Hinton who had a heart attack and is going for catheterized.

Carol Carpenter (Archie's wife) is at Health South. She had a knee replacement. Cards were mailed.

The KLUB'S fall PICNIC will be at the CITY PARK in the Shelter beside the Horseshoe area. We will eat at 6PM. The KLUB will furnish meat, drink, ice, etc. Bring a covered dish for 8 people. If there is

any questions call Georgia or Irene -Co-Chairwomen for the event.

Mike Davis gave a "SHOW AND TELL". He made an antenna of PVC he used at FIELD DAY. He estimated he had approximately \$35.00 in the antenna.

Mike motioned the KLUB adjourn. Charlie Janes seconded the motion. The KLUB adjourned at 7:40PM. Georgia Milhoan, Secretary

VIRGINIAN IS FIRST US HAM TO ACCOMPLISH "TUNA TIN II" WAS

It took him four years, but a ham from Bealeton, Virginia, has become the first US amateur licensee to work all states using a flea-power "Tuna Tin II" transmitter. ARRL member Bob Chapman, W9JOP, recently completed his "QRPP" (less than 1 W output) accomplishment and has received his ARRL Worked All States Award certificate.

"Unfortunately, ARRL does not issue a certificate for WAS QRPP," he said. "Mine is endorsed with 'QRP-CW.'"

Chapman, 71, says he actually used two Tuna Tin transmitters to accomplish the feat. He worked and confirmed the contiguous 48 states with a classic Tuna Tin, which uses an inverted tuna can as a chassis. Not only was Chapman running just 250 mW--one-quarter of a watt--he was crystal controlled on 7043 kHz! Chapman says he snagged the last two states, Hawaii (KH6U) and Alaska (WL7WH) using a homebrew 20-meter Tuna Tin, rock-bound on 14,060 kHz and also running 250 mW.

"No QRO here," Chapman says of his setup. "Just a low-power, low-

tech station with a G5RV wire antenna at 50 feet and a 'TiCK' keyer." He uses a vintage Collins 51S-1 receiver.

A ham for 50 years, Chapman further points out that he accomplished his QRPP WAS without any schedules but "just by waiting for the states to pass within my capture area--namely, on my frequency," he said. He also has a QRP Amateur Radio Club International QRPP Worked All States certificate. His wife, Joy, is KA9TTB.

In 2001 Steve Chapman, VE7SL, in British Columbia, Canada, became the world's first amateur to accomplish QRPP WAS using a Tuna Tin II running about 400 mW.

W1AW NOW SPORTS VINTAGE AMATEUR STATION

At least one corner of Maxim Memorial Station W1AW has taken on a "retro" look with the installation of a vintage AM-capable station--thanks to the generosity of entertainer Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and audio pro Bob Heil, K9EID. The gear, which arrived June 18, consists of a National NC-303 receiver and Johnson Viking Valiant transmitter, along with a customized Heil microphone and other accessories. Neither Walsh nor Heil were able to be on hand for the installation.

The gear, which dates from the late 1950s, began its journey in Studio City, California. It changed hands at Dayton Hamvention and then made a stop at the radio repair and restoration shop of Larry Yaw, W9AMR, who spiffed up and rigorously tested the units. Yaw, Jeff Wynegar, KA9TOC, and Jeff Benedict, AA9JC, then accompanied the vintage station on a nonstop drive

from South Bend to Newington for the delivery.

The idea for the station arose during an early March visit to ARRL by Walsh and Heil. Following the delivery and installation, W9AMR, KA9TOC and AA9JC came back the next day to make some W1AW/90 contacts on 75 and 40 before heading back to Indiana.

The W1AW vintage/AM station is available for visitors to use.

Field Day fun leads to ISS ragchews:

International Space Station astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, enjoyed his time operating during the 2004 ARRL Field Day so much that during the July 4 holiday he got on the air from NA1SS for ragchews. ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, at Johnson Space Center, said Fincke made several QSOs after calling CQ on 2 meters. "He logged 8 contacts with stations in Canada, the US and Costa Rica," Ransom reported. "He said he had such a good time during Field Day that he hopes to get on the air more often in his spare time. He also hopes word will get out to hams that he will be more active." South Carolina AMSAT Area Coordinator Al Lark, KD4SFF, monitored Fincke speaking with US and Canadian stations and called him. After they'd exchanged signal reports, Lark wished Fincke and ISS Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, a happy Fourth of July. "I asked Mike to pass along my good morning (in Russian) to Gennady and to tell him about 17-year-old Russian-born, Maria Sharapova's win at Wimbledon," Lark said.

AMSAT "ECHO" SATELLITE OPENS FOR FM VOICE TRIAL RUN

AMSAT-NA's new "Echo" satellite (AO-51) has been turned on for general use in FM repeat mode for a trial period of about three weeks. During that time, command stations on Earth will monitor AO-51's power budget and adjust the UHF Transmitter B (TX B) power as needed for good battery management. They'll also be watching the AMSAT Bulletin Board e-mail reflector, amsat-bb@amsat.org, for reports of how Echo is working.

"We are most interested in hearing about how well Echo hears you and how well you hear it," said the Echo Command Team--Jim White, WDOE, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN--in an AMSAT bulletin. White and Kingery note that this is a trial period of the FM voice repeater. The digital portion of Echo is not yet open for use.

AMSAT Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says reports of successful QSOs on Echo's first day of operation came from all over the world, including the US, Brazil, New Zealand and Germany.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket carried AO-51 and several other payloads into orbit June 29 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The 10-inch-square microsat, circling some 800 km above Earth in a sun-synchronous orbit, will permit voice communication using hand-held transceivers.

The digital transponder and the store-and-forward BBS, are not yet open for general use.

Initially, the AO-51 downlink transmitter was running at about 0.5 W. At that power level, AM-

SAT says, Earth stations will need a small directional antenna to hear it. If onboard power permits, ground controllers will slowly increase the transmitter's output during the trial period.

The Echo FM voice uplink frequency is 145.920 MHz, and the downlink is 435.300 MHz. The downlink transmitter will come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz CTCSS (PL) tone for about 1 second, and it will stay on for 10 seconds after that signal goes away. "This operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second 'kerchunk' filter and a 10 second hang time," AMSAT noted. Transmitter A (TX A), now sending telemetry, generally will continue to operate on 435.150 MHz.

AMSAT points out that Echo, which launched June 29, is still "wobbling a great deal," so the downlink polarization sense will vary.

The Echo Command Team says it expects Echo will be heavily used during the first few days of the trial period. "It is good amateur practice and common courtesy to let everyone have a chance," they said. "Echo will hear you as well as or better than any previous amateur FM repeater satellite."

With hundreds of stations trying out AO-51, ground controllers say they expect the transmitter will be on continuously when the spacecraft is over populated areas.

The Echo satellite project is still some \$8000 short of the \$110,000 that was needed to launch the spacecraft. AMSAT guaranteed the full fare by borrowing from its dedicated funds, which now must be repaid. AMSAT--a 501(c)(3) organization--welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web

page for additional details.--AMSAT News Service

SPOOFIN PROBLEMS

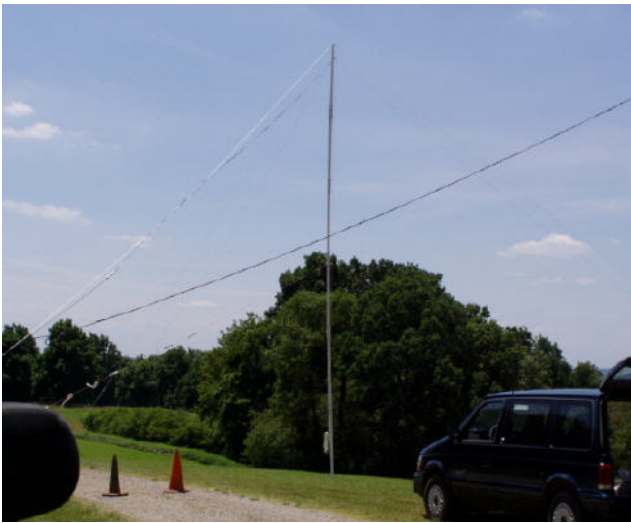
Spoofting generates new round of spurious arrl.net e-mail messages: Recent e-mail messages purporting to be from "noreply@arrl.net," the "ARRL.net Support Team" or some similar variation are not from the ARRL. These messages are the result of a recent variant of a virus permeating the Internet. ARRL has heard from members who have received e-mails alleging that their ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net) address has been used to send out spam and urging them to open an attachment to help resolve the situation. Opening the attachment will infect the recipient's computer. Outside of routine correspondence, the ARRL only sends e-mail to members who request mailings, such as WIAW bulletins and The ARRL Letter, and none of these are sent via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service. As a defense against these kinds of viruses, we recommend installing virus protection software on all personal computers and updating it on a regular basis.

FIELD DAY PICTURES

Pam and Mike worked PSK at field day, Lloyd set up both a rig for CW and a rig for phone. Ron, KC8IQS worked at his 6 meter rig.

Carl K8OWL set up a GOTA station for those who wanted to try 10 meters. I don't have the reports on numbers.

Ray, N8TWV took the attached pictures.



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