



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## HELLO!

### HELLO CAMPAIGN PROVIDES RALLYING POINT TO PROMOTE AMATEUR RADIO

The first components of the ARRL's "Hello" Amateur Radio public relations campaign now are available. "This campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who conceived the campaign and is its principal Headquarters contact. The "Hello" campaign is aimed at recasting Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focusing on its universal appeal. At the same time, it will mark the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden.

"For years, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) and others interested in promoting Amateur Radio have been looking for leadership and a rallying point from which we can join together in a major promotion for ham radio," Pitts said. This is it! Tools include a distinctive "Hello" Web site <<http://www.hello-radio.org/>> and radio and TV public service announcements.

Based on the word "Hello," which Pitts calls "possibly the most pleas-

ant word in any language," the coordinated campaign will set "a positive, upbeat tone that highlights the international capabilities of Amateur Radio," he explained. The "Hello" Web site is designed for non-hams to learn a little bit about Amateur Radio and to arouse more interest. The site points prospective Amateur Radio licensees to groups that have indicated they will provide a warm welcome to newcomers. The national "Hello" campaign can bring curious people into contact with ham radio groups, but it will be up to local radio amateurs to make them truly welcome, Pitts maintains.

"The key to creating a new ham operator is to develop a relationship with a current ham operator," says Pitts. Behind the effort is "an army of dedicated, truly motivated PIOs and others who want to see ham radio flourish."

A series of 30-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/pr.html>> has been developed for the "Hello" campaign. "You can help by downloading the PSAs from the ARRL Web site onto a CD and taking it to your own local radio station," Pitts suggests.

A broadcast-quality video for the "Hello" campaign will be available in April

Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/hello/Hello-Campaign-Brochure.pdf>> are available from ARRL Headquarters for use during presentations to non-ham groups. (Full details on the "Hello" campaign plus a pull-out copy of the brochure are available in the April issue of QST.) The brochures are suitable for talks to schools, clubs, displays and other venues promoting Amateur Radio to the public. There is a space on the back page to add local club info.

"For 100 years, the magic of the human voice over radio has brought imaginations to life. It opened a whole new era of human communication," the brochure declares, urging, "It's your world. Get on the radio and say "Hello."

To obtain copies, e-mail the "Hello" campaign <[hello@arrl.org](mailto:hello@arrl.org)>. Donations are welcome (make checks out to "ARRL") to help cover return postage to ARRL, Public Relations, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"Hello" logo bumper stickers will be on sale through the ARRL online catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9731>>. Buttons for the "Hello" campaign will be available at Dayton Hamvention and at other major Amateur Radio events. Banners for the "Hello" campaign will be flying at Dayton Hamven-

tion and at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in April. After that, they will be made available for use at major events in 2006.

"ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was correct in stating that the Main Street of today is not the same as the Main Street of yesterday," Pitts says. "To reach out today, the very first requirement is that Amateur Radio operators be perceived as friendly and trustworthy. That's a true public relations goal and the primary focus of the campaign."

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### **ARRL'S "HELLO" CAMPAIGN A HIT AT NAB, RTNDA CONVENTIONS**

When the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) met in Las Vegas for their annual conventions in late April, the ARRL was well represented. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, headed the League contingent. Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, rounded out the delegation. The presence of thousands of broadcasters offered Pitts an ideal opportunity to promote the ARRL "Hello . . . -- Celebrating 100 Years of Voice over Radio Worldwide" public service announcements. Pitts gauged success on the basis of what he \*didn't\* end up taking home.

"I carried 60 full 'Hello' press books containing news releases, information and PSAs to the NAB," Pitts said. "At the end of the three days

only one was left, and that went to a radio station manager I met in the airport going home." Pitts reports he's been hearing from hams, engineers and radio station managers that the PSAs are airing on cable systems and radio stations. In addition, of the 4500 brochures he took to the convention, he had but 300 left.

The highlight each year for radio amateurs attending the NAB convention is the ham radio operators' reception, sponsored this year by Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Ltd. Some 2000 radio amateurs with broadcasting industry connections attended the April 26 affair.

The big news at this year's reception was that Heil will be inducted next month into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. A veteran music industry soundman and sound reinforcement innovator, Heil has worked with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry, including Chuck Berry, The Who, the Grateful Dead, Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and ZZ Top.

NAB Vice President of Science and Technology John Marino, KR1O, co-hosted the event.

ARRL President Harrison greeted the gathering on behalf of the League and spoke briefly about the changes and challenges Amateur Radio faces in the 21st century.

Charlie Wooten, NF4A, was honored as Clear Channel Communications "National Engineer of the Year," and Heil presented him with a microphone bearing Wooten's call sign. Pitts credits Wooten with getting the "Hello" campaign PSAs on many Clear Channel radio stations.

Pitts said he found a lot of interest in the "Hello" campaign among those attending the broadcasters' gatherings. "But it takes more than just passing out disks to make it on the air," he added. "It takes a personal contact, and that's why we need continued action by our public information officers nationwide."

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### **A FORCE FOR THE FUTURE: EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP**

To those who wonder--or worry--about what the League is doing to ensure the future of Amateur Radio, ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, offers a prompt response: the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP). More familiar to many as "The Big Project," the program has provided turnkey Amateur Radio stations and educational materials to more than 170 schools across the US. More important, Hobart says, the ETP each year exposes many youngsters and their teachers to Amateur Radio, wireless technology, electronics and even robotics--something that likely wouldn't happen if the program didn't exist. With the ETP kicking off its 2006 fundraising campaign this month, Hobart emphasizes that the program depends entirely on individual donations.

"The Education and Technology Program is unique among ARRL's programs in that it is totally funded by voluntary member contributions, so the onus to continue to put stations in schools and to grow the program rests on those willing to contribute," she says. "This is an awesome responsibility for the Amateur Radio community."

Campaign revenue not only covers the cost of placing stations in schools, Hobart notes. It also funds a burgeoning schedule of Teachers Institutes each summer as well as ongoing efforts to guide national educational standards in science and mathematics. Hobart called the Teachers Institutes "a powerful tool" to inspire educators and to help them develop confidence in teaching about wireless technology and electronics through Amateur Radio.

Generous gifts helped the ETP to expand to five the number of free Teachers Institutes it's offering in 2006, its third year, and Hobart is optimistic that the program will be able to afford additional sessions in the years ahead. Some, but not all, of those who attend are Amateur Radio licensees, while others become hams as a result of attending the week-long sessions. In any event, Hobart points out that Teachers Institute alumni influence thousands of youngsters each year.

In fact, the "poster boy" for the 2006 campaign is Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, a teacher at LBJ High School in Austin, Texas--an ARRL "Big Project" participant. Risinger attended the first ETP Teachers Institute in 2004 at ARRL Headquarters. His success with the program became the centerpiece of this year's ETP fundraising effort.

"Ronny's story is a powerful one," said Hobart. "He's a teacher and a ham who's taken advantage of all the ETP resources at his disposal. This is why we tell his story."

Risinger credits the ETP and the Teachers Institute with his success in inspiring and teaching his students. He says the League program

gave him a strong sense of confidence that allows him to be a better teacher, presenting his classroom material in unique and engaging ways--and especially hands-on projects that captivate his students.

Hobart says Risinger is just one example of how ETP participation and attendance at a Teachers Institute can inspire educators and help their students to embrace both wireless technology and Amateur Radio.

"Supporting the ARRL Education and Technology Program is an opportunity to do something about the future of Amateur Radio and attracting the younger generation," Hobart says. "Outside of the League's ongoing and essential effort to defend our spectrum, I can think of no other initiative that prepares ham radio for its future."

Contribute to the ARRL Education and Technology Program by July 31 via the secure donation Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/education/education.html>>. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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**"INTRUDERS" SPOTTED  
 IN SEVERAL AMATEUR  
 RADIO HF BANDS**

An "intruder" signal spotted on 20 and 17 meters - possibly originating from a Chinese HF broadcast station - has sparked a slew of reports and complaints from around the globe. In addition, those who volunteer to monitor the bands for out-of-place signals cite reports of so-called "single-letter beacon" stations on 40 meters. As the League's liaison with the Interna-

tional Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Monitoring System (IARUMS) <<http://www.iaru.org/iarums/>> - also known as "Intruder Watch" - ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, is often the first to hear about strange signals that suddenly pop up on the bands.

"It was still on 18.160 MHz as of July 4," Skolaut said, citing reports of a "Chinese broadcaster" on 17 meters. "DARC Monitoring System Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reported hearing the broadcasts on 20 meters as recently as July 2. He indicated the signal was showing up at various times on 14.230, 14.305 and 14.310 MHz." The signal has been heard on one band or the other in the US from the Northeast to Hawaii, as well as in Canada, Sri Lanka, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and India.

Monitors in Connecticut and Pennsylvania reported a strong AM signal from the apparent broadcaster on 18.160 MHz on July 2 at 1100 UTC and 1300 to 1400 UTC. The signal has been heard on 14.180 MHz as well. Several listeners say their bearings put the source of the signal in central or southern China. Chris Cummings, G4BOH, says he's been able to match the audio to transmissions appearing on 15.495, 11.665 and 12.025 MHz. He filed a report with Ofcom, the UK's telecoms regulatory agency. Bihlmayer filed complaints with German telecoms authorities as well as with the Chinese Embassy in Berlin.

Reports filed with DX Listening Digest <<http://www.worldofradio.com/index.html>> suggested that the

14.180 and 18.160 MHz broadcasts are intended to jam the clandestine "Sound of Hope" transmission from Taiwan. The July 2 DX Listening Digest reports put the Chinese-language broadcasts appearing on 14.310 MHz - QRMing the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) net on 14.308 MHz - as well as on 18.160 MHz. Short wave listeners (SWLs) say the AM carrier occasionally drops at the top of the hour for a monitoring check, only to reappear five minutes later.

Skolaut has shared reports and updates with the FCC, although the Commission has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels.

For several years now, monitors around the world have reported the presence of "single-letter markers" or "single-letter beacons" apparently emanating from Russia. The so-called "C" beacon has again been reported active on 7.039. Those familiar with the beacons - believed to be Russian Navy channel markers - say there has been a "beacon cluster" on and around 7.039 MHz in the past. These stations identify with a single letter in conventional Morse code.

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, compares the Intruder Watch program to a Neighborhood Watch that communities set up to reduce crime. He invites other radio amateurs or SWLs in IARU Region 2 (the Americas and some eastern Pacific Islands) to become part of the Intruder Watch program. He explains that IARUMS volunteers listen on the bands for intruders. IARU monitors have no legal au-

thority but act only as band monitors, he points out.

Monitors in other parts of the world have logged "drift net buoys" on 160 meters, international broadcasters on 80 and 40 meters, fishing trawlers and pirates, paramilitary stations from India on 17 meters as well as something called "the Havana Gurgle" - the third harmonic of a broadcast on 6.030 MHz.

"To survive, the Amateur Radio community needs clean frequencies that are free of intruders," Zellers says. "Take a few minutes to join the Intruder Watch program and help us take care of our Amateur Radio neighborhood." Contact Zellers <wa4fki@nc.rr.com>; for more information.

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### NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS STUDY MATERIALS AVAILABLE

A significantly revised and updated Technician class (Element 2) question pool went into effect July 1 for all Technician class examinations offered on or after that date. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC prepared for the changeover.

"ARRL Volunteer Examiner teams were stocked with new test materials based on the Technician class question pool that became effective on July 1," she says. "The new Technician class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols."

The League also has updated its Technician study guides to reflect the new Element 2 question pool. A brand-new publication, The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, in-

cludes all the information a prospective ham needs to get licensed. In addition, the fourth edition of ARRL's Tech Q & A now is available. Well-known ham radio author and QST contributing editor Ward Silver, N0AX, wrote both manuals.

ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says these two publications replace the popular and familiar Now You're Talking! (5th edition) and ARRL's Tech Q & A (3rd edition) for those taking the Technician examination on or after July 1. ARRL-registered instructors may continue to receive discounts on League training materials.

A team of ARRL staffers and volunteers contributed to the organization and layout of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, which may be used either for self-study or for classroom use. It features a friendly, easy-to-read two-color format that emphasizes key learning concepts as well as easy-to-understand "bite-sized" sections.

The new ARRL Tech Q & A also includes the Technician Amateur Radio license examination (Element 2) question pool effective July 1 plus an answer key and concise, clear explanations for all questions.

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Order No 9639) is \$24.95. The new fourth-edition ARRL Tech Q & A (Order No 9647) is \$15.95. Visit the ARRL online catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>>

Later this summer, the League will introduce a new online class, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Course," replacing the Technician License Course (EC-010) that had been offered through the ARRL Certification and Continuing

Education (CCE) program. Once it's available, students taking the new course will be able to complete all of their Technician class license training online. Along with a 100-percent risk-free guarantee, registration will include a copy of the new ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, a one-year ARRL membership and post-graduate support.

ARRL offers online and computer-based training for students interested taking practice test drills. HamTestOnlineT is a Web-based training program for the Amateur Radio written exams, covering all questions and study material. Also available is Ham University on CD-ROM. This software allows you to browse the questions and quiz yourself on weak areas. Both products are available for the new Technician question pool, as well as for students preparing to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra. HamTestOnline (Order No 9571) is \$49.95. The complete edition of Ham University (Order No 8735) retails for \$39.95, or purchase the Technician edition (Order No 8956) for \$24.95.

Inderbitzen says the ARRL Technician class video course expired when the new exam question pool took effect on July 1. Making the course current will require extensive changes, but a new Technician class video will not be available right away.

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## **FCC AFFIRMS FINE FOR MARKETING NON-CERTIFICATED CBs AS HAM TRANSCEIVERS**

**T**he FCC has affirmed a \$7000 fine it proposed to levy on TravelCenters of America in Troutdale, Oregon, for marketing uncer-

tificated Citizens Band (CB) transceivers as 10-meter Amateur Radio transceivers. In a Forfeiture Order (NoF) released June 29 <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1334A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1334A1.pdf)>, the FCC turned away TravelCenters' argument that the transceivers in question were not CB transceivers, which require FCC certification, but Amateur Radio transceivers, which do not. The Commission says its Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) determined that the radios in question -- manufactured by Galaxy -- could be easily modified to operate on CB channels.

"TravelCenters provides no evidence to show that the Galaxy models it offered for sale were not easily modified," the FCC said in its NoF. "Therefore, we find that the subject Galaxy models were CB transmitters pursuant to Section 95.603(c), regardless of the signs TravelCenters placed near the point of purchase." The signs advised that the units were Amateur Radio transceivers, not CB radios, and a license was required.

In May, an FCC Order concluded a similar case in which the Commission had imposed \$125,000 in fines on Pilot Travel Centers LLC for continuing to market CB transceivers labeled as Amateur Radio gear but intended for use on both CB and amateur frequencies. Under the terms of a consent decree, Pilot agreed to make "a voluntary contribution" of \$90,000 to the US Treasury "without further protest or recourse," but did not admit to any wrongdoing. Pilot further agreed to refrain from marketing as "Amateur Radio" gear any transmitting devices with built-in features to facilitate CB operation.

The FCC required Pilot to remove from sale Galaxy transceiver models DX33HML, DX66V and DX99V. Those units also were among the radios the FCC cited in the TravelCenters proceeding. Some of the Galaxy transceivers at issue in the TravelCenters' case have only CB-like channel knobs and indicators for tuning, although the more expensive models sport a digital frequency readout. Most of the units transmit only in AM and FM mode.

In affirming the \$7000 fine, the FCC cited a 1999 letter from the FCC's Office of General Counsel (OGC) on the importation and marketing of ham radio transceivers. The OGC's letter clarified that transmitters having "a built-in capacity to operate on CB frequencies and can easily be altered to activate that capacity, such as by moving or removing a jumper plug or cutting a single wire" fall within the definition of a CB transmitter and must obtain FCC certification prior to importation or marketing.

The FCC also turned away TravelCenters' argument that Commission efforts 10 years ago to clarify the definition of a CB transceiver in an OET Public Notice violated the Administrative Procedures Act. The FCC countered that it had relied on the OGC's letter and its interpretation of §95.603(c) as well as the OET's recent determination regarding the specific transceiver models in question. The Commission further noted that §95.655(a) of its rules states that no transmitter will be certificated for CB use if "equipped with a frequency capability" not listed in Part 95 as CB transmitter channel frequencies.

The TravelCenters case dates back to the fall of 2001, when an FCC

agent visited the TravelCenters' retail store in Troutdale and observed six models of "CB transceivers" that had not received FCC certification. The FCC's Portland, Oregon, Field Office issued a Citation to TravelCenters' Troutdale store later that fall for selling non-certificated CB transceivers. It warned TravelCenters that future violations could lead to fines and seizure of equipment.

In July 2005 the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) proposing the \$7000 fine for "apparently willfully and repeatedly" violating §302(b) of the Communications Act and §2.803(a)(1) of its rules "by offering for sale a non-certified CB transceiver."

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**Field Day at W1AW slide show available:**

**F**ield Day at W1AW slide show available: A slide show, "Field Day at W1AW," now is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/FD2006-W1AW/>>. Photographed and produced during Field Day 2006 by

ARRL Web/Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, the 4-1/2 minute presentation "was created to give members a feel for what happens at W1AW on Field Day," he says. It also provides a peek inside W1AW for those who have never visited. "The slide show is presented using Adobe Flash format. Adobe Flash Player 7 or later and a compatible Web browser are needed to play the slide show," he notes, adding that most computers already have a copy of Flash Player installed. If not, Flash Player is a free for download from Adobe <[http://www.adobe.com/go/gntray\\_dl\\_getflashplayer](http://www.adobe.com/go/gntray_dl_getflashplayer)>. The show can be played directly from the Web site in either a large format — suitable for broadband Web users — or in a smaller format more attuned to dial-up Internet connections.

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**New IRC available July 1**

**N**ew IRC available July 1: The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has announced that a new International Reply Coupon (IRC) design <<http://www.dailydx.com/2007irc.jpg>> has been selected. Ra-

dio amateurs often enclose IRCs when QSLing DX stations directly to cover the cost of return postage. The new design, known as "Beijing Model No. 2," was submitted by Volodymyr Taran, a graphic artist from Ukraine. Chosen by a jury of 40 UPU member countries, the coupon design was inspired by Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel -- two fingers about to touch framed in a postage stamp, representing the notions of communication and exchange. The new IRC will be valid until December 31, 2009. The current IRC is valid through December 31, 2006. For more information on IRCs, see the June 1999 issue of QST (page 83).--The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com/>>

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**Note - Jerry Wharton KA8NJW here, Field Day went GREAT! We had two stations running, the CW station ran for 24 hours non stop. The Phone one ran for more than 21 hours. We can always use operators. Everyone jumped in and helped make it a success. We had the computers networked and the logging program ran great! I do not know the final outcome on the score but we did OK. A big thank you to all who helped make the 2006 Field Day a success. I think the final count will be about 1400 or so. The CW station had about 400 contacts and the Phone station had almost 300. Thanks All. KA8NJW**

**NOTE The KLUB picnic will be at the City Park in September and well will have election of Officers. If you are interested in helping out please contact Blane.**

**Note extra! - all material in this newsletter comes by way of the ARRL web site.**

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