
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

April 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
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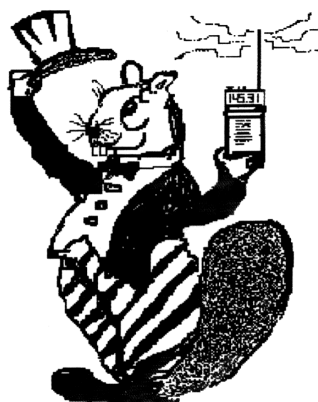
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KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
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Newsletter Editor

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

Newsletter Distribution

KB3EAQ....Debbie Mehutcs



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585

TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898

HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910

CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5

WPA PHONE & TCF.....6:00 PM DAILY...3.983

ROOSTERS NET.....6:00 AM DAILY...3.990

E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255

COUNTY HUNTERS.....10:00 AM DAILY..14.336

RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER.....8:30 PM WED....145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER...9:30 PM WED...28.360

WPA TRAFFIC.....9:00 PM DAILY..146.88

QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A.'s WEBSITE AT:

www.geocities.com/the_bvara

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: ke3ed@arrl.net, Packet: ke3ed@k3oiw.wpa.pa.usa.na, or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Club News |
| 2 | B.V.A.R.A. Technician Classes |
| 3 | Amateurs Respond to Quake |
| 4 | New Field Day Rules Change |
| 5 | And More... |
-

CLUB MEETING

The April B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held on Thursday the 12th at 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center, located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. We hope to see you there.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At the April club meeting we will have Terry Roberts as speaker. Terry spent some time at the South pole as a Radio Operator. His call is K3TLR. He has an interesting story with pictures to tell. This should be a very enjoyable evening. I am hoping for a high number of members to be present.

New tech classes to begin:

The class runs for 8 weeks every Monday night, 7pm to 9pm. The class will be held at the 911 Center in Beaver, 3RD Street & River Rd. (The old railroad station at the end of town.)

Sincerely
Stanley E. Riffle

B.V.A.R.A. SPONSORED RADIO CLASSES

The B.V.A.R.A. will sponsor introductory radio classes at the Beaver County Emergency Center, located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. The classes will take place from 7-9:00 PM each Monday night starting April 2nd and lasting 8 weeks.

Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in attending. Also if you can help with teaching please let Dave KA3SMF or Wes N3ALS know.

B.V.A.R.A. SPONSORED TEST SESSION

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday April 7th, 2001 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building, 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

Testing will start promptly at 10:00 AM so please plan on arriving at least 15 - 30 minutes prior. Walk-ins are welcome. Talk-ins will be on the 145.310 (W3SGJ) repeater. Use minus offset and 100 hz pl tone.

All candidates wishing to take a test should bring the following:

1. Two (2) forms of identification.
2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

3. Your original AND a photocopy of your current license (if any).
4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of \$10.00.

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will be multiple choice.

All Technician Plus operators licensed as such prior to March 21, 1987 should bring a copy and the original proof of this credit.

Candidates are welcome and encouraged to join us for breakfast at the Chippewa Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Tony KE3ED at the following:

Packet: ke3ed @ k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na
Repeater: 145.310 (W3SGJ) minus offset & 100 hz pl tone.
E-mail: ke3ed@bellatlantic.net
Phone: (724) 774-4173

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

Never be afraid to try something new.

Remember that amateurs built the Ark.

Professionals built the Titanic.

==>AMATEUR RADIO MOUNTS QUICK QUAKE RESPONSE

Hams responded within minutes after an earthquake hit the Seattle area the morning of February 28. The epicenter was some 35 miles southwest of Seattle, but the quake was felt as far away as Salt Lake City. Washington Gov Gary Locke declared a state of emergency for western Washington.

As of week's end, Amateur Radio had scaled back its response as power and telephone service returned to the stricken region. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) teams in the quake zone were mobilized within minutes of the event. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) also activated.

Residents in the affected region now are picking up the pieces. Damage estimates could top \$2 billion. Upwards of 350 injuries--a few of them serious enough to require hospitalization--were reported, but no deaths were directly attributed to the earthquake.

ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, reported that very soon after the quake struck, State

RACES Officer Jim Sutton, WA7PHD, was on the air, handling net control duties for the Washington State Emergency Net on 75 meters from the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray. Western Washington Section Nets also activated on HF SSB, and in the Seattle area, ARES volunteers had mounted an emergency repeater net with King County EC Rich Hodges, KB7TBF, and Lt. Russ Reed, N7NOV, of the US Coast Guard sharing NCS chores. Several other county ARES nets took to the air.

Amateur Radio operators also set up a temporary 2-meter net to assist the Red Cross with damage assessment. An unconfirmed report says one ham used an ATV link from a helicopter to the State EOC--where Gov Locke was on hand—to survey the damage below.

While Eastern Washington was not as badly affected, Spokane County ARES/RACES activated to assist. Because the Spokane County Department of Emergency Management had trouble maintaining contact with the State EOC at Camp Murray, an auxiliary cross-state link was established via the Washington Emergency Net. "This HF link was maintained by Spokane County's off-site Official Emergency Stations, communicating with operators at the County EOC by 2 meters," said Spokane County EC Nathan Jeffries, KI7QT, who said the action drew later praise from a County emergency official.

Eastern Washington SM Kyle Pugh, KA7CSP, said "a loose information net" also fired up on 40 meters to handle general inquiries and health-and-welfare traffic.

The Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net also took the airwaves on 20 meters (14.292 MHz). "The net was opened within minutes of the quake, and hundreds of messages were passed," said Bob Baker, NL7UH, in Anchorage, Alaska. Baker praised net participants for their "very highly professional manner. The net was formed after the 1964 Alaska earthquake, and it includes several net control stations in Alaska and in the "Lower 48."

The SATERN Net activated for about six hours on 20 meters (14.265 MHz), processing health-and-welfare information requests and handing out situation reports from Washington and Oregon amateur stations. "Scores of stations over the nation assisted in relay," said National SATERN Director Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN's Web site, www.go.to/satern, remains available for inquiries.

Lewis said he was "deeply impressed" by the speedy amateur response.

==>A GLIMMER OF GOOD NEWS FOR AO-40

AMSAT reports that the sun began triggering AO-40's sun sensor as the satellite emerged from Earth's shadow on orbit 147. The news has boosted ground controllers' optimism that

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

they might be able to regain control over the satellite's spin rate and attitude sooner than had been predicted.

AMSAT-DL's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, said this week that as soon as the sensor unit delivers good sun sensor data, controllers will be able to reduce AO-40's spin and make it easier to adjust attitude. "This also will lead to an improvement in reception of the S-Band telemetry," he said.

For the past few weeks, the AO-40 has remained in what AMSAT called "a semi-hibernation state," because the satellite's high angle has prevented the sensor from seeing the sun's light. Controllers had planned to work around the sun sensor issue by using a software routine.

Once ground controllers can get accurate AO-40 attitude data, they should be able to correctly aim AO-40's high-gain antennas for optimal reception on Earth. Ground controllers have been relying on telemetry from AO-40's S-band (2.4 GHz) downlink--the only transmitter now operating--but they are holding out hope that at least some of the satellite's other transmitters still function. Since the satellite went silent for about two weeks in December, ground controllers have had no luck hearing the 2-meter, 70-cm or 1.2 GHz transmitters using AO-40's omnidirectional antennas.

The next major step will be to bring AO-40 into an orientation where ground controllers can fire the onboard arc-jet thruster--using only gaseous ammonia and no electrical power. The test firing will allow checking out the guidance electronics and the arc-jet valves. Guelzow said the thrust of the test will be enough to lift the satellite's perigee by about 100 km.

Guelzow said plans call for optimizing the current orbit with a live arc-jet firing. He said that several independent analyses--including one done by the French space agency, CNES--confirm that the current orbit will be stable for many years--longer than the spacecraft's anticipated lifetime.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org>.

==>FCC LAUNCHES REVIEW OF LA AREA REPEATER

The FCC has launched a review into the operation of the W6NUT repeater in the Los Angeles area. The repeater, which has attracted a following of what some observers call "nontraditional" amateur users, also was said to have been radio home of Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC, sentenced earlier this year to prison for unlicensed operation.

"We've gotten more complaints about that repeater than any other repeater in the country, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said of the W6NUT machine, which operates on 147.435 MHz. "If

there's a control operator, we sure haven't seen any evidence of it."

Hollingsworth wrote the repeater's trustee, Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK, and two W6NUT users regarding lengthy broadcasts made over the repeater in early February. Hollingsworth told Tucker that the FCC has received complaints that control operators and the repeater licensee "fail to address long periods of jamming by users, broadcasting, music playing as well as a plethora of other violations."

He cited one transmission of more than two hours on the evening of February 1-2 that included music and commentaries on many of the songs. A similar lengthy broadcast aired over W6NUT a few evenings later, he said. Both transmissions repeatedly timed out the repeater, Hollingsworth said, and there was no evidence that a control operator was present at any time.

In separate letters to Technician licensees Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, and Gregory S. Cook, KC6USO, Hollingsworth cited monitoring information alleging that Sorensen actually transmitted both broadcasts. On the first occasion, on February 1-2, Sorensen is said to have acted in concert with Cook, who was hooked in via phone patch. The second similar transmission February 4-5 was said to have featured only Cook, again via phone patch to Sorensen's transmitter, Hollingsworth said.

Citing Sec 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, Hollingsworth requested that all three licensees respond to the allegations within 20 days. In addition, Hollingsworth asked Tucker to furnish specific details about the W6NUT repeater system, including names of control operators on duty on the two evenings in question.

Cook's license is due to expire May 7, 2001. Hollingsworth advised Cook that his renewal application would "not be routinely granted unless these issues are resolved" and that his renewal application could wind up being designated for hearing.

==>SPACE STATION SHIFT CHANGE SET WITH NEXT SHUTTLE LAUNCH

It's almost time for a shift change aboard the International Space Station, and two hams are among the new crew members. Relieving the current ISS crew will be the Expedition 2 team of Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD/R3MIR, of Russia and US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Jim Voss. The Expedition 2 crew is scheduled to head into space March 8 aboard the space shuttle Discovery. The Expedition 1 crew has spent more than four months in orbit.

The Space Station Alpha crew is staying in space a couple of weeks longer than planned because of a tight shuttle launch schedule and necessary refitting on the Discovery. Expedition

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, arrived at the station November 2. During their stay, Shepherd has spoken via ham radio with students at several schools as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--program.

In addition to ferrying the Expedition 2 crew, Discovery will have in tow an Italian-made cargo carrier that's filled with laboratory experiments and equipment. At the end of its almost 12-day flight, Discovery will transport Shepherd, Gidzenko and Krikalev back to Earth. Discovery is planned to land March 20 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Commanding Discovery will be Jim Wetherbee. Jim Kelly, KC5ZSW, will be the shuttle's pilot, and Andy Thomas, KD5CHF--a Mir veteran--and Paul Richards, KC5ZSZ, will serve as mission specialists. No Amateur Radio activity from the shuttle is scheduled.

==>LEAGUE SEEKS GREATER FLEXIBILITY AT 219-220 MHz

The ARRL is urging the FCC to retain the 219-220 MHz shared Amateur Radio allocation and says it wants the Commission to make it a bit easier for hams to use the segment. In comments filed February 6 in an FCC rulemaking proceeding, the ARRL said it believes the 219-220 MHz band "must be maintained and enhanced."

The League commented in PR Docket 92-257, released last November. The Third Further Notice in that proceeding proposed to designate licensing regions for the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS) facilities at 216-220 MHz and to authorize a single licensee for each unassigned AMTS frequency block on a geographic basis. The current AMTS system uses a site-based licensing structure.

Current rules require that amateurs planning to operate within 80 km (50 miles) of an AMTS facility get written permission from the AMTS licensee, but getting that consent has been difficult to impossible for hams in coastal areas. "The Commission's intended flexibility in amateur station operation at 219-220 MHz has not, in general, been realized," the League commented.

The ARRL suggested letting amateurs seeking to use 219-220 MHz submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential at the relevant AMTS boundaries in lieu of having to get written permission.

"It is ARRL's intention that the Amateur Service be provided a practical opportunity to make substantial, flexible use on a secondary basis of the 219-220 MHz allocation, taking into account expanded development of AMTS stations," the

League said. The FCC should "provide some flexibility in the engineering of amateur systems in that band, to the extent consistent with avoidance of interference to AMTS stations."

The 219-220 MHz amateur segment was created in 1995 as a result of an ARRL petition for rulemaking. The FCC has designated the band on a secondary basis for amateur fixed point-to-point digital message forwarding systems.

While the ARRL said it's unaware of any amateur interference to AMTS stations, attempts by hams to use the band to construct digital backbone systems "have been largely thwarted to date" because on the inability to get consent from AMTS licensees within 50 miles of the proposed operation, as rules now require.

A copy of the ARRL's comments is available at www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/pr92-257/.

==>AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001 INTRODUCED

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 is now officially HR 817. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives. Last week, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, visited the Congressman's office to thank him personally for his continuing interest in protecting Amateur Radio frequency allocations.

The measure has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill seeks to amend the Communications Act of 1934. It would require the FCC to make no reallocation of primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, diminish any secondary allocations, or make additional allocations within amateur allocations that would substantially reduce their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

League officials traveled to Washington in late February and early March for a three-day round of visits with senators and congressmen and their staff members.

Haynie and Harrison also visited the FCC, where they spoke with Peter Tenhula, Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Haynie was upbeat about the impact of the visits. "Once again we had an opportunity to tell our story about Amateur Radio and the important function it serves, especially in public service and education," he said.

==>ARRL URGES FCC TO NIX PART 15 PETITION AFFECTING 420-450 MHz

The ARRL is urging the FCC to deny or dismiss a petition that seeks to boost the field strength and duty cycle of RF identification systems deployed as unlicensed Part 15 devices

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

in the 420-450 MHz band. The League filed comments March 1 in a petition filed by SAVI Technology Inc.

The petition, designated RM-10051, asks the FCC to change certain Part 15 rules affecting unlicensed, periodic, intentional radiators. SAVI, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, says it needs the rules changes to satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities.

The ARRL argues that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposes for its RFID tags "are completely unreasonable and would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations."

The ARRL characterized SAVI's petition as another in a long series in which manufacturers of unlicensed RF devices seek to liberalize rules regarding permitted field strengths for such devices in bands allocated to the Amateur Service. The League said SAVI obviously did not have interference avoidance in mind when it chose the 420-450 MHz band. "It is among the worst choices SAVI could have made from that perspective," the ARRL said. The League suggested that SAVI would be better off deploying the devices in the 902-928 MHz band.

The ARRL said SAVI not only has failed to show that its unlicensed devices could operate at the requested field strengths and duty cycles on an itinerant basis without unduly risking harmful interference to amateurs, it hasn't shown why it needs such extremely high field strengths to communicate over paths of 100 meters.

The ARRL said its limited anecdotal studies of noise levels from unlicensed devices in certain metro areas indicate that manmade RF noise "is substantially increasing." The League warned the FCC to "be extremely careful in evaluating rulemaking petitions proposing substantial departures from present Part 15 rules."

For more information on Part 15 devices, visit the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/part15.html>.

==>AO-40 TEAM REPORTS SUCCESS IN SLOWING SATELLITE'S SPIN RATE

Initial efforts to slow AO-40's spin rate have met with success. Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of AMSAT-DL and the AO-40 team says magnetorquing has been able to decrease AO-40's initial spin rate from 17.59 RPM to 15.9 RPM. "The target is something in the area of 5 RPM," Guelzow said this week.

The onboard magnetorquing system—which consists of solenoid coils—makes use of Earth's magnetic field to control the spacecraft's spin and orientation. Magnetorquing is most effective when Earth's magnetic field is strongest, so it

typically only takes place at perigee--when the satellite is closest to Earth. Ground controllers have been making incremental adjustments during each perigee.

Guelzow said that as soon as the spin is favorable, AO-40's attitude will be adjusted to improve communication with Earth. De-spinning the spacecraft is a necessary first step to making any attitude adjustments, however.

Guelzow said the onboard YACE camera was used to take some photographs "for a quick attitude determination," but he said the highly compressed JPEG-format digital photos were inconclusive. More pictures are planned once the spin rate is reduced.

When it met in Orlando late last month, the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors recognized that completing a full evaluation of AO-40 would take some time and that all of the satellite's designed functions may not be available. (See related story, "AMSAT-NA Board Approves Satellite Project Proposals," below.)

AO-40's present and future situation will be the subject of presentations March 17 in Detmold, Germany, when AMSAT-DL holds its annual symposium there.

==>AMSAT-NA BOARD APPROVES SATELLITE PROJECT PROPOSALS

Meeting February 24-25 in Orlando, Florida, the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors met February 24-25 approved three satellite project proposals. The Board said now is the right time to start the planning and design process for the next series of satellites.

The first, a new satellite to be placed into a geostationary transfer orbit, would feature communication capability at 2 meters, 70 cm, and 1.2, 2.4 and 5.6 GHz. The satellite would weigh up to 100 kg and have a power consumption of about 100 W. Stabilization would be provided by spinning the spacecraft.

The directors also approved the concept of designing, building and testing a new Internal Housekeeping Unit (the IHU serves as an onboard computer system--Ed) for use in future AMSAT satellites. AMSAT-NA says the existing design, although very stable, uses components that are hard to find. The new unit design would use improved techniques and more readily available components.

The board further approved the design, construction and demonstration of a new mode using digital modulation techniques. AMSAT-NA says it anticipates that the new IHU and digital modulation projects would be ready in time to become a part of the new satellite.

==>SHEPHERD WRAPS UP ARISS EXPEDITION 1 SCHOOL CONTACT SCHEDULE

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Expedition 1 Crew Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, capped his more than four-month tour aboard the International Space Station with Amateur Radio chats with students in Hawaii and American Samoa and at his Arizona high school alma mater. Scheduled as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, program, the two school contacts were expected to be the last for the current ISS crew. A new crew was launched March 8.

On March 1, five high school students from Hawaii and one from American Samoa got a chance to talk with Shepherd for approximately six minutes. The first student asked Shepherd if space travel had changed his religious beliefs.

"It hasn't really," he replied. "I'll tell you, looking out into the sky is a lot like being on the Islands. The view of the stars is much clearer. I guess it gives one a sense that there's a whole lot more out there to the universe and the cosmos than we normally appreciate."

In response to other questions, Shepherd said muscle atrophy was "one of the biggest problems for humans if we're every going to go anywhere far away from Earth." He said the ISS crew needs to exercise two hours each day to maintain tone.

The contact ended with a loud "Aloha!" to Shepherd from the students, who invited Shepherd back to Hawaii.

On March 7, Shepherd spoke briefly to students at his high school alma mater, Arcadia High School in Phoenix. As-yet unexplained circumstances kept the contact short, and Shepherd was only able to reply to the first student's question. The Arcadia school contact was fit into the ARISS school contact schedule at Shepherd's request.

The single question--from a ninth grader--had to do with the most exciting research projects aboard the ISS. "The science aboard is just getting started," Shepherd responded. He told the Arcadia students that one project being carried out by the Max Planck Institute in Germany and Russian scientists is a physics experiment involving plasma. "We're doing an experiment right now, basically figuring how to control very small films of material, which may help us to make better computers some day," Shepherd said.

The Amateur Radio link broke off as the next student was asking his question. The all-student Arcadia High School Amateur Radio Club KD7LAC team was unable to re-establish contact, despite repeated attempts. Shepherd used the NA1SS call sign for both contacts.

Since coming aboard the ISS last November, Shepherd also has spoken with schools in Illinois, Virginia, New York, Texas, and Ontario, Canada, as part of the ARISS program. The shuttle Discovery launched March 8, transporting the Expedition 2 crew to the ISS. The ISS Expedition 2 crew includes two hams, Russian cosmonaut and Expedition 2 Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronaut Susan

Helms, KC7NHZ, in addition to US astronaut Jim Voss. ARISS school contacts could resume in late March.

For more information on the ARISS program, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

==>NEW FIELD DAY RULES FOR 2001 DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE FUN

Field Day 2001 will run from 1800 UTC June 23 to 2100 UTC June 24—as always, the fourth full weekend in June. Typically a club or group event, Field Day is the most popular operating activity of the year—and one of the most enjoyable for hams of all skill levels. A few rules changes this year affect bonus points for Field Day scores.

* The non-traditional mode bonus has been expanded from 100 to 300 points for doing three separate demonstration modes.

* Packet is back and will be counted as one of the three demonstration modes, but to claim packet credit, you must set up a portable digipeater system. Existing, permanent packet networks do not qualify for this bonus.

* You may earn a 100-point bonus if an invited local government official or representative of one of the agencies that ARES serves in an emergency visits your Field Day site. To earn this bonus, the invited official must actually visit the site, not just be invited.

* The message-handling bonus has been changed. You may now earn 10 points per message, up to 100 points total, for origination, relay, and delivery of formal NTS messages. In the past, only messages received and relayed were counted. The Field Day participation message to the Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator under rule 7.3.5 does not also qualify for bonus points under these rules.

This marks the last year that the extra Novice/Tech Plus station will exist in its current form. The Novice/Tech station is a non-counting transmitter, and its QSOs count for QSO point credit. The ARRL Membership Services Committee is considering several options to encourage participation by newly licensed hams.

The ARRL Contest Branch has compiled a 24-page Field Day 2001 Information packet, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/01fdpack.pdf>. This document is available in hard-copy format by sending an SASE with four units of postage to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

In addition to the dated Field Day pins that have proven so popular the past few years, the League now offers 2001 Field Day T-shirts. Pins are just \$5, and the T-shirts are \$9.95. For ordering information, visit the ARRL Products Catalog,

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog>, or call toll-free 888-277-5289. The Contest Branch no longer handles orders for these items.

==>ARRL 160-METER BAND PLAN COMMITTEE READY FOR INPUT

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has selected five amateurs to serve on the ad hoc 160-Meter Band Plan Committee. The panel is open for input from the amateur community regarding the current band plan for "Top Band" and recommendations for changes. The ARRL Board of Directors approved formation of the committee at its annual meeting in January.

"With the ever-increasing activity on 160, it is time to revisit the band plan," said ARRL Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, who was named to chair the committee.

Also asked to serve on the panel were ARRL New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; ARRL Dakota Division Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO; Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, and Bill Tippet, W4ZV. All of the appointees are veteran amateurs and familiar with 160 meters and the issues facing the band. Briggs, a perennial Top Band contester and DXer, literally wrote the book on 160 meters, *Dxing on the Edge--the Thrill of 160 Meters*. Tippet has more than 300 DXCC entities to his credit on 160.

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, will serve as Headquarters staff liaison with the committee.

Unlike the other HF bands, 160 meters never has been divided by the FCC into mode-specific subbands. Most amateur transceivers didn't even begin to include the band until the influx of Japanese imports began in the 1970s. As a result of that and the elimination of the HF LORAN system, 160 meters has grown in popularity over the past couple of decades. Today, many modes--CW, SSB, AM, RTTY and other digital--coexist on Top Band, although not always harmoniously. Most operation also tends to cluster on the lower 100 kHz of the band, and the lines between which modes operate where are becoming increasingly blurred.

Roderick says the band plan committee is open for comments "from all parties--the digital folks, DXers, ragchewers, anyone." The e-mail address for comments is 160-BANDPLAN@arrl.org. All comments must include a subject line. The committee plans to report back to the ARRL Board of Directors with its recommendations at the Board's July meeting.

All ARRL band plans are on the Web, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html>.

==>ARISS REPS THANK SHEPHERD FOR SCHOOL CONTACTS

Representatives of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program have personally thanked ISS Expedition 1 crew commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, for his participation in several ARISS school contacts. Several far-flung participants in a last-minute Amateur Radio contact on March 9 were tied in via the Sacred Hearts Academy telebridge facility in Honolulu.

Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, UA9AD, assumed the helm of the ISS this week as the Expedition 2 commander. The other members of the ISS Expedition 2 crew are US astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and US astronaut Jim Voss.

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, thanked Shepherd on behalf of ARRL and AMSAT for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with students at a seven schools over the past few months. "He affected quite a few young lives," White said.

Since coming aboard the ISS last November, Shepherd has answered questions posed by kindergarten through high school students in Illinois, New York, Virginia, Texas, Hawaii, American Samoa, Arizona and Ontario, Canada.

For his part, Shepherd said he enjoyed his experience with the ARISS school contacts. "I can't tell you how much this has meant to me. It's been great!" he said. "It's been fun to tell people about it too." Shepherd also complimented the technical quality of the Amateur Radio transmissions.

During the approximately 10-minute pass, ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, also expressed his appreciation to Shepherd, as did Will Marchant, KC6ROL, who's involved in setting up the operational aspects of each ARISS school contact and coordinating schedules with NASA.

Shepherd requested the contact as his approximately four-month mission aboard the ISS wound down, in part for the opportunity to chat with his wife, Beth, as well as with his good friend and fellow shuttle astronaut Kevin Chilton, KC5TEU and his wife, Sunny. Handling the contact in Hawaii at Sacred Hearts was Dick Flagg, AH6NM. Also on line from Sacred Hearts was teacher Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN.

The crew of Shepherd, Yuri Gidzenko, and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, heads home this weekend aboard the shuttle Discovery. Marchant said schools in California and Mississippi are on the ARISS school contact schedule for late March and early April.

For more information on the ARISS program, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

==>ARRL SEEKS TO EXPAND AMATEUR ACCESS TO 216-220 MHz

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

The ARRL has suggested that the FCC expand the secondary amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz to provide hams with access to the entire 216-220 MHz band. The League commented this month in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 00-221, that proposes to reallocate 27 MHz of spectrum in various bands, including 216-220 MHz, from government to non-government use.

In general, the FCC seeks to allocate the entire 216-220 MHz band to the Fixed and Mobile services on a primary basis. At 219-220 MHz, Amateur Radio now is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1-MHz of spectrum, amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message forwarding systems, including inter-city packet backbones, but only under strict limitations.

While the FCC has promised to protect AMTS and other operations from new interference, it extended no such assurances to amateur operations at 219-220 MHz. In its comments, the ARRL expressed fears that additional co-primary users "will essentially foreclose what limited opportunities there are now for amateurs to make use of the 219-220 MHz segment."

The League suggested that in the face of such potential constraints at 219-220 MHz, permitting amateur access to the entire 216-220 MHz band on a non-interference basis would be one means to accommodate Amateur Radio operations in that portion of the spectrum. Such a move would, the ARRL said, "provide at least some opportunity for amateurs to engineer fixed links into the band, which would not be possible in the 219-220 MHz segment alone."

Last month, in comments filed in PR Docket 92-257, the ARRL suggested letting amateurs submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential to AMTS sites, in lieu of having to get written permission. In this proceeding, the ARRL further suggested that amateurs who proposed to operate in the 216-220 MHz band be allowed to use "fixed-distance separations" in lieu of the present consent requirements, as a means to demonstrate the absence of interference potential to AMTS and other co-primary users.

A copy of the ARRL's comments in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et00-221/index.html>.

==>"BOING-BOING" INTRUDER LIKELY A CODAR INSTALLATION

The ARRL Monitoring System will formally ask the FCC to monitor yet another intruding signal, this time on the 12-meter amateur band. The widely reported signal sounds a bit like a tightly wound, noisy spring being repeatedly compressed and released. It's believed to be coming from a

surface-wave radar installation, possibly in Central or South America.

"It sounds like someone playing with a really noisy spring, or a very poorly tuned guitar string," says ARRL Monitoring System Administrator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This signal is also unique in that it precisely occupies the entire 12-meter band, from 24,890 to 24,990 kHz, with the same pitch and tempo throughout the band."

While the signal does not appear to be overly disruptive to amateur communications, it is almost certainly an intruder. "The 12-meter band is allocated to amateurs on an exclusive basis worldwide," Price says. "This is not one of those instances where the observed station has as much right to use the frequency as United States amateurs; any non-amateur signal on 12 is an intruder."

Informal discussions with professional monitors suggest that the rough pulses--about two per second in frequency--are characteristic of a CODAR (Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar) transmitter. CODAR is a specific type of HF radar used to map ocean surface currents in coastal zones.

An overview of CODAR theory and applications is available on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site, <http://www1.etl.noaa.gov/codar/codar.htm>.

==>HAM RADIO AIDS RESCUE ON THE HIGH SEAS

Amateur Radio operators again have assisted in a high seas rescue operation after pirates attacked a private sailing vessel March 20 off Venezuela. The skipper, identified as Bo Altheden, reportedly was shot, and his female companion, ViVi-Maj Miren, summoned help via the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 20 meters. The victim was reported to be recovering in a Trinidad hospital.

The incident in the Caribbean occurred some 3200 km east-southeast of a similar pirate attack nearly a year ago. In that incident armed marauders shot young Willem van Tuijl from the Netherlands, who was sailing with his parents.

According to Coast Guard Lt Jose Diaz, KP3J, of the Rescue Coordination Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the 44-foot ketch Lorna, of Swedish registry, was enroute to Trinidad and Tobago when pirates attacked some three nautical miles offshore. Altheden was shot once in the abdomen.

The pirates destroyed the VHF radio, so Miren activated an emergency locator transmitter (ELT). The San Juan Rescue Coordination Center received ELT "hits" from the Lorna and notified Venezuelan authorities.

Word arrived at Miami Coast Guard some 90 minutes later from the Maritime Mobile Service Net's Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, of a distress call from a woman on the Lorna on 14.300 MHz. Miami Coast Guard forwarded the information

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

to the San Juan rescue center. Diaz tuned to 14.300, where Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Dave Dalziel, N4ICE, and Jim Hirschman, K4TCV--a physician who had assisted in the van Tuijl pirate attack last year--already had activated an emergency net. An amateur in Trinidad, Eric Mackie, 9Z4CP, also assisted in communications.

Among those standing by on frequency were Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in Florida, and Hector Godoy, HR3HGB, in Honduras, both of whom were instrumental in the van Tuijl rescue operation a year ago. The amateurs on 20 meters were able to calm the woman, and Hirschman provided medical counseling.

Diaz got permission from Venezuela to allow a vessel from Trinidad to assist, and a Venezuelan Navy vessel arrived on scene simultaneously with a Trinidad Coast Guard fast boat, with medical personnel. Trinidad medical personnel and crew took control of the sailboat from the shaken and exhausted Miren.

High seas made it too risky to move the victim. Instead, the Swedish sailboat continued on to Trinidad escorted by the Venezuelan Navy vessel and the Trinidad CG cutter.

Diaz credited amateurs with doing "a tremendous job" in helping to keep Miren calm and to relay information for the US Coast Guard to her and for maintaining order on frequency.

"This is what it is all about," Diaz said. "Stay always ready, that others may live."

Pilgrim called the afternoon rescue "one of the most rewarding experiences I have had during my 45 years on ham radio."

==>AMSAT DETAILS LIKELY AO-40 FAILURE SCENARIO

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has issued a likely explanation of why AO-40 suddenly went silent in mid-December. Haighton's March 16 statement outlines a three-part failure scenario theorizing that AO-40's problems began with a fault in a helium valve.

"Initial thoughts were that the spacecraft was completely dead and that chances of recovery were remote, with the possibility that AO-40 was in multiple pieces," Haighton said. The satellite's 2-meter beacon quit while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-newton motor system after anomalies with an orbit-shifting burn that lasted several minutes too long. It was almost two weeks before ground controllers were able to reset the onboard computers and restart a beacon on 2.4 GHz.

Ground controllers have been somewhat successful in regaining control of the next-generation amateur satellite

since telemetry transmissions resumed Christmas Day, but Haighton concedes some onboard systems may not be recoverable.

Haighton said that while the Phase 3D team may never know exactly what happened, the likely scenario includes what Haighton told ARRL was "a minor explosion" aboard AO-40, as out-of-place fuel mixed and then ignited as a result of a blocked exhaust port on a helium valve.

"We think it was a human error thing," Haighton conceded in an interview with the ARRL. He did not elaborate.

Ground controllers have used AO-40's magnetorquing system to reduce the satellite's spin rate to around 5 RPM and are optimistic that they'll be able to re-orient the satellite for communication with Earth. The satellite's omnidirectional antennas appear to be lost, but ground controllers hope the high-gain directional antennas still work and that reorienting the spacecraft will bring about a resumption of signals from other transmitters.

AO-40's heat pipe system—which could not work at the higher spin rates—has begun operating again too, considerably reducing internal temperatures. But ground controllers are pessimistic about being able to restore AO-40's 2-meter and 70 cm transmitters.

Yet to be tested is the onboard arc-jet motor, which ground controllers hope to use to reorient the satellite so that the high-gain antennas will face the Earth.

"Following the reorientation it will be possible to test the remaining systems on board the spacecraft and to determine which systems and bands will be available for future operations and under what conditions," Haighton said.

==>ISS EXPEDITION 2 CREW TRIES OUT HAM GEAR; SCHOOL QSOS SET

Expedition 2 crew member Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, had barely settled in aboard the International Space Station when she apparently felt the urge to do a little hamming. Helms, who traveled to the ISS last week aboard the shuttle Discovery with crewmates Yuri Usachev, UA9AD--the Expedition 2 commander--and fellow US astronaut Jim Voss--worked a couple of US stations March 18 and 19 and was monitored by another in Australia.

The ham who had snagged the first-ever casual ham contact with the ISS--Randy Shriver, KG3N, of Hanover, Pennsylvania--got lucky again with the Expedition 2 crew. Shriver heard Helms calling CQ early on the morning of March 18 and gave her a call. "Using NA1SS she came back to me," he reports. "I was able to talk to her for 45 seconds." On November 13, Shriver worked Expedition 1 crew commander William Shepherd, KD5GSL.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Samuel Danner, N3MPE, of Smithsburg, Maryland, had his police scanner set to a ISS 2-meter downlink frequency on the off chance he might hear something--and he did. Danner reports he wasn't prepared for the shock of hearing Helms' voice calling CQ. Danner says he ran out to his car, equipped with a scanner programmed with ISS frequencies, to listen further. "It was 29 degrees in the car; I didn't care," he said, adding that he could even see the space station overhead at the time. "It was fantastic!" Danner also was able to make contact with NA1SS.

Gordon Williams, VK6IU, reports that he heard Helms calling while the ISS was over Western Australia on March 18.

Helms likely will handle on-air duties next week when the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts for the Expedition 2 crew are scheduled to occur. Students at the John B. Reible School in Santa Rosa, California, are scheduled to speak with the crew March 26 or 27, while students at Vicksburg High School in Mississippi are scheduled for April 4 or April 6.

The Expedition 1 crew of William Shepherd, KD5GSL, Yuri Gidzenko, and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, arrived back on Earth this week aboard the Discovery. Usachev, Helms and Voss were reported to be adapting to the new quarters they'll call home for the next four months.

For more information on the ARISS program, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

==>AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001 INTRODUCED IN SENATE

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001, introduced earlier this month in the US House, now is officially a Senate bill, S.549. Republican Sen Michael Crapo of Idaho introduced the bill in the upper chamber March 15.

Democratic Sen Daniel Akaka of Hawaii was a cosponsor. The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In introducing the Senate measure again this year, Crapo and Akaka referred to the importance of Amateur Radio in providing communication in times of disaster.

S.549 is identical in its wording to H.R.817, introduced in the House of Representatives March 1 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida. If approved by both chambers and signed by Pres George W. Bush, the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum should it ever reallocate primary Amateur Radio spectrum to another service. The same requirement would apply if the FCC acted to diminish any secondary amateur allocations or to make additional allocations in ham bands that diminish their utility.

Bilirakis and Crapo introduced the Spectrum Protection Act in a past session of Congress at the request of the ARRL. The League's Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says he's encouraged by the fact that the Spectrum Protection bill is getting a head start with early introduction in both chambers this time around.

More information on the Spectrum Protection Act, including a copy of the House and Senate versions of the bill, is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>.

==>NEW YORK MAKES ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT HAM ANTENNA BILL

True to their word, supporters of an Amateur Radio antenna bill in the State of New York are back this year with new bills introduced in both houses of the legislature. ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says measures to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into state law have been filed in the Senate as S.2893, with four sponsors, and in the Assembly as A.1565.

If approved, the companion measures would require localities to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas and would prevent localities from restricting antenna structures to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of support structures. The bills have been referred to the Local Government Committee.

An effort to get an antenna law on the books in the Empire State last year failed to make it through the legislative process despite gaining significant support. This year's bills are identical to last year's.

Fallon said he's hoping that support for last year's campaign will carry over to this year's effort, and he's calling on New York amateurs to "help make ham radio history in New York" by getting behind the bills.

In addition to contacting their Assembly representatives and state senators, Fallon said, hams should contact the two chairs of the Local Government Committee, Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli, Senator Mary Lou Rath, as well as Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno.

The Hudson Division Web page <http://www.arrlhamdiv.org> has a copy of the bill, links to find names and addresses of state representatives, and copies of sample letters.

"As one of the ARRL Directors who has been dealing with this issue for a number of years I am very happy about all the efforts in the other states and now again in New York," Fallon said.

==>IN BRIEF:

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

*** ARRL seeks articles for Antenna Compendium:** ARRL is looking for original, unpublished articles for the next volume of the extremely popular book series The ARRL Antenna Compendium. Articles should be about antennas, propagation, transmission lines, antenna tuners, towers--anything dealing with antennas! Submit articles to Dean Straw, N6BV, c/o ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

*** ARRL DXCC Desk approves ST0P operation for credit:** Last summer's ST0P DXpedition by Jeff Hambleton, G4KIB/5B4YY/KF9BI, in Khartoum, Sudan, has been approved for DXCC credit. The DXCC Desk has reviewed and accepted ST0P documentation, and stations now can now receive DXCC credit for ST0P. Rejected ST0P submittals can be updated without having to re-submit a QSL by contacting the DXCC Desk, dxcc@arrl.org. QSL information for ST0P is on the Web at <http://www.qsl.net/st0p>.

*** Tristani poised to exit FCC:** FCC member Gloria Tristani reportedly will join three present and former colleagues in exiting the Commission. According to Dow Jones Newswires, Tristani will leave the FCC by the end of the year, possibly to pursue elective office in her home state of New Mexico. Nominated to the Commission by President Clinton, Tristani joined the FCC in 1997. Her term expires June 30, 2003. Tristani, a Democrat, joins former FCC Chairman William Kennard--who left the FCC January 19 and was replaced by Commissioner Michael Powell--and commissioners Harold Furchtgott-Roth, a Republican, and Susan Ness, a Democrat, who plan to leave but remain on the FCC for now.

*** QRP EME QSO reported:** A posting on the EME reflector reports that Ernie Manly, W7LHL, and Larry Liljequist, W7SZ, both in Washington, successfully completed an Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) contact February 25 while running

5 W on 1296 MHz. "This was using the PUA43 mode with their DSP-10 transceivers and transverters," said Bob Larkin, W7PUA. This marked their first attempt at using the 5-W level for a QSO. The DSP-10 was a QST construction project by Larkin that appeared in three parts in the September, October and November 1999 issues of QST. The antennas for the QRP contact consisted of 10 and 12-foot TVRO-type dishes. Details are available at Larkin's Web site, <http://www.proaxis.com/~boblark/dsp10.htm>.

*** New BVI QSL Bureau address:** The British Virgin Islands has a new QSL Bureau address effective immediately. It's BVI QSL Bureau, PO Box 4, West End, British Virgin Islands.

*** JAMSAT makes donation to Phase 3D Project:** The Japan Amateur Satellite Corporation has donated approximately \$38,000 to the Phase 3D Project. AMSAT-DL has expressed its gratitude for the contribution toward ongoing AO-40 activities. In a letter to JAMSAT President Tak Okamoto, JA2PKI, AMSAT-DL President and P3D

Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, wrote that the money would go toward helping AMSAT-DL to speed up the commissioning of AO-40, including the SCOPE cameras contributed by JAMSAT.

*** Burton to serve term in Texas:** FCC sources say that former ham Richard Allen Burton, ex-WB6JAC, who was convicted of unlicensed operation, will spend his three months in jail in a federal detention facility in Ft Worth, Texas. Burton also was sentenced earlier this year to one year's probation and must undergo psychological treatment. The sentence resulted from a plea agreement. Originally set to begin serving his term in late February, Burton was allowed another couple of weeks to report to the federal prison in Ft Worth on his own, instead of being transported there in the company of US marshals. He's scheduled to report to begin serving his term March 19. Burton, who has a long history of alleged unlicensed operation, has been free on \$20,000 bond since his arrest last August.

*** The 59(9) DX Report editor retires:** Editor Bob Nadolny, WB2YQH, of The 59(9) DX Report has decided to retire from the DX bulletin business. Nadolny started the publication from scratch seven years ago and grew it into the largest of the US paid-subscription newsletters. The subscription list for all versions has been sold to Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who publishes The Daily DX. McClenny will rename the publication The Weekly DX, and it will be available in paper and Acrobat PDF versions. Nadolny will keep the name The 59(9) DX Report for his Flying Horse Callbook distributorship and will continue to offer the WARC Award and QSL Pipeline Directory. For more information, contact Bernie McClenny, W3UR, bernie@dailydx.com.

*** Florida hams continue fire duty:** Amateur Radio Emergency Service team members in Martin County, Florida, activated March 3 when a large wildfire threatened homes and residents there. County EC Don Marquith, N3PYQ, said the incident arose when both of the county's ARES/RACES repeaters were down in preparation for a move to a new tower. "Obviously, this would be the moment of vulnerability that Murphy always exploits," he said. The County took Marquith up on his offer of ARES' services, and hams were requested to place operators at an American Red Cross shelter being set up at a church as well as at Red Cross headquarters. An ARES/RACES emergency net was activated on the Martin County Amateur Radio Association's WB4VOL 2-meter repeater and subsequently moved to the quickly re-activated WX4MC repeater. Amateur volunteers were deployed to the shelter and the Red Cross HQ, while other ARES team members remained on standby. Residents of 50 homes were evacuated and some homes were damaged, but none were destroyed. "Although none of the evacuees ever went to the shelter, it was clear that the Red Cross and ARES/RACES were very good neighbors that day," Marquith said. ARES/RACES teams in various parts of Florida have been called up in recent weeks as a result of wildfires.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

*** Hams do good turn during snowstorm:** Mike Christopher, W2IW, says he and two other members of the Mid-Island Amateur Radio Club on New York's Long Island helped to transport medical personnel to a local hospital during a recent nor'easter. Christopher, who's club president, says South Side Hospital in Bay Shore called to ask him if any club members with four-wheel-drive vehicles could taxi essential medical personnel to the hospital for the midnight shift. Christopher volunteered himself, and with Dominick DiSalvo, KC2HLL, and Raymond Larsen, N2ZEM, assisted South Side Hospital in getting personnel to work on time. Christopher says Long Island was one of the hardest hit areas by the March 5-6 winter storm that dumped more than a foot of snow on the Greater New York City area and was accompanied by high winds. Two base stations run by Michael Grant, N2OX, and Steven Straus, KC2ACL, assisted the mobile stations by giving directions to various locations and serving as a liaison between the hospital and the mobile units.

*** BCLs to get a clear shot at 1080 kHz:** Broadcast listeners can get a clear shot at clear-channel 1080 kHz on the Standard Broadcast dial Sunday, March 18, when the two dominant stations on the channel shut down briefly. WTIC in Hartford, Connecticut, and KRLD in Dallas, Texas--both Infinity Broadcasting outlets--have arranged to briefly "go dark," so BCL enthusiasts can listen for the other station as well as for the other stations that occupy 1080. "We found out we were going to be doing scheduled maintenance during the same month and decided it would be a nice gesture to the DXing community to coordinate this maintenance, since it would be quite impossible for this to happen naturally," said WTIC Chief Engineer Jeff Hugabone, N1KBY. KRLD will go down first, at 0600 UTC (12 midnight Central Time) and remain off for an undetermined period. WTIC is set to leave the air at 0630 UTC (1:30 AM Eastern Time) and stay off for at least one hour. Hugabone says if KRLD doesn't get back on the air before WTIC's planned return at 0730 UTC (2:30 AM Eastern Time), he will take WTIC off the air for a brief listening window. Handling the KRLD shutdown will be Chief Engineer Eric Disen, WB6LCO. WTIC requests reports on what listeners hear to WTIC Engineering, c/o Jeff Hugabone, 10 Executive Dr, Farmington, CT 06032. He said WTIC is good for a QSL.

*** Cambodia operations approved for DXCC:** Two XU7AAZ operations in Cambodia have been approved for DXCC credit. The XU7AAZ operations took place December 25, 1999, to January 5, 2000 and from December 20 to December 23, 2000. Approval for these operations had been withheld for lack of documentation. The ARRL DXCC Desk has reviewed and accepted XU7AAZ documentation, and stations now can receive DXCC credit. Rejected XU7AAZ submittals can be updated without having to re-submit a QSL by contacting the DXCC Desk, dxcc@arrl.org. Cards also may be included in a subsequent DXCC submittal.

*** New distance record on 76 GHz:** A new world distance record on 76 GHz is being claimed by Palo Alto Amateur

Radio Association member Bob Johnson, KF6KVG, and his partner, Will Jensby, W0EOM, of the 50MHz and Up Group. The new claimed record for 76 GHz was set February 1. Johnson was located southwest of San Jose, California, on Mount Loma Prieta running 1mW to a 12-inch dish antenna. Jensby was located on Mount Vaca near Vacaville running 5 mW to an 18-inch dish. The total distance covered was 145 kilometers based on the "center of grid square to center of grid square" measurement approach.--adapted from PAARAGraphs March 2001

*** Slow Speed Code Practice Net on 40 meters:** The Metro Amateur Radio Club's Slow Speed Code Practice Net meets on the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM Central (currently 0100 UTC) on 7.138 MHz (plus or minus QRM). Listen for "CQ MAC" and send your call sign at your speed. The net will QRS to match the speed of the slowest op. FISTS members are free to exchange numbers with other participants. Net control is Philip, K9PL. For more information, send e-mail to mac@qsl.net or visit the MAC Web site, <http://www.qsl.net/mac>.

*** Vote on QST Cover Plaque Award:** The winners of the QST Cover Plaque Award for March were Dave Benson, NN1G and George Heron, N2APB, for their article "The Warbler--A Simple PSK31 Transceiver for 80 meters." Congratulations, Dave! ARRL members are reminded that the winner of the QST Cover Plaque award--given to the author(s) of the best article in each issue--is determined by a vote of ARRL members. Voting takes place each month on the ARRL Members Only Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvot.html>. As soon as your copy arrives, cast a ballot for your choice as the favorite article in the May issue of QST. Voting ends April 15.

*** "Boing-Boing" Intruder Moves Off 12 Meters:** Some said it sounded like a squeaky spring; others said it sounded like marching. However one's ears interpreted the recent intruder on the 12 meter amateur band, it was gone by Monday, March 19, thanks to successful direction-finding, identification and diplomatic efforts by the FCC. Acting on numerous amateur reports—including one from ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP--the FCC agreed to utilize its HF direction-finding facility in Columbia, Maryland, to locate the source of the periodic, broadband transmission. The HFDF facility isolated the transmissions to Honduras. It also promptly identified the transmissions as Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar (CODAR), an ocean current-mapping technology used in meteorological and commercial applications. A quick phone call and e-mail to the provider of the CODAR equipment at the Honduras site set the wheels in motion to make the signals disappear from 12 meters. "As is often the case in many intrusions, the operator dialed in the wrong frequency," said Brennan Price, N4QX, administrator of the ARRL Monitoring System. "Fortunately, the equipment provider and operator of the CODAR equipment were very cooperative and wanted to do the right thing. We appreciate their efforts."

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

*** Europe Adopts 5 WPM as Morse Code Standard:** The Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations--CEPT--has effectively lowered the Amateur Radio Morse code test speed to 5 WPM for all European countries. The CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), meeting last month in The Hague, adopted a revision of Recommendation 61-02 to include the 5 WPM standard. The European Radiocommunication Office published the revised version of T/R 61-02 this month. The revision, which establishes requirements for the issuance of a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), reduces the Morse requirement from 12 WPM. "In revising what is known as the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02, it has in effect recommended to 44 European countries to adopt the 5 WPM standard," said Wireless Institute of Australia-Victoria President Jim Linton, VK3PC, who closely follows global developments in Amateur Radio Morse code trends. Additional information is available on Linton's Morse code watch site, <http://www.wiavic.org.au/mcw>. More information on CEPT is on the ERO Web site, <http://www.ero.dk>.

*** Alaska PRB-1 Bill Passes Senate:** Alaska's Amateur Radio antenna bill, Senate Bill 78, was approved by the Alaska Senate this week in a 20-0 vote. Last week, SB 78 got approval from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee. The measure now goes to the Alaska House for consideration. ARRL Alaska Section Manager Kent Petty, KL5T, encouraged amateurs in his section to thank the Senate lawmakers for their votes. "They certainly listened to our requests, and deserve our thanks," he said. "The next challenge will be to convince our representatives in the House to take the same important action, and to send this bill to Gov Knowles to sign into law." House members' names and contact information are available on Alaska's legislative Web site, <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/>. More information on PRB-1 and Amateur Radio antenna regulation, is on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/#local>.

*** FCC chairman touts "enforcement model":** Speaking at the CTIA 2001 Wireless show in Las Vegas, Nevada, this week, FCC Chairman Michael Powell said the FCC is rethinking its business model. According to an Infoworld.com report (<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/03/20/010320hnpowell.xml?0321> we am), Powell told the gathering that the FCC is "reviewing the optimal organization and structure" with an eye toward a more-responsive FCC. "We are putting increasing emphasis on an enforcement model as opposed to a regulatory model," he said, in order to speed up the FCC's decision-making process. "When you cheat, we'll get you at the back end." Powell also said there's a delicate balance for agencies such as the FCC between fostering innovation but not imposing it.

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