
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

November 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....N3OJN Stan Riffle
1.V.PRES.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs
2.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

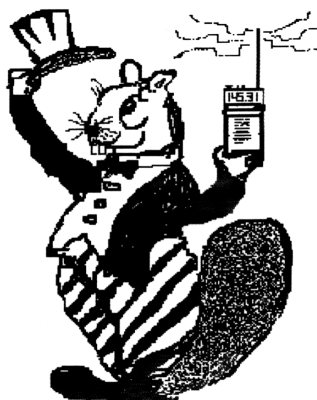
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

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
PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM...3.610
E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255
EAN NET.....2:30 PM DAILY..7.243
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.....8:00 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.

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-

CLUB MEETING

The November B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday the 8th. Be sure to attend

PA QSO PARTY

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association would like to extend its greatest thanks to Ron and Ellie Paine (K3OIW/KA3OSC) for the use of their home as our station location for this year PA QSO Party. Everyone visiting the station marveled at the vibrant fall foliage surrounding the Ambridge reservoir. See the Club's Web Page for pictures of our station and the breath taking view.

This year's contest again turned out to be a big success. The B.V.A.R.A.'s results topped last year by completing a clean sweep of all the Pennsylvania counties for a second straight and more contacts than last year. Great job to the following operators who participated and helped achieve our final results. Wes N3ALS, Al WA3GFM, Chris W3OUF, Stan N3OJN, Debbie KB3EAQ, Bob N3SVM, Dave KA3SMF, & Tony KE3ED.

HAMS NIGHT OUT

This month's "Hams Night Out" will take place on Saturday November 10th, 6:30 PM at the Country Buffet located at "The Pointe" in Findlay Twp near Circuit City. Directions to the Country Buffet from the Beaver Valley are: Head south on PA RT 60 past Pittsburgh International Airport. Go past the Montour run exit (Wickes Furniture) and take the exit to the right leading you into "The Pointe" shopping center and watch the signs. "The Pointe is located across from Robinson Towne Center & IKEA.

B.V.A.R.A. ELECTIONS

At the October Club meeting our Nomination Committee, George WA3ONU, John KC3OW, and Chris W3ONU took nominations for 2002 Club Officers. They are as follows:

President – Debbie Mehutcs KB3EAQ
1st Vice-President – Joe Streit N3GZZ
2nd Vice-President – Stan Riffle N3OJN
Secretary – Bob Reid N3SVM
Treasurer – Wes Morar N3ALS

Since there were not more than 1 nomination to each office the nominations were closed and a single vote was cast to install these candidates in their respective office. Thanks to the Nominating committee for their service and to the nominees for taking on their positions for the coming year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS**B.V.A.R.A. QRM**

Mark your calendar for Friday December 21st when The B.V.A.R.A. will be holding its annual Christmas Party at the Moon Twp. Hoss's Restaurant. More details will be in the December issue of the B.V.A.R.A. QRM.

HAM OF THE YEAR BALLOT

On the last page of this newsletter you will find a ballot to vote for this years "Ham of The Year". All club members are encouraged to fill out a ballot and forward it to Wes Morar N3ALS at 4322 Beverly Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Each member is entitled to 1 vote even if they are in the same household as other members. Be sure that each ballot is in a separate envelope with the members call sign on the outside.

Presentation of this years "Ham of The Year" will be at the upcoming B.V.A.R.A. Christmas Party.

==>SALVATION ARMY STILL NEEDS HAM VOLUNTEERS IN NEW YORK CITY

Although the Salvation Army has cut one shift of radio operators to support the organization's World Trade Center relief operation in New York City, it still needs fresh Amateur Radio volunteers. "We are still short of people," said Jeff Schneller, N2HPO--who's coordinating the Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network, or SATERN, operation.

The midnight to 8 AM shift has been suspended, but SATERN still needs six Amateur Radio operators per shift--a total of 12 per day--for the indefinite future. Schneller said the SATERN volunteers who have been there the longest now "are getting weary."

SATERN needs operators at the Kennedy Airport warehouse with their own base station set up from about 8 AM until about 9 PM--possibly broken into shifts. In addition, SATERN needs operators to ride with trucks to provide communication. Operators start and end shifts at Salvation Army Division HQ on 14th Street in Manhattan, which also needs operators.

Schneller said the word he has from Salvation Army is that the organization is happy with the Amateur Radio support it's been getting. "They want us to keep going," he said. So far, he said, some 40 Amateur Radio operators have turned out to help support the Salvation Army relief effort--some from the New York City area but others from as far away as Missouri, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

"Response from around the nation and the world has been heartwarming," Schneller said, "especially those amateur operators who were willing to put their life on hold, so that they could come help out for a few days or weeks in NYC."

Schneller requested that potential volunteers contact him directly: Home, 718-461-0370; Cell, 917-226-1339; Page, 718-939-3939 (give message to operator); Ham radio, Call N2HPO on the 147.270 repeater (141.3 or 127.3 CTCSS).

The Salvation Army said this week it's sending additional personnel from the Midwest to New York City to assist those who have been on duty since September 11. Members will offer grief counseling, coordinate food service, be on-site in Salvation Army emergency disaster vehicles and organize supplies and volunteers.

==>KODIAK STAR LAUNCH IS A SUCCESS

Following several delays, the Kodiak Star launch vehicle took off into space from Alaska early Sunday, September 30 UTC. The Athena I rocket boosted three Amateur Radio payloads and PICOSat--a technology demonstration satellite--into orbit. Initial indications were that all satellites deployed properly and were being monitored on the ground. The payloads included the APRS-equipped PCsat, built by midshipmen from the US Naval Academy under the guidance of Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the acknowledged "father of APRS."

PCsat is a 1200-baud APRS digipeater designed for use by amateurs using hand-held transceivers or mobiles. PCsat is transmitting 1200 baud AFSK telemetry on 145.825 MHz, but the satellite has not yet been commissioned for general amateur use. "We ask that users please wait while we get the system loaded," Bruninga said.

PCsat's downlink has been heard around the world, with reports logged from Alaska and Hawaii as well as from South Africa, Europe, Africa and even Antarctica.

Carried into space in addition to PCsat were the Starshine 3 and Sapphire payloads. Starshine3 is a "disco" mirror ball with 9600 baud telemetry on 145.825. Sapphire has 1200-baud telemetry and a voice replay on 437.1 MHz. Starshine 3's mirror ball is visible to the naked eye for earthbound students to track. Chip Margelli, K7JA, spotted the satellite October 2 on the West Coast. "Starshine was at least as bright as Mars," he reported. "Very impressive!"

Sapphire is a joint effort between the Naval Academy's Small Satellite Program, Stanford University and Washington University at St. Louis. Starshine is a NASA payload.

The Kodiak Star launch--the first orbital mission from the Kodiak launch complex--had to be delayed several times--most recently due to high solar flare activity this past week. Earlier delays resulted from unsuitable weather conditions, a problem with a tracking radar, and travel delays because of the recent air traffic shutdown following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

For more information, visit the PCsat Web site, <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/pcsat.html>. For more

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information on Sapphire, visit the Stanford University Space Systems Development Laboratories Web site, http://ssdl.stanford.edu/aa/projects/squirt1/sapphire_overview.html. The Starshine Web site is <http://www.azinet.com/starshine/>

==>CORES/FRN "MASS CONVERSION" PLANNED FOR ULS REGISTRANTS

Before the switchover to mandatory Commission Registration System (CORES) registration on December 3, 2001, the FCC plans to do a "mass conversion" from its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

Once CORES becomes mandatory in December, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move is "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the ULS were assigned an FRN by CORES in a mass conversion last year. Affected amateurs were notified by mail.

An FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau spokesperson told ARRL this week that another mass conversion will be done prior to December. As a result, anyone who has registered a Taxpayer Identification Number--typically an individual's Social Security Number--with the FCC will be assigned an FRN, which will appear in the FCC amateur database.

The requirement to obtain an FRN extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. An FRN will not be needed to file comments in rulemaking proceedings, however.

Amateur Service licensees not already registered in the ULS are encouraged to register their TINs soon, to save the step of a second CORES registration after December 3. To register, visit the FCC's ULS Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click on "Register TIN/Call Sign." (NOTE: The Universal Licensing System will be down for scheduled maintenance from 10 PM Eastern Time Friday, October 5, until 8 AM Eastern Time Monday, October 8.)

The FCC established CORES last year and has been in the process of implementing it. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concedes that a lot of issues remain undecided regarding how CORES/FRN will work for the Amateur Service. For more information on CORES/FRN, visit the FCC CORES Web site <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/core/CoresHome.html>.

==>AO-40 SUCCESSFULLY TESTS GPS EXPERIMENT

AMSAT News Service reports that the GPS experiment on the AO-40 satellite has undergone successful testing. The

experiment--supplied and sponsored by NASA--is designed to determine if it is possible to get positional data while outside of the GPS ring of satellites.

"We received a signal on the apogee receiver from about 52,000 km out with good signal levels," said Jim White, WD0E, who's been the AMSAT coordinator and chief operator for this activity. "Further data is being gathered and those downloaded so far are being analyzed."

There are two GPS receivers on AO-40, A and B. The A receiver is for receiving signals while in the vicinity of apogee--when the satellite is farthest from Earth. The B receiver provides signal reception in the vicinity of perigee--when the satellite is closest to Earth. Both receivers are operational, and data are passed from the receivers through the RUDAK digital transponder to the S-band transmitter.

AMSAT-VP for Human Spaceflight Programs Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, was instrumental in setting up the GPS experiment. "If this experiment goes the way I expect, it will revolutionize the way we use GPS in space," Bauer said. "Many future HEO (high Earth orbit) spacecraft will be able to take advantage of GPS for autonomous navigation and station keeping."

Earlier this month, AO-40 ground controllers successfully tested the spacecraft's 24-GHz transmitter. The K-band transmitter on 24.048 GHz was activated September 9 on orbit 396 and connected to the passband and beacon inputs that feed the S2 (2.4 GHz) transmitter.

For more information on AO-40, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <<http://www.amsat.org>>.

==>ENFORCEMENT CASE HIGHLIGHTS FCC CERTIFICATION RULES

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth used the occasion of a recent Warning Notice to hammer home the FCC's position on the sale of RF amplifiers that have not received FCC certification--formerly called "type acceptance." In a September 19 letter to Extra licensee Sidney Lee Martin, KD4YBC, Hollingsworth reiterated an earlier FCC warning to Martin that he cease commercial marketing of non-certificated external RF amplifiers and amplifier kits capable of operating below 144 MHz.

In 1978, the FCC banned the manufacture and sale of any external RF amplifier or amplifier kit capable of operating below 144 MHz without a grant of certification from the FCC. The rules specifically prohibit manufacture and sale of amps that operate between 24 and 35 MHz as a means to stem the flow of illegal Citizens Band amplifiers.

The case arose from a February 11, 2000, warning to Martin from the FCC's Detroit office as a result of a classified ad Martin had run in QST. The ad featured the sale of external

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Amateur Radio RF amplifier kits for HF and 6 meters. The FCC letter admonished Martin that selling or offering such units for sale violated Section 2.815 of the FCC's rules.

Martin--who operated a one-man business called RF Electronics in South Carolina--countered with his interpretation that he was allowed, under FCC Part 97 Amateur Service rules, to sell such kits as one amateur to another under an exception to the certification rules. Martin argued that Section 97.315 of the Amateur Service rules permitted his licensed customers to purchase from him--as another licensee--and construct or modify one model of a non-certificated RF power amp or kit per calendar year for that licensee's personal use.

The FCC rejected that analysis, however. Hollingsworth emphasized that Section 2.815(c) of the FCC's rules requires all external RF power amplifier kits that can operate below 144 MHz after assembly be FCC-certificated before they can be made, sold, leased, marketed, imported, shipped or distributed. He noted that other provisions of Section 2.815 apply only to certain already fabricated amplifiers and do not exempt amplifier kits, particularly those capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz after assembly.

Hollingsworth said Section 97.315 also "specifically prohibits the use in the Amateur Service of an amplifier that the operator had constructed from a non-certified kit." He also noted that, in addition to kits, Martin's RF Electronics Web site had been selling non-certificated, assembled RF power amplifiers for use below 144 MHz. Hollingsworth said at least three of the assembled models were advertised as operational between 24 and 35 MHz.

Hollingsworth said FCC rules permit an individual amateur to construct or modify a non-certificated RF power amplifier once per calendar year for use at that amateur's own station--although the unit may not be built from a kit--and the amateur may then sell the amplifier to another licensee or dealer. The rules do not provide for mass marketing or manufacturing and marketing kits or assembled amplifiers as part of a business, Hollingsworth said. He added that the FCC would prosecute any violations and take enforcement action against Martin's amateur license.

Martin's Web site no longer offers any RF amplifiers for sale.

==>SATERN OPERATION MARKS ONE MONTH IN NEW YORK CITY

One month into its disaster relief support operation in New York City, Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network (SATERN) volunteers are holding up well. SATERN Amateur Radio Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, says the operation could run for several more weeks.

"Our current team of Amateur Radio operators is doing a fantastic job," Schneller said. "The operation is going great!"

SATERN is now "making do" with at least six Amateur Radio volunteers per day, from about 9 AM until 11 PM, primarily to support the Salvation Army World Trade Center canteen operations, although Schneller said an even dozen for the two daily shifts would be ideal. SATERN last week eliminated its overnight shift of radio operator volunteers. Operators have come from all over, including New Hampshire, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida and Missouri. Schneller said he even had offers of help from England and Canada.

One operator, Janet Stonecipher, KC0IET, arrived on her own from Missouri three weeks ago. "Janet seems to want to stay for the duration but is overdue for rotation out," Schneller said. Another Missourian, Anna Balmer, arrived with a REACT team and stayed on. "She is here working with us under extreme circumstances," Schneller explained. "Her brother was killed in the Pentagon attack." He said two local groups--the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS) and the Electchester VHF Club have been providing exclusive use of their repeaters since Day One.

Schneller, who's in the fire alarm and sprinkler business, also has been involved from the start, and--with the understanding and support of his customers--has been logging some long hours. Carlos Varon, K2LCV, has been Schneller's backup and has taken over as scheduling coordinator for volunteers. Recently, however, Schneller has had to start paying more attention to his business again. Even so, he said, "most work days get cut short to resolve problems." Most employers seem to be supporting the volunteers, he added.

SATERN radio volunteers have been handling base station duties at Salvation Army Headquarters on 14th Street in Manhattan, working on roving patrols to check up on various Salvation Army canteen sites to see what might be needed, and providing communication at key field sites, aboard supply trucks and at the distribution warehouse. Along with physical nourishment, The Salvation Army is supplying emotional and spiritual sustenance at the World Trade Center disaster site through its two prayer centers.

"Thanks to all the Amateur Radio operators who have come to assist and made this a successful operation," Schneller said, adding that he also appreciated the many other offers to help. SATERN now is limiting its fresh volunteers to those available from the Greater New York City area.

Schneller strongly advised all Amateur Radio operators to prepare for the future by first getting acquainted with and joining their local ARES or SATERN teams, then by taking the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>>. More information about SATERN is available on the SATERN Web site <<http://www.saturn.org>>.

==>FCC SAYS BAND PLANS DO MATTER

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The FCC recently asked three amateurs to respond to complaints alleging that they deliberately transmitted SSB on top of CW stations operating in the vicinity of 1820 to 1825 kHz. The FCC has never designated mode-specific subbands in the 160-meter amateur band. Instead, operators are asked to voluntarily adhere to the ARRL band plan, revised this past summer, which recommends a lower limit of 1843 kHz for SSB operation.

In the wake of the complaints, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote George Wehrung, W5TZ, and Dennis Clauder, KT5S--both of Texas--and Derrick Vogt, WA4TWM, of Kansas in mid-September. Hollingsworth asked each to respond to allegations from several other operators that their SSB transmissions deliberately interfered with attempts by others to operate on CW between 1820 and 1830 kHz. Copies of the complaints were sent to all three operators.

"Band plans are voluntary in nature," Hollingsworth acknowledged in each of the similarly worded letters. He said the FCC depends upon voluntary compliance because it minimizes the necessity for the Commission to be called in to resolve amateur problems. "Where interference results from band plans not being followed," Hollingsworth continued, "the Commission expects substantial justification to be shown by the operators ignoring the band plans."

Hollingsworth requested that Wehrung, Clauder and Vogt each reply to the complaints within 20 days.

==>IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CALLS FOR END TO MORSE REQUIREMENT

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council this week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute."

The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.

The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval--without opposition--of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

==>BATTLE LOOMS OVER PART 15 ACCESS TO 425-435 MHZ

The FCC has proposed changes to its Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices that would allow operation of advanced RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz. By going along with a request made earlier this year by SAVI Technology Inc and fiercely opposed by ARRL, the FCC has set the stage for another battle between amateur and commercial interests.

"The FCC hasn't thought this through," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. He contends that the Part 15 RFID proposal—included this week as part of a larger Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order—is "contrary to the whole philosophy of the Part 15 rules." Sumner said the RFID devices SAVI proposes more properly belong on frequencies that are also authorized for use by devices regulated by FCC's Part 18 Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) rules.

The FCC said this week's NPRM&O would modify the rules for RFID systems "to harmonize our rules with those in other parts of the world and to allow for improved operation." Sumner said that 433.9 MHz is allocated for ISM devices in 10 European countries but not in the rest of the world, including ITU Region 2 (North and South America).

Last March, the ARRL urged the FCC to deny or dismiss SAVI Technology's petition. The League argued that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposed for its RFID tags were unreasonable "and would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations."

SAVI, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, told the FCC it needed the rules changes to

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satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities. The FCC this week said it agreed with SAVI that changes to its Part 15 rules to allow more advanced RFID systems in the 433 MHz band "would serve the public interest." It proposed to create a new section to Part 15 that would allow operation of RFIDs in the 425-435 MHz band and transmissions of up to two minutes at maximum field strengths now only permitted for extremely short-duration, intermittent control signals.

In an apparent about face, the FCC said it believes the proposed levels would offer only minimal interference potential for licensed users. The FCC in the past has acknowledged serious interference potential and has prohibited data transmission, among other things, at the proposed field strengths for that very reason.

As proposed, transmissions of 120 seconds would be permitted with just a 10-second silent period between transmissions. Under Section 15.231(e) periodic radiators are permitted field strengths of less than 5000 uV/m at 433 MHz measured at three meters, with duty cycles of less than one second and a silent period between transmissions that's at least 30 times the duration of the transmission.

The League pointed out in its earlier comments that the Communications Act of 1934 lacks authority to allow unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential. "Such devices must be licensed," the ARRL concluded. Unlicensed Part 15 devices must not interfere with licensed services and must tolerate interference received from licensed radio services in the same band.

Another portion of the proceeding involves the 13.56 MHz ISM frequency. Sumner said that proposal "at first glance" might permit increased emissions in the bottom 10 kHz of the 20-meter amateur band. Sumner said the ARRL would take a closer look at this section of the overall proposal before assessing its interference potential.

Sumner said the League plans to file a strong opposition to the FCC's NPRM&O. The entire Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 (which incorporates RM-9375 and RM-10051) is available on the ARRL Web site.

==>FCC STOPS ACCEPTING FILINGS ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPES

The FCC announced this week that, effective immediately, hand or messenger-delivered filings enclosed in envelopes will not be accepted at FCC Headquarters until further notice. The Commission is encouraging everyone to file electronically or via fax whenever possible.

Filings and other documents in envelopes or packages destined for the FCC should continue to be addressed to FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. At least for now, these deliveries will be diverted to the FCC's

Capitol Heights facility--at 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, Maryland--for special handling. The FCC said it's looking for an alternative Washington, DC, site to accept delivery of filings on a more permanent basis.

A Public Notice said that starting Monday, October 22, the FCC will accept originals and copies of official filings addressed to the Commission's Secretary "held together with rubber bands or fasteners" only at its Capitol Heights facility. The FCC was accepting no hand-delivered or messenger-delivered filings--in envelopes or otherwise--before October 22. Filing deadlines for both paper and electronic filings were extended in light of the new procedures.

The changes were necessary "as a precautionary measure," the FCC said. "As the Commission continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to its customers with the need for heightened security measures, the Commission encourages its customers to make full use of the Commission's electronic filing systems to facilitate the filing of documents," an FCC announcement said.

The FCC Public Notice made no direct reference to the current anthrax scare. It also made no mention of any change in procedures regarding filings mailed in envelopes to its Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office--where Amateur Service applications typically are sent.

The FCC said the Commission's Office of the Secretary will work with bureaus and offices, as appropriate, to handle bulk filings in accordance with the just-announced precautionary measures. The new no-envelopes procedures extend to filings requesting confidential treatment under the Commission's rules.

The FCC directed all questions about the new procedures to the Commission's Secretary, msalas@fcc.gov, or 202-418-0300.

Visit the FCC Web Site for more information.

==>ISS CREW CHIEF MAY BE ON THE AIR FOR JOTA

International Space Station Expedition 3 Crew Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, says he hopes to be on the air October 20-21 from NA1SS during Scouting's annual Jamboree On The Air. Stations not participating in JOTA are requested to give preference to Scouting/JOTA stations attempting to contact NA1SS.

"The ISS crew is very busy but excited about supporting JOTA QSOs," said Will Marchant, KC6ROL, of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. "Frank had packed his Scouting T-shirt and will be wearing that during the QSOs."

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Culbertson will use the general QSO voice frequencies: In Regions 2 and 3 (this includes the US), the frequencies are 144.490 MHz up and 145.800 MHz down; in Region 1 (Europe, Africa and the Middle East), the frequencies are 145.200 MHz up and 145.800 MHz down. See the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/10/16/1/>, for approximate pass times.

Marchant advised stations to always listen before transmitting and to wait until NA1SS calls for the next station before transmitting. If NA1SS comes back to someone else, stop calling and wait until that contact is completed before trying again. He also says Culbertson hopes to be able to find more time for casual ham radio contacts in the days and weeks ahead.

During JOTA, Amateur Radio operators around the world invite Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts/Guides to their stations to chat with each other and to learn about Amateur Radio at the same time. Details are spelled out in the September 2001 issue of QST (see page 48) and on the ARRL Web JOTA page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>.

==>CQ ASKS CONTESTERS TO E-MAIL ALL LOGS

CQ magazine is asking all participants in CQ-sponsored Amateur Radio contests to submit their logs electronically. "In light of recent events regarding hazardous items sent through the mail, logs received through the mail at the CQ offices will be held unopened until all potential health risks have been evaluated," a CQ Communications news release said. CQ said it cannot guarantee that logs submitted via the US Postal Service will be opened.

All logs for the CQ World Wide DX Contest, the CQ WPX Contest, the CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest, the CQ World Wide VHF Contest and the CQ/RTTY Journal RTTY contests should be submitted via e-mail according to the instructions in the rules for each contest.

CQ Communications President Dick Ross, K2MGA, said CQ regrets the inconvenience to contesters lacking Internet or e-mail access or those who log by hand, but he said CQ did not want to risk the chance that staff members or contest committee volunteers might be exposed to dangerous packages sent through the mail. CQ suggested that contesters not now using computer logging programs start doing so.

CQ also suggested that hand loggers transcribe their logs into an ASCII (.txt) file using a word processor, separating each contact element with a tab, separating each contact with a carriage return, and e-mailing the resulting file to the address listed in the contest rules. "Be sure to include the required information about your station in a covering e-mail message," the CQ notice advised.--CQ Communications news release

==>ARRL TO FCC: NO COMMERCIAL USERS AT 2390-2400 MHz!

The ARRL this week urged the FCC "in the strongest possible terms" to make no commercial allocations in the Amateur Service 2390 to 2400 MHz primary allocation. The League tentatively suggested, however, that hams might be willing to share the band with compatible government services that are displaced to make room for advanced wireless systems.

The ARRL told the FCC that advanced wireless services "are fundamentally incompatible with continued amateur access to the band."

The federal government, on the other hand, "has historically been a compatible sharing partner," the League said, adding that government uses would offer "the least disruptive opportunities for sharing" in the band. The ARRL made clear that such sharing should happen only "if it is absolutely necessary to re-accommodate some displaced users" and would be "subject to compatibility studies."

The ARRL commented this week in four separate proceedings dealing with allocations for advanced and third-generation wireless systems, the mobile satellite service and the Unlicensed Personal Communications Service (U-PCS). The ARRL focused its remarks on ET Docket 00-258, which included 2390-2400 MHz as a candidate band for advanced wireless services.

Commenting on the WINForum Petition for Rule Making (RM-9498) that seeks to modify technical rules for Part 15 U-PCS operation at 2390 to 2400 MHz, the ARRL reiterated its position of two years ago. The ARRL said it still opposed a power increase for asynchronous U-PCS devices in the band and said there can be no change in maximum power spectral density. The ARRL called those two provisions "critical to the compatible sharing plan that resulted in ARRL support of the U-PCS authorization" in the band.

The ARRL also asked the FCC to retain the non-government primary Amateur Service allocation at 2390-2400 MHz. The ARRL also noted that amateur allocations in the vicinity of 2 GHz "have been steadily eroded" through encroachment by other services.

==>FCC CLARIFIES DETAILS OF CORES AMATEUR IMPLEMENTATION

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has clarified several issues regarding Amateur Service implementation of the Commission Registration System--or CORES. Starting December 3, everyone doing business with the FCC--including amateur licensees--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing. Many amateurs will not need to take any action to comply with the new requirement, which further expands the number of FCC abbreviations, numbers and systems hams need to be aware of.

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Amateur licensees now registered in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) already have been cross-registered in CORES and issued an FRN by mail. The FCC said it planned another cross-registration by November 28. Amateurs can check to see if they have an FRN via a ULS license search. Many Internet call sign servers, including ARRL's, also provide this information.

Once CORES becomes mandatory, the FCC will "auto-register" all amateurs who seek to register in ULS and will issue them an FRN. Amateurs then should use the FRN in place of a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN--typically an individual's Social Security Number) when filing applications with the FCC. New or upgrade license applicants not previously registered in ULS will be registered automatically in both CORES and ULS when they provide a TIN on a license application filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Both ULS and CORES will contain a licensee's FRN, but updating information in one system will not update the other. For amateurs, CORES registration will replace ULS "TIN/Call Sign" registration. Once CORES becomes mandatory, those registering in ULS will be redirected to CORES registration. The ULS will remain the Amateur Service licensing database within WTB, however, and only ULS will associate an individual with a particular call sign and FRN.

Going away December 3 will be the so-called Assigned Taxpayer Identification Number, or ATIN, which the FCC has been issuing to applicants ineligible to obtain a Social Security Number, such as foreign applicants and club station licensees. CORES will offer exemptions to amateur clubs and to foreign entities not holding a TIN/SSN. The FCC is encouraging club station applicants to first register in CORES and then use their FRN when filing via a Club Station Call Sign Administrator. Club station applicants also may use a trustee's TIN/SSN or a tax-exempt club's IRS-assigned EIN.

The WTB says that starting December 3, "all passwords will be maintained in the CORES database." Amateurs using paper FCC Form 160 to register in CORES will be mailed a CORES password for on-line access.

The FCC continues to work out the details of how amateurs, CORES and ULS will coexist. Amateur Service testing with CORES is planned for November. For more information about CORES, visit the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/>> and click on the "Commission Registration System" link.

==>ISS CREW CHIEF ADDS SOME SPICE TO JOTA

Although he's been licensed a relatively short time, International Space Station crew commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, sounded like a contesting pro last weekend during Scouting's Jamboree On The Air. A former Boy Scout himself, Culbertson--operating NA1SS--worked a

string of JOTA participants in the US and abroad October 20-21. Culbertson even brought along his Scout T-shirt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

==>SATERN ENDS WORLD TRADE CENTER SUPPORT OPERATION

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Response Network (SATERN) Amateur Radio volunteer support effort in the wake of the World Trade Center attack in New York City has ended. SATERN Amateur Radio Liaison Officer Jeff Schneller,

N2HPO, says the operation wrapped up October 18. The Salvation Army now is relying on Nextel and cellular telephone service.

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

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

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

The Merrills said they came away from their SATERN volunteer experience feeling as though they had "lived a lifetime in a few short days," but with "friendships that will last a lifetime" and "stories that have no end."

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

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

==>FCC PUTS KENWOOD "SKY COMMAND" PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE

The FCC has put on public notice a rulemaking petition from Kenwood Communications Corporation requesting that the FCC relax restrictions on Amateur Radio auxiliary station operation. The FCC assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition and invited public comment. The petition

marks Kenwood's latest attempt to legalize its "Sky Command" remote station control system.

Kenwood seeks a change in Part 97 rules that would expand permission to operate an auxiliary station on all 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 MHz, except on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz. While not mentioning Sky Command by name, Kenwood said the proposed rule change "would allow the development and use by amateurs of new technology devices and increase the utility of the limited amateur allocations." Current FCC rules limit auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In July 2000, the FCC declared that use of the Sky Command did not comply with Amateur Service rules--specifically Section 97.201(b)--and declined to grant a waiver make it legal. The ARRL commented in opposition to Kenwood's earlier efforts to have the system declared to be in compliance, and it refused to permit Sky Command advertisements in QST

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/3/>>.

Sky Command lets a user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-band transceivers. It operates in full duplex, using frequencies on 70-cm and 2 meters.

In its latest Petition for Rule Making filed May 1, Kenwood asserted that auxiliary operation is "poorly defined" in the FCC rules and "significantly overregulated." Kenwood argued that present limitations on auxiliary operation no longer are appropriate in today's amateur environment and should be withdrawn.

Amateurs may view and comment on the Kenwood proposal via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>.

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

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

That provision, now a topic for discussion on news groups and Web sites, would require anybody possessing "significant military equipment formerly owned by the Department of Defense" either to have it "demilitarized" or to return it to the government for demilitarization. The provision also has the National Rifle Association and a large number of firearms enthusiasts up in arms and wondering whether it would affect their hobby if it's included in the final legislation.

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

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

"In other words, it does not refer to radios, but rather to large shipments of large military ordinance like missile guidance systems and rocket launchers," Mansfield said.

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

==>IN BRIEF:

* FCC to dismiss filings submitted on outdated Form 605:

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has announced that, starting Monday, October 15, it will dismiss all submittals it receives on Form 605 Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Service that bear edition dates prior to March 2001. This change does not affect applicants filing on-line via the Universal Licensing System (ULS). WTB encourages applicants to use ULS to speed application processing and to have access to the other information available via the ULS. The FCC advises that amateurs can avoid problems by submitting on-line application via the FCC's Universal Licensing System Web site, <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>>. To obtain a current copy of Form 605, visit the FCC "Forms" page, <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/csinfo/orderfrm.html>>. Paper copies of Form 605 also are available from the FCC Forms Distribution Center, 800-418-3676.--FCC

* W1AW completes installation of AO-40 antennas:

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW is now 100% AO-40 ready. XX Towers Inc--the ARRL tower service contractor--recently completed the installation of satellite antennas and an az-el rotator atop the center tower on W1AW's antenna farm. The array consists of a 2-meter 20-element crossed Yagi, a 70-cm 15-element crossed Yagi, a 23-cm 23-element Yagi and a 13-cm 17-turn helix. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says he's been able to copy downlink telemetry but has yet to make a QSO via AO-40, primarily due to conflicts between the station's bulletin transmission schedule and the availability of AO-40.

* Vertex Standard donates loaned gear to Virginia ARES:

Vertex Standard (Yaesu) has donated several pieces of Amateur Radio gear to Virginia ARES. The manufacturer had arranged to loan an FT-7100 transceiver with power supply and the three VX-5 hand-held transceivers during the Virginia ARES response to assist the Salvation Army at the Pentagon attack site. When Virginia SEC Tom Gregory, N4NW, e-mailed to thank Vertex Standard and to inquire about returning the equipment, Vertex Standard Executive Vice President Mikio Maruya, WA6F told him that Virginia ARES was welcome to keep it on hand for future emergencies. "We hope it will provide you with long and lasting use for all your emergency needs," Maruya said. "We were happy to assist in this emergency effort." Gregory said the Vertex Standard gear "allowed us to meet the needs of providing continuous Amateur Radio support to the Salvation Army." The Woodbridge, Virginia, Ham Radio Outlet store cooperated in providing the Virginia ARES team with the needed equipment on September 13.

* ZK1NDK North Cook Island operation now good for DXCC credit:

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, has announced approval of ZK1NDK, North Cook Island, for DXCC credit. Documentation now has been reviewed and

okayed for DXCC credit. Those who submitted ZK1NDK previously and were denied credit may contact DXCC <dxcc@arrl.org>, and have their records updated without having to resubmit cards.

*** ARRL not soliciting for affinity credit cards:** The ARRL is not telemarketing amateurs to sign up for an affinity credit card. Some ARRL members have reported being solicited for such products that were said to be offered in connection with an Amateur Radio organization. The ARRL is not sponsoring these solicitations and has no plans to do so in the future.

*** DXCC credit now approved for TT8DX operation:** Through the help of recent inquiries on the Internet, the ARRL DXCC Desk has received and accepted documentation for TT8DX (Chad). Those who submitted TT8DX previously and were denied credit may contact DXCC <dxcc@arrl.org> and have their records updated without having to resubmit cards.--DXCC Desk

*** Special event station K7UGA on the air October 20-21:** The famous K7UGA call sign, once held by former US and presidential candidate Sen Barry Goldwater of Arizona, will be on the air during the October 20-21 weekend. Goldwater was a Life Member of the Central Arizona DX Association, and K7UGA was re-issued to the CADXA last October. K7UGA will be on the air on CW (32 kHz up from the band edge) and SSB (5-10 kHz up from the General band edge). Also look for K7UGA on 10.110, 18.090, and 24.905 on CW and on 18.160 and 24.965 on SSB. For more information, visit the CADXA Web site, <<http://www.cadxa.org>>.--Dave Hollander, N7RK/

*** Dayton Hamvention picks emergency communications theme:** The theme of the 2002 Dayton Hamvention will be emergency communications and preparedness, the Hamvention Committee announced this week in a letter to vendors and exhibitors. Hamvention said it's expecting

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"record attendance for 2002" at its 51st show, May 17-19, 2002. The annual event draws upwards of 30,000.

"Hamvention expresses deep concern for the tragic events that occurred September 11, 2001, and the world events since," the letter said. "In order to show our support for Amateur Radio, we are going to emphasize emergency communications and preparedness as our theme for Hamvention 2002." The committee said it anticipates new Amateur Radio-related exhibitors as a result and would "limit the number of computer exhibitors at the show to only those who are related to Amateur Radio."

*** Amateurs assist with American's United Flag Run:** "American's United Flag Run"--a grass roots effort sponsored by American Airlines and United Air Lines employees--is seeking help from the Amateur Radio community to provide short-range communications as the run progresses across the US along a southerly route. "This event is to honor the crew and passengers killed on September 11, to show the American Spirit and to raise money for relief funds already established," said American Airlines Captain Bill Lokes. Runners started in Boston on October 11 and are scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles November 11. Recently, hams in Georgia contributed their services to the cause as the flag run passed through that state. Georgia ARES--under the leadership of Section Emergency Coordinator Lowry Rouse, KM4Z--provided communications for the organizers from the South Carolina to the Alabama borders. The flag run Web site <<http://www.flagrun.org>> has a map, anticipated itinerary and more details about the event. Amateur Radio clubs or groups are invited to contact Bill Lokes, 610-767-9246; blokes@fast.net, or Gene Atwell at 215-348-1594; atwell@mindspring.com.

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