B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ **February 2002**

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL **447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL**

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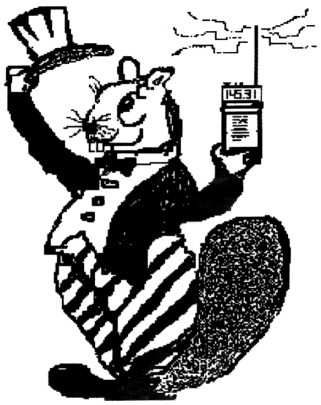

THE NET LIST

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 & TFC NET…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...28.370

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.qsl.net/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	What good is it?
3	Restriction "How To Chart"
4	ISS to Install New Ham Antennas
5	And More…

==**CLUB NEWS**==

CLUB MEETING

The February B.V.A.R.A. will be held on Thursday the 14th at the Beaver County Emergency Center, 250 East End Avenue, Beaver PA. at 7:30 PM. We'll look forward to seeing you. Be sure to bring a friend.

W3AMB SK

Since our last issue of the QRM we have suffered the loss of a dear friend and long time member of the B.V.A.R.A. Chuck W3AMB left us on Friday January 8th to join his beloved Erma N3BGZ. He will truly be missed at all club functions as Chuck was ever present.

*** REMINDER* REPEATER CODES CHANGED AS OF 2-01-02**

Repeater autopatch codes will be changed as of February 1, 2002. Only 2002 members will be supplied the new codes. In this newsletter you will find a wallet sized slip of paper with the new autopatch code. Please remove it and keep in a safe place. This code should not be disclosed to **ANYONE** even if you know them. Anyone inquiring the new code should be directed to Tony KE3ED so that he can verify membership.

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday February 2nd, 2002 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building located at 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. Also you can see our exact location via APRS on 144.39 Mhz. Look for W3SGJ.

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.

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 **NO LONGER** 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

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SLASH AND A BACKSLASH?

At our last meeting, there was some confusion on what was a '/' and '\' was. This is taken straight from an internet site that deals with computer terms. It is located at http://www.pcwebopedia.com

It says the following: The backslash character is, \ a simple slash or forward slash is /. In DOS and Windows systems, the backslash represent the root directory and is also used to separate directory names and filenames in a pathname.

I hope this clears up some confusion.

Dave KA3SMF

WHAT IS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

I am would to make a page, on the website, with all the members email addresses on them. If you would like them on the page, email them to me at ka3smf@usaor.net

DAVE - KA3SMF

WHAT GOOD IS IT?

By: Tony Petruccelli – KE3ED
WPA ASM - Packet

I enjoy playing radio. I know you do too. Otherwise why else would we go through, what some may say is, the hassle of getting an amateur radio license? All that theory and Morse code, right? But what neat things we can do. We can talk to friends, acquaintances, and even strangers across town or around the world, transmit pictures without wires, even television. The really nice thing is that once the equipment is paid for we no longer have to pay anything to operate as much as we want. If you're technically inclined you may opt to build your own equipment from a kit or just parts lying around the house and cut that cost even more. And what a

choice of modes we have to operate. What other hobby offers as many choices of interest? So many modes so little time, eh?

If you're like me though you may have caught yourself thinking 'but what can I really use it all for?' As you well know we cannot use amateur radio for making money and private coded transmissions are prohibited too. Conversations for the most part are of no real importance. So is there any real utility for amateur radio? Of course there is. Hand held radios are indispensable in search and rescue efforts and even though more and more people are getting cell phones there is still a place for a repeater autopatch in the event of an emergency.

What is really getting a lot of my attention these days is Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). To some this mode may be just a bunch of icons showing up on a map. However if you dig a bit deeper you will see there is much more to it than that. You talk about utility, WOW! Here we have a mode that can show present location of a station and pass traffic and information at the same time. Now we can track weather spotters, search and rescue teams in the field or even friends and loved ones crossing town or traveling across country. Showing us direction, speed of travel and estimated time of arrival. At the same time we can type text messages back and forth with these stations. Nice.

But how much equipment is needed to run APRS? No more than any other packet application. All that's necessary is a 2 meter radio, packet tnc, antenna, computer and appropriate software. The program, which draws a map on your screen and positions station locations according to data received, is shareware and can be downloaded from the Internet. A hardware tnc is really not needed any longer with the use of a software tnc program and your computer soundcard.

For an individual, another nice touch of APRS is that weather data can be accessed from other operators on frequency with weather stations attached. With a click of your mouse pointer on a weather icon you can view the current weather conditions at that location including temperature, windspeed and direction, barometric pressure, rainfall and so forth.

I have a nephew whose interest in weather and Skywarn spurred him on to earn his amateur radio license. Watching APRS operate and the weather information available has driven his interest in radio even more. Seeing that he can interface his own weather station to a radio and the ability to collect weather data from other APRS stations has made his interest in the mode soar.

How can APRS aid a club? I'm sure you've ventured to hamfests or VE test sessions and used a talk-in frequency for directions. Why not show the exact location of your events on a map via the APRS system starting a week prior? The beacon can include a short text message describing talk-in frequency or whatever else you may want to say. Monthly club meetings can be announced this way too. What a great tool for Sections Managers who make guest appearances in their section. Now they can see the exact location of the club meeting or field day site they may wish to visit.

Think of the advantage of having an APRS station set up at a county emergency operations center. ARES activities can be monitored in ways not available just a few years ago. Sure, Packet has been available for over 15 years. With it we were able to send and receive text messaging in an error corrected environment, but this great enhancement we call APRS can give us all that plus show locations of our operators in the field, exchange of information and so much more simultaneously. Our EOC can see all its field operators at a glance and communicate with them with the click of a mouse.

Did you know that the program WinAPRS has the ability to send and receive NTS traffic? Just food for thought.

So as you can see, there is great potential and much utility available using APRS. Do you have any ideas?

==>FCC DENIAL LEAVES LEAGUE EYEING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON DEED RESTRICTIONS

The ARRL got the proverbial lump of coal in its stocking in late December, but it wasn't from Santa. The FCC affirmed a November 2000 staff-level decision that declined to include privately imposed deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. That policy requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication in antenna-related zoning and regulation.

The ARRL a year ago appealed to have the full FCC review the earlier denial. The Commission turned down the League's Application for Review December 18 in a Memorandum Opinion and Order released December 26.

"There has not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said. The Commission said hams still can get on the air without installing residential antenna systems by operating away from home, while mobile or at club stations.

The FCC said it recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of contractual relations that CC&Rs represent. It asserted that the ARRL had submitted no specific evidence that would persuade it to abandon its long-standing policy of excluding CC&Rs from PRB-1.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed disappointment in the Commission's ruling. "The biggest problem Amateur Radio operators face today is being able to put up an antenna," Haynie said. "Our only approach now is to get a bill into Congress."

The FCC itself even hinted that Congressional action ought to be a next logical step. "However, should Congress see fit to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion of our reasonable accommodation policy," the FCC declared in its MO&O, "the Commission would expeditiously act to fulfill its obligation thereunder."

Haynie conceded that extending PRB-1 protection to CC&Rs would be "a tough sell" to members of Congress. He noted, however, that it's getting more difficult all the time for amateurs to find desirable housing that does not come with deed covenants and restrictions. "It's extremely serious for the amateur community, because it restricts what hams will be able to do in the future," he said.

The topic is likely to be the focus of additional discussion at this month's meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors.

In its Application for Review in late 2000, the ARRL maintained that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is publicly regulated or privately governed by homeowners' associations and their architectural control committees.

A copy of the FCC's Memorandum Opinion & Order in RM-8763 is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-372A1.doc>.

==>AO-40 "OFFICIALLY IN THE 'DEAD ZONE'"

AO-40 satellite ground controllers have begun adjusting the spacecraft's attitude as it enters a period of unfavorable sun angles. AO-40 command station team member Stacey Mills, W4SM, says that AO-40's operating schedule has been modified slightly to reflect the decreasing attitude longitude (ALON).

"As expected, the satellite has lost sun sensor lock, so we are now officially in the 'dead zone'," Mills reported. The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee--its point closest to Earth. These periods will continue well into next June.

The satellite relies on solar panels for its power. In late November, Mills said that necessary adjustments to AO-40's attitude to compensate for unfavorable sun angles over the next several months would lead to some down time for the spacecraft's transponders. The attitude shifting necessary to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth for several weeks.

To save power, the transponder passbands were being turned off at various times, and the RUDAK digital transponder was scheduled to be off for up to five days.

Mills has said there will be periods of no transponder activity and a much longer period of limited--but progressively increasing—transponder activity. "AO-40 command stations will make every effort to activate AO-40's transponders, even if for only a short time each orbit, when conditions are appropriate," he said. Mills said he anticipated being able to keep the transponders active through the eclipse period for an hour or so right after perigee.

Yoshi Takeyasu, JA6XKQ, of the JAMSAT SCOPE team, recently announced the release of several new photos taken by the SCOPE cameras aboard AO-40. The photos are available on the JAMSAT Web site <http://www.jamsat.or.jp/scope/011215/>.

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

==>FCC DESIGNATES COMPUTER HACKER'S HAM TICKET RENEWAL FOR HEARING

Citing character issues, the FCC has designated for hearing the Amateur Radio license renewal application of convicted computer hacker Kevin D. Mitnick, N6NHG. Mitnick's history of illegal computer-related activity--which includes several convictions and prison sentences—dates back more than a decade. Not long after his latest US District Court conviction in August 1999, Mitnick filed with the FCC to renew his General ticket.

"Mr. Mitnick's criminal background raises a substantial and material question of whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee," the FCC said in a Hearing Designation Order released December 21. "Given his propensity to engage in criminal activities, particularly those involving fraud, we have serious reservations about Mr. Mitnick's ability to comply with our rules and regulations in the future."

Mitnick, 38, has been licensed for about 25 years. In 1999, Mitnick was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison, the FCC said, after pleading guilty to wire fraud, computer fraud and illegally intercepting a wire communication--all felonies. Prior to that, the FCC Order stated, he'd received a 22-month term for possessing cloned cell phones and for violating his supervised release after a 1989 conviction for computer fraud. He's currently on probation following his January 2001 release from federal prison.

This is not the first time that the FCC has attempted to apply character issues to a ham radio license renewal case. In designating Mitnick's license renewal for hearing, the FCC invoked the case of Herbert Schoenbohm, ex-KV4FZ, whose lengthy efforts to renew his amateur license were scuttled on the basis of character issues that, in part, stemmed from a 1992 federal fraud conviction.

The Order also referenced the case of Leslie Brewer, ex-KC4HAZ, whose license was revoked and a fine levied last year after the FCC said he lacked the basic character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee on the basis of his "pirate radio and other unlawful activities."

Mitnick's license expired December 12, 1999, but he may continue to operate until action is taken on his renewal application. The FCC's Order is available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2001/db1221/fcc01359.doc>.

==>FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON FOUR AMATEUR RADIO PETITIONS

The FCC is seeking comments on four Amateur Radio rule making petitions filed recently and put on public notice this week. Comments are due by February 7, 2002, in petitions seeking to legally separate wideband and narrowband modes on 160 meters; to allow hams to bequeath their call signs "in memoriam" to a specific club; to expand HF operating privileges for Novice and Tech Plus operators; and to permit retransmission on amateur frequencies of NASA manned spacecraft communications.

A proposal from veteran Top Band operators and contesters Bill Tippett, W4ZV, and Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, asks the FCC to subdivide 160 meters into mode-specific subbands. The petition, submitted to the FCC last September, has been designated as RM-10352. Tippett and Briggs contend that the ARRL band plan for 160 meters--modified last year after lengthy consideration by the ad hoc ARRL 160-Meter Band Plan Committee on which both men sat—does not go far enough and is unenforceable. They want the FCC to prohibit SSB, AM and other wideband modes below 1.843 MHz--something the revised ARRL band plan <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html#160m> already recommends.

A copy of Briggs' book, DXing on the Edge--The Thrill of 160 Meters, accompanied their 18-page petition to the FCC. The book is published by ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6354/>. Tippett and Briggs made it clear that while the topic of their petition did arise during the ARRL committee's deliberations, their petition is an independent effort with no connection to the committee or the ARRL.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) has asked the FCC to change its amateur vanity call sign system rules to permit individual amateurs to, in effect, will a call sign to a designated club as an "in memoriam" call sign. The FCC has designated the petition, submitted in December, as RM-10353. The QCWA notes that the current vanity rule "excludes current licensees from speaking for themselves" while they're still alive and "requires their relatives to speak for them post mortem."

Novice licensee John S. Rippey, W3ULS, has petitioned the FCC to expand HF phone and CW privileges for Novice and Technician (with Element 1 credit) operators. The FCC has designated the petition, submitted in December, as RM-10354. Rippey held a General ticket in the 1950s and 1960s and got his former call sign back after relicensing as a Novice in 1999. He argues, among other things, that "the HF operating privileges authorized today for a Novice or Technician Plus license fall far short of providing adequate value." Rippey has asked the FCC to grant Novice and Technician (with Element 1 credit) licensees new or expanded operating privileges on 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. His suggestions include SSB privileges for Novices and Tech Plus licensees on 17 and 12 meters.

The NASA John H. Glenn Research Center Amateur Radio Club is seeking a modification in wording to the Part 97 rule that already permits amateur retransmission of NASA manned shuttle communications. The petition has been designated as RM-10355. The club wants the Amateur Service rule, Sec 97.113(e), to include International Space Station communications as well as any manned spacecraft in the future.

Interested parties may comment on any or all of these petitions via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

==>FCC ACTS ON OCTOBER 15, 2001, VANITY APPLICATIONS

The vanity call sign logjam has begun to break up. The FCC granted 27 vanity call signs January 9, based on applications received last October 15. Prior to this week, the FCC had not issued any new vanity call signs since October 30.

FCC policy gives paper and electronically filed vanity applications equal priority. Mail problems due to the recent anthrax scare delayed some applications filed on paper and sent to Washington, DC, for decontamination. As a result, vanity processing has been on hold since last fall.

FCC Licensing Branch personnel recently have been attempting to obtain new paperwork from applicants, however. All vanity fee payments have been recorded and deposited or charged to credit card holders' accounts. The FCC has been using vanity fee payment data from the FCC's fiscal agent, Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh to contact applicants directly to have them resubmit their applications.

The FCC has a record of when it receives all vanity applications. Once the Commission has all paper and electronic applications for a given date, all submittals will be processed in chronological order.

In mid-November, the Gettysburg office began diverting mail addressed to its 1270 Fairfield Road location to another site in town for special handling, and decontamination now is being handled locally. Since October 19, the FCC has been urging all of its customers to avoid using the mails to conduct business with the agency and to use electronic means to file comments or applications.

The FCC has been acting on amateur renewals and administrative updates filed on-line via the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System. As of December 3, all applicants must include an FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing.

==>NEW ISS AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA TO BE INSTALLED DURING SPACEWALK

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, has announced that one of the four new ARISS antennas will be installed during a scheduled January 14 spacewalk--or EVA. Two crew members will attach the "WA3" model VHF-UHF flexible tape antenna on one end of the ISS Service Module.

"The Russian team is able to deploy this particular antenna sooner than the others because it is located very close to where the four RF connections go into the Service Module," Bauer said.

Expedition Four Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and flight engineers Carl Walz, KC5TIE, and Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, are beginning their second month in orbit aboard the ISS. They have not yet been active on Amateur Radio, although several ARISS school contacts are pending. Onufrienko and Walz will carry out the EVA. NASA says the two will move a Russian cargo crane to the Russian Functional Cargo Block--or Zarya--for future assembly work.According to NASA, Bursch will operate the Canadarm2 robotic arm from inside the space station "and act as spacewalk choreographer."

Installation of the new antenna on the Service Module paves the way for two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha. Plans call for one station to remain in the Functional Cargo Block using the Russian antennas that had been used to dock the FGB but are now used for ARISS. A second station will be set up in the Service Module--or Zvezda--using the new antenna.

"The installation of this first antenna on the outside of Zvezda will allow the crew to set up ham radio equipment in their living quarters," said Bauer, who's also chief of the Guidance, Navigation and Control Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Maryland. The initial station ham gear was installed aboard the Zarya module because that module went into space first.

"The Zarya location worked well," Bauer said, "but this new setup is much more comfortable and convenient and should allow for more contact between the crew and Amateur Radio operators and schools on Earth." The other three antennas will be installed later this year.--ARISS; NASA

==>FCC REALLOCATION RETAINS AMATEUR RADIO'S 219-220 MHZ SLOT

Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 219-220 MHz remains intact in the wake of an FCC spectrum reallocation of the 216 to 220-MHz band, among others. The FCC declined, however, to go along with ARRL's request to expand amateur access to 216 to 220 MHz. On a brighter note, the Commission potentially relieved spectrum competition for Amateur Radio at 2.3 GHz by making space available elsewhere.

The FCC acted December 21, 2001, in ET Docket 00-221 and in several other proceedings that it lumped into a single Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order released January 2, 2002. The FCC Order reallocated 27 MHz of spectrum in seven bands from government to non-government use. Some of the spectrum will be put up for bid in public auctions. The Commission allocated the 216-220 MHz band to the fixed and mobile services (co-primary), although some government systems in the band will remain.

"We are pleased that the FCC has found suitable spectrum for MicroTrax and AeroAstro other than at 2300-2305 MHz," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, referring to two commercial competitors. "We hope this will clear the way for an upgrade to primary status at 2300-2305 MHz for the Amateur Service."

MicroTrax has sought access to 2300 to 2305 MHz and other bands for a proposed Personal Location and Monitoring System to enable tracking of people and objects. AeroAstro has proposed sharing the band with amateurs on a co-primary basis for its Satellite Enabled Notification System global messaging system. Both indicated interest in the 1670-1675-MHz band; MicroTrax also has said that 2385-2390 MHz might be a good fit. The FCC also noted comments from ArrayCom that the 1670-1675-MHz band would be suitable for its i-BURST high-speed data system, now operating experimentally at 2.3 GHz.

Sumner was less enthusiastic about the FCC's action at 216-220 MHz as it impacts the Amateur Service. "While the limited secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 219-220 MHz is being maintained, the more intensive use of 216-220 MHz by commercial services is likely to preclude amateur use of the band in many parts of the country," he commented.

The amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz 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, but only under strict limitations that require coordination with and sometimes approval by AMTS licensees. The ARRL had hoped to expand opportunities for point-to-point digital messaging systems, but the FCC said amateurs already have access to other bands for that purpose and denied the request.

The Order in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Orders/2001/fcc01382.pdf>

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==>SCHOENBOHM EFFORT TO OBTAIN NEW TICKET PROMPTS FCC HEARING ORDER

Former Amateur Radio licensee Herb Schoenbohm, ex-KV4FZ, apparently is eager to return to his favorite pastime. The FCC this week suggested that Schoenbohm, who lives in Kingshill, Virgin Islands, won't get his wish easily. Last April, only a few months after losing his battle to renew his ham ticket and his operating authority had expired, Schoenbohm applied for a new Amateur Radio license and passed the General exam. The FCC now has designated that pending application for hearing, to determine, in part, if Schoenbohm is rehabilitated and deserves to be a Commission licensee.

The FCC didn't mince words in its Hearing Designation Order, released January 6 in WT Docket No 01-352. Schoenbohm's "previous criminal behavior, misrepresentation and lack of candor warranted denial of his renewal application," the Order said. "Mr. Schoenbohm is a convicted felon and was found to have misrepresented facts and lacked candor in his testimony in that hearing."

The FCC said, however, that what's past is past, and it does not intend to rehash Schoenbohm's earlier case in the current proceeding. Now, the Commission says, it must determine whether Schoenbohm "has been sufficiently rehabilitated" since his earlier "disqualifying behavior." The Commission said it needs to know if Schoenbohm "could be relied upon to observe our rules and policies and deal with the Commission in an honest and forthright manner."

The FCC said that since it has "no facts now before us that would support a finding of rehabilitation," it cannot make a ready determination that granting Schoenbohm's application "would serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity." So, it's designating his application for hearing.

"Absent a demonstration by Mr. Schoenbohm that he now possesses the requisite character qualifications to be a Commission licensee, his pending applications may not be granted," the FCC added. Schoenbohm vowed last year to return to Amateur Radio.

The FCC, meanwhile, is continuing to investigate whether a South Carolina amateur broke any rules when he let Schoenbohm operate during a recent contest. Stephen S. Reichlyn, AA4V, rented and operated from Schoenbohm's station during the CQ World Wide SSB Contest last October.

The FCC said this week that Schoenbohm would bear the burden of proof in the new license application proceeding before an administrative law judge. The hearing would determine whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be a Commission licensee and whether his application should be granted.

Schoenbohm has 20 days to respond to the Order or his application will be denied with prejudice. A copy of the FCC Order is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-92A1.doc>.

==>ONE UP, THREE TO GO: NEW AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA INSTALLED IN SPACE!

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station got a new antenna it can call its own, thanks to a January 14 spacewalk by Expedition 4 crew members Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and Carl Walz, KC5TIE. ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says another of the four new ARISS antennas could be installed January 25.

"It was beautiful to watch," Bauer told ARRL. "It went like clockwork, everything deploying just as it was supposed to."

While crewmate Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, monitored and videotaped the spacewalk--or EVA--from inside the ISS, Onufrienko and Walz first relocated a Russian cargo crane used to maneuver equipment and spacewalkers. Then, they installed the flexible-tape VHF-UHF Amateur Radio antenna on a handrail at the end of the Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. The ARISS initial ham station gear--single-band hand-held transceivers for 2 meters and 70 cm--is installed in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block. NA1SS currently uses antennas that were installed to aid docking operations and EVAs. The new VHF-UHF antenna is the first one designed for and dedicated specifically to support ARISS operations.

Bauer said no decision has been made yet on which of the remaining three ARISS antennas will be mounted during the scheduled January 25 EVA. Three of the antennas are for VHF- UHF, while the fourth will support HF, although no HF gear is aboard the ISS at this point. Installation of the new antenna on Zvezda paves the way for two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha.

"It was pretty exciting to see the unfurled ISS ham antenna system permanently mounted on the outside edge of the Service Module," Bauer said. "The antenna system looked breathtaking from the videos we witnessed while supporting the EVA."

ARISS ARRL representative Rosalie White, K1STO, said she, too, was pleased to see this phase of the project coming together. "We started all this in 1998--and now we have a permanent antenna on the outside of the station. Pretty cool!"

Bauer credited Lou McFadin, W5DID; Mark Steiner, K3MS; Ken Nichols, KD3VK; and Mark Clausen with providing support for the antenna installation from the NASA Goddard/ISS Ham-Goddard Control Center. He said Carolynn Conley, KD5JSO, provided antenna installation support at NASA's Johnson Space Center Mission Control Center.

"Congratulations team on a job well done. We have taken our ideas, concepts and vision and transformed them into reality," he said.

The antenna installation got top billing in several high-profile media outlets covering the space walk.

==>MISSISSIPPI YOUNGSTERS HELP INITIATE EXPEDITION 4 CREW TO ARISS

Thirteen elementary school students in Mississippi fired off 18 questions January 16 to ham-astronaut Carl Walz, KC5TIE, who responded from the International Space Station during a pass over North America. As crowd of about 200 students and 50 parents looked on, youngsters at St Clare School in Waveland quizzed Walz for about 10 minutes. The contact with NA1SS was the first Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school QSO for the Expedition 4 crew, which has been aboard the ISS for just over a month.

"These students are going to have a very slow time of landing back on Planet Earth, and the parents are still on Cloud Nine!" Coordinating teacher Mary Bartholomew commented afterwards. Bartholomew said that her students have been studying the electromagnetic spectrum and space travel in preparation for this week's contact, which was facilitated by ARISS--a joint effort of ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

As the contact began, ARISS mentor and control operator Tim Bosma, W6ISS, relayed congratulations to Walz from ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, for Monday's successful installation of the new VHF-UHF ham antenna. Bosma contacted the ISS via W6SRJ in Santa Rosa, California. Audio was relayed to and from the school via a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit.

Walz mentioned ham radio in two of his answers to the students. He said ham radio was one of the ways that he communicated with family and friends while on board the space station (an onboard e-mail system and a telephone are others). In response to a question about improvements to the NA1SS station, Walz noted Monday's ham antenna installation. The new antenna was not used for the January 16 contact, however.

In response to other questions, Walz reported that he and his crewmates, Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and Dan Bursch, KD5PNU, were conducting experiments with algae, and had done research on lung function during the January 14 spacewalk. He told the students that on Christmas Day he unwrapped a few presents that he'd carried up and that he received books, CDs and pictures.

Walz said that the Mercury and Gemini project astronauts of the 1960s--especially John Glenn--were his role models in deciding to become an astronaut himself.

Reporters from a Biloxi TV station and three newspapers witnessed the ARISS contact. ARISS mentor Randy Becnel, W5UE, helped the staff and students prepare for the event.

Several more ARISS school contacts are set for this month and next. Bursch reportedly made several casual contacts last week while the ISS passed over the US. For more information, visit the ARISS Web site <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>.--Gene Chapline, K5YFL/ARISS

==>FCC AFFIRMS $10,000 FINE IN AMATEUR PIRATE CASE

The FCC has fined a Texas man $10,000 for transmitting without a license on an Amateur Radio band. Following a Notice of Apparent Liability issued in September, the FCC affirmed the $10,000 fine in a December 26 Forfeiture Order to David Edwin Merrell of Wichita Falls. The FCC said Merrell did not respond to the NAL.

In its earlier NAL, the FCC said it was acting on "numerous complaints" from the amateur community that an unidentified station operating on 7235 and 7238 kHz in the 40-meter band was causing "intentional interference to authorized communications." The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding network determined that the signal was located in the Wichita Falls area. Last June, agents in the FCC's Dallas office monitored an unidentified station on 7220 kHz and determined that the transmission was coming from Merrell's residence. "The station did not identify and transmitted only one-way broadcasts," the FCC said.

During a station inspection, Merrell "admitted to the transmissions and stated that he did not have a station operator license," the FCC said.

Unconfirmed reports to the FCC indicate that Merrell may have continued to occasionally transmit on 40 meters following the FCC visit.

"Considering the entire record and applying the statutory factors listed above, this case warrants a $10,000 forfeiture," the FCC concluded. Merrell has 30 days from the date of the Order's release to pay the fine. If not paid, the matter could be referred to the Department of Justice for collection.

==>ARRL OFFERS ON-LINE "ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS 'HOW TO' CHART"

The ARRL Regulatory Information Branch has made available a "triage center" of sorts for amateurs facing the prospect of dealing with various roadblocks to erecting an antenna system at their residence. The new "Antenna Restrictions 'How To' Chart" page <http://www.ARRL.org/Fand ES/field/regulations/ant-how-to-charts.html> offers three separate outlines that help users to logically work through issues involving local government zoning restrictions; deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs); or rental/lease restrictions relating to antenna structures.

The prime focus is on dealing with Local zoning restrictions to putting up an antenna structure and how to make the best possible case at a local regulatory board hearing. Some of the advice there applies to CC&Rs and rental/lease situations too.

"Remember: at the hearing, your presentation will be 80% of the battle, and 100% of the basis for any record, if the case ends up going to court," the "Important Notice" on the page advises.

Each "how to" outline is structured around a series of questions--much like a logic or flow chart. Depending on the answer, the user is referred to specific information or additional resources. The page also offers some step-by-step suggestions. For example, the local government zoning outline suggests 10 steps to those seeking to change an overly restrictive local amateur antenna ordinance. One of them is to obtain the ARRL book Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur ($49.95; order Item 8217 fromARRL via the Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=8217> or order by calling toll-free 888-277-5289). Written by attorney Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, the book offers detailed information on working with local governments and describes proven techniques and strategies that amateurs can employ in efforts to obtain an antenna-structure permit.

As the page emphasizes up front, however, neither this book nor the outlines on the "Antenna Restrictions 'How To' Chart" page are intended as substitutes for advice from an attorney.

The local government zoning outline also offers suggestions and information for amateurs who would like their legislature to incorporate the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into their state's laws. So far, only 13 states have done so, but bills are still in the works in a few others.

The page offers limited guidance to those confronting CC&Rs--an issue facing more and more amateurs these days--and to those who rent or lease their homes and still want to be able to install an antenna--a situation where PRB-1 does not apply. In both instances, affected amateurs are advised to develop and present logical and persuasive cases for being allowed to install an antenna system--much as they would have to do when dealing with a local government.

==>ARRL BOARD ADOPTS MODIFIED NOVICE BAND REFARMING PLAN

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to refarm the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15 meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recommendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified refarming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

The Board also deferred until its July meeting a decision on whether to cut "Section News" and contest "line scores" from QST and move them to the ARRL Web site as part of an effort to stem ARRL operating losses. Before deciding to relocate the QST content, the Board said, it wants members to be aware of the reasons for the proposed relocation and the enhanced capabilities available on the Web site." The Board said it also wants to evaluate "variations and alternatives" to the proposal.

The Board did decide to eliminate the minutes of its own meetings—published as "Moved and Seconded"--from QST. Minutes already are posted on the ARRL Web site and will be made available via alternative means to members lacking Internet access.

In other business, the Board accepted the Volunteer Resources Committee's recommendations to change several field organization rules. The new rules state that a section manager "is accountable for carrying out the duties of the

office in accordance with ARRL policies" and "shall act in the best interests of Amateur Radio." Among other changes, the revised rules will prohibit a section manager removed from office from running in the next SM election following removal. Anyone removed by action of the Executive Committee would have to get that committee's consent to be eligible to run again. The Executive Committee also will have the power to cancel any field organization appointment "whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the ARRL to do so."

The changes were prompted in part by the Executive Committee's declaring the office of Virginia Section Manager vacant last May. The rules changes will not affect the current Virginia SM election process, already under way.

The Board also modified the ARRL by-laws to say that anyone removed from office by recall won't be eligible to be a candidate for director or vice director for three years following removal from office.

The Board resolved to petition the FCC in order to elicit "a clear statement from FCC acknowledging the limit of its statutory jurisdiction to authorize the manufacture and sale of unlicensed Part 15 devices."

The Board further resolved to extend the ARRL's "most sincere condolences to the families and friends of the radio amateurs who lost their lives on September 11, 2001." The Board also commended and honored amateurs who volunteered during the subsequent rescue and recovery efforts.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who was elected to another two-year term during the Board meeting reported that he felt the League's relationship with the FCC had improved and that he was very pleased with the Amateur Radio Day at the FCC held last September.

==>VANITY PROCESSING RAMPING UP SLOWLY

Vanity call sign processing is resuming, but not exactly apace. On January 23 and 24, the FCC processed 70 vanity grants from applications received October 16, 17 and 18. Additional vanity grants are expected to follow as FCC personnel assemble all applications--paper and electronic--received on a given date.

Prior to January 9--when the FCC processed 27 vanity applications received from October 15 filers--the Commission had not issued any vanity grants since last October 30.

The holdup got its start when a batch of mail containing some 100 vanity applications received during the first two weeks of October apparently was mislaid in the process of dealing with the anthrax scare and mail decontamination. FCC policy gives equal priority to paper and electronic vanity applications, so the mail snafu has affected all vanity processing.

All vanity fee payments have been recorded and deposited or charged to credit card holders' accounts. The FCC has been using vanity fee payment data from the FCC's fiscal agent, Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh to contact applicants directly to have them resubmit their applications.

Since October, the FCC has been urging all of its customers to avoid using the mails to conduct business with the agency and to use electronic means to file comments or applications. The FCC has been acting on amateur renewals and administrative updates filed on-line via the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>. All applicants now must include an FCC Registration Number (FRN) when filing any application.

==>NEW HF AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA INSTALLED ON ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station gained a new HF antenna January 25--although there's no HF gear aboard the ISS as yet. The antenna--the second of four slated for installation aboard the Service Module--was put into place during a spacewalk--or EVA--conducted by Expedition 4 Crew Commander Yuri Onufrienko, RK3DUO, and astronaut Dan Bursch, KD5PNU.

The antenna is a flexible-tape design--similar to, but longer than, a VHF-UHF antenna installed during a January 14 EVA by Onufrienko and astronaut Carl Walz, KC5TIE. ARISS Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the antenna would be installed at the end of the Service Module in the 2 o'clock position (6 o'clock is pointing toward Earth).

The HF antenna is a 2.5-meter (8.2-foot) long flexible tape. Bauer thinks it will definitely work on 10 meters and speculated that it might work on 15 or 20 too. Bauer added that he did not know when HF gear would be transported to the ISS nor when it might be made available for use by a future crew.

The EVA lasted several hours and also involved attaching six thruster plume deflectors on the ISS as well as the ham antenna work. Installation involved
not only the mechanical deployment of the antenna but routing cables, establishing the RF connection and even photographic documentation.

A paper entitled "2001: an Amateur Radio Space Odyssey on the International Space Station," which details the development of ARISS and discusses the four new ARISS antennas is available via the ARISS Web site <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>.

The Expedition 4 crew is tentatively scheduled to speak with students at Butte High School in Montana the week of January 28. The contact was being arranged either via Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, in South Australia or via WH6PN at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu.

==>FCC MODIFIES SANCTION IN CALIFORNIA REPEATER CASE

The FCC has reduced a sanction imposed last year against a California amateur who had been banned from using repeaters on the 144, 222, or 440-MHz bands for three years. The case involved allegations that Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, of Agoura Hills, California, and Gregory S. Cook, ex-KC6USO, of Chico, California, had conspired in making late-night one-way transmissions on the W6NUT 147.435 MHz repeater that originated from Sorensen's station.

Last March the FCC accepted Cook's voluntarily surrendered license. Although he did not dispute the allegations, Sorensen got a lawyer and protested his lengthy banishment. In his initial response to the FCC, Sorensen offered to accept a suspension from talking on the W6NUT repeater for a year "as fair punishment." After reviewing Sorensen's case, the FCC decided to accept that less-stringent settlement of the case, rather than get involved in a hearing.

Because Sorensen already has been off the repeater for more than two months, the prohibition expires next September 15.

The FCC review into the operation of the W6NUT repeater continues, following complaints of jamming by users, broadcasting, playing music and "a plethora of other violations," the FCC said.

==>AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS HELP SAILBOAT IN DISTRESS

Amateur Radio played a role in the rescue of two people aboard the sailing vessel Antigone that ran aground off Honduras January 24. Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, of Hobe Sound, Florida, reports that, despite some apparently deliberate interference, members of the Intercontinental Net on 14.300 MHz helped relay communications from the vessel, which was equipped with an HF marine radio.

David Walz, AG4LI/HR6, in Honduras was in contact with the vessel and passed traffic from the stranded mariners to the Net. Petzolt said he was able to patch the US Coast Guard in Miami through to AG4LI/HR6, so the Coast Guard could obtain additional information and coordinate with Honduran authorities. Petzolt said the two passengers aboard the 40-foot vessel were safe, and the boat was on the beach. Amateurs, he said, stood by in case serious problems arose during the rescue effort. The registry of the vessel and the nationalities of the passengers were not known. The FCC was alerted to investigate the source of the interference.

==>PENNSYLVANIA RACES MEMBERS ACTIVATE FOR NURSING HOME FIRE

Hams responded December 15, 2001, after fire broke out at Cedarbrook County Home in South Whitehall Township and soon was upgraded to a four-alarm fire.

Emergency Management Agency Coordinator James Kelly, KA3UQP, began opening temporary shelters in anticipation of the evacuation of the 515 residents. He notified the South Whitehall EMA team that included Jeff Kelly, N3MFT, who is the Township EMA Communications Officer, Lehigh County Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer. It was agreed that RACES would be activated to staff the shelters and provide additional support.

A net was established, and Deputy RACES Officer Bruce Bobo, KB3FIH, directed operations from the county's mobile command center at the fire scene. RACES members were deployed to the scene as well as at shelter locations and the local trauma center. Over the next 24 hours, more than two dozen RACES members helped to provide communications until temporary shelters had shut down and residents transported to appropriate care.

On December 17, Lehigh County EMA contacted Kelly for RACES to assist in coordinating the return of patients to the facility, which received smoke and water damage. Bobo said RACES was called back in to help because it was determined that the amateur system had the best communications coverage over the four-county area where patients had been sheltered temporarily. More than 20 RACES members from Lehigh and Northampton counties provided support for the safe return of all 515 residents. Authorities expressed appreciation to the RACES teams and for use of the W3OI 146.94, W3OK 146.70 and N3MFT 448.775 MHz repeaters.--Jeff Kelly, N3MFT

GUANTANAMO BAY QSL BUREAU CLOSES

The QSL bureau for KG4 two-letter suffix call signs in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been closed. All operations from "Gitmo" should specify QSL manager information.