
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

August 2003

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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1.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
2.V.PRES.....N3OJN Stan Riffle
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
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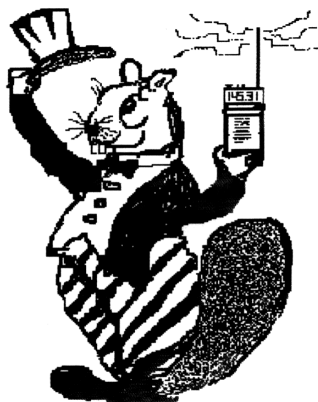
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petrucci/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Reid



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...9:00 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 | Corn Roast |
| 2 | Radio History is Made |
| 3 | Call Sign Goof |
| 4 | Morse Requirement? |
| 5 | And More... |
-

CLUB MEETING

A brief club meeting will be held at our annual Corn Roast on Friday the 15th. Hope to see you all there.

CORN ROAST

As mentioned above, our annual Corn Roast will be held on Friday August 15th at Shelter #10 in Brady's Run Park. Please plan on joining us with your covered dishes at 5:30 PM and help us shuck the corn. Drinks, hot dogs, and the corn will be provided by the club. Also, club T-shirts will be there for those who ordered them.

Everybody wish for good WX, HI!

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday August 2nd, 2003 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 \$12.00.

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:

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

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

==>"BPL IS A PANDORA'S BOX OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS," ARRL TELLS FCC

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. In response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published May 23, the League this week filed a 120-page response--including studies. The NOI, which asked how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals, attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix," the League said.

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio

allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies.

ARRL's comments and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>

==>RADIO HISTORY IS MADE AT WRC-03 WITH 7-MHZ REALIGNMENT COMPROMISE

In a historic move, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary--and ARRL CEO--David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the "carefully crafted compromise" calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, and eventually with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. It cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but the next conference will not consider further changes to 7000-7200 kHz.

As expected, WRC-03 also dropped the international Morse code requirement for HF access, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement (Switzerland already has dropped the requirement). In addition, the conference adopted a number of improvements to other international regulations for the Amateur Service. Delegates also agreed to allow a secondary allocation for satellite borne synthetic aperture radars at 70 cm and, in an Article 19 change, made amateur call sign assignments more flexible.

Michael Owen, VK3KI, a member of the IARU team at Geneva, has provided a detailed explanation of Article 25

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

changes in the article "New Regulations for the Amateur Services." It's available on the IARU Web site <http://www.iaru.org/rel030703att3.html>.

More than 2600 delegates and other participants attended the four-week-long conference, chaired by Dr Veena Rawat of Canada. For WRC-03, the IARU fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade. In addition to Sumner and Owen, the team--led by IARU President Larry Price, W4RA--included Bob Jones, VE7RWJ; Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. More than a dozen other amateurs were present on national delegations or in other roles for the IARU, its regional organizations and member-societies.

Changes to Articles 19 and 25 took effect on July 5, 2003. In general, the other Final Acts take effect on January 1, 2005.

==>TANG--OR SOMETHING LIKE IT--STILL A SPACE DRINK

Despite some technical problems, youngsters at the Challenger Learning Center of Northwest Indiana http://pucinfo.calumet.purdue.edu/challenger_nwi/welcome.htm got answers to more than a dozen questions via ham radio from NASA International Space Station Science Officer and Flight Engineer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ. The direct 2-meter contact took place June 26 between Lu, at the controls of NA1SS, and W9PUC, the call sign of the Purdue Calumet Amateur Radio Society, whose members assisted in setting up the Earth station equipment. The contact was arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

One youngster asked Lu if astronauts still drink Tang--the orange drink made from powder--while in space. "Actually, we do have an orange drink, I'm not sure if it's actually Tang or not--actually, I think it might be--but it's labeled as 'orange drink.'" Lu said. "When you add water to it, it tastes pretty good."

Despite the February 1 shuttle Columbia disaster, Lu told another Challenger Center camper that he was not worried about having to pass through Earth's atmosphere when the crew returns from space in October. "Obviously, space flight can be risky, but our ship is totally different than the shuttle," he said, noting that the Russian Soyuz now being used to transport ISS crew members doesn't even have wings. "I think it will go just fine," Lu predicted.

The Expedition 6 crew experienced a bit of a bumpy landing this spring in its Soyuz spacecraft and also undershot their landing zone. The NASA shuttle fleet remains grounded.

Taking off from Earth was quite an experience, Lu told another youngster, saying it felt as if "a giant hand" were pushing him back into his seat aboard the Soyuz. Lu has been

maintaining a Web site <<http://www.edlu.com/>> that describes his perspective on life in space.

The Expedition 7 crew of Lu and Expedition 7 Commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUO, has another four months left on its duty tour. Lu--who turned 40 in space July 1--told the grade three through eight youngsters that the two-man crew has been involved in hundreds of experiments, some of which involve observing the Earth and others the crew members themselves, he said.

The contact was plagued at various points by poor downlink signal reception. Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, the ARISS mentor for the contact, said some 150 to 175 people were in attendance for the event. Ed Perosky, K9TZZ, served as the Amateur Radio coordinator, while Mark Skowronski, K9MQ, was control operator. Members of the Lake County Amateur Radio Club also assisted. ARISS is an international program with participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.

==>SEE YOU ON 60! FIVE CHANNELS NOW OPEN FOR USE

US amateurs had been counting down the weeks, days and hours. Now, the five new 60-meter "channel center" frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--are available! Given the constraints imposed on the five lightly used government frequencies, ARRL advises members to demonstrate their best operating behavior and to use common sense when operating under the new rules. The channelized domestic, secondary allocation at 5 MHz marks the first new HF amateur band since the 1980s.

The only legal mode is upper sideband voice (USB), with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz (centered within each channel). On July 3, the first day the band was available, hundreds of operators opened up on one of the channels to grab their first contacts. The friendly free-for-all took place on a fairly level playing field, however, since the FCC has imposed

a 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The new FCC rules--§97.303(s)--define this as the transmitter output in peak envelope power (PEP) multiplied by antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels. The Commission presumes that a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation has a gain of 0 dBd.

Licensees using antennas other than a half-wave dipole must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain. The bottom line for most hams will be to erect a wire dipole, set their transmitter to 50 W PEP output and enjoy the new band.

For more information, see the 60-Meter FAQs posted on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq.html>>.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Amateurs in the US and the United Kingdom share one 5-MHz channel--5405 kHz. While it's legal for US hams to work UK amateurs--and some transatlantic contacts already have been reported--the RSGB 5 MHz Working Group says UK hams are on the band specifically as part of propagation and equipment experiments, not to make general contacts.

==>FCC ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON OCCUPIED BANDWIDTH PETITION

The FCC is accepting comments on a Petition for Rule Making from two amateurs calling on the FCC to establish SSB and AM bandwidth standards. The FCC has assigned RM-10740 to the petition, filed May 27 by Michael Lonneke, W0YR, of Round Hill, Virginia, and Melvin Ladisky, W6FDR, of Camarillo, California. The Lonneke-Ladisky petition had attracted some 100 comments by week's end. Comments are due by July 26.

Referencing four Enforcement Bureau letters (one of which was included in the petition as an exhibit) sent to amateurs and alleging overly wide SSB signals, the petition asks the FCC to "remove the ambiguity" in the Part 97 rules and establish SSB and AM transmission bandwidth standards. On HF frequencies below 28.8 MHz, it recommends a maximum 2.8 kHz bandwidth for SSB (J3E) emissions and a maximum 5.6 kHz bandwidth for AM (A3E) emissions.

Amateurs may read and comment on this petition via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

==>FCC ATTEMPTING TO RECTIFY CALL SIGN GOOF

The FCC has issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) in an effort to rescind a vanity call sign it issued in error to a Virginia amateur. Last August, the FCC's Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division (within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau) erroneously granted the request of Richard L. Smith of Chesapeake, Virginia, to have the call sign KC4USH. The Branch is responsible for issuing all amateur license and call sign grants.

The Commission says that since the KC4USA through KC4USZ call sign block has been made available to the US Navy for the use of amateur stations in Antarctica, the KC4USH call sign should not have been issued to Smith, a General-class licensee who used to be KG4UKV. The FCC now wants Smith to take back his former call sign (along with a refund of his vanity application fee, of course).

The MO&O was released July 3 and signed by D'wana Terry, Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. The FCC will not issue a modification order until Smith has received notice of the proposed action and has a chance to protest, something he must do in writing within 30 days.

==>ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS SIGN ABOARD AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

Additional cosponsors have signed aboard the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003. Identical versions of the measure, an ARRL initiative, have been introduced in both the US House and Senate. The House version, HR 713, now has 44 cosponsors, while the Senate version, S 537, has five. Now on their third try on Capitol Hill, both measures would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

Florida Republican Rep Michael Bilirakis filed the House version of the bill, HR 713, on February 12. The measure's most recent cosponsors include US representatives JD Hayworth (R-AZ), Paul Gillmor (R-OH), Greg Walden, WB7OCE, (R-OR), Rick Boucher (D-VA), John M. Spratt Jr (D-SC), Sherwood L. Boehlert (R-NY), Robert Wexler (D-FL), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Ken Calvert, (R-CA), Joe Wilson (R-SC), John T. Doolittle (R-CA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) and Frank Pallone Jr (D-NJ).

Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill on March 6. Original cosponsors were senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Larry Craig (R-ID). Other S 537 cosponsors are US senators Conrad Burns (R-MT), Sen Susan M. Collins (R-ME) and Max Baucus (D-MT). Burns chairs the Senate Communications Subcommittee.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, continues to encourage ARRL members to urge their senators and representatives and to cosponsor the bills, which lends support to legislation while it's in committee. The House bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet; the Senate bill will be considered by the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. According to Haynie, letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed.

A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>.

On June 11, Haynie testified on Capitol Hill on behalf of HR 713. He was the last of 11 scheduled witnesses to speak during the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing, "The Spectrum Needs of Our Nation's First Responders." Haynie told the subcommittee that hams have lost more than 100 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum over the past 15 years and that another nearly 360 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum "has been substantially compromised."

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

==>ARISS LOGS TWO SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN CONTACTS

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program recently completed two contacts with school groups in Europe. ISS NASA Science Officer and Flight Engineer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, spoke on July 1 with students aboard a Russian sailing-training vessel in France and on July 7 with space campers at the Euro Space Center in Belgium.

The July 1 Amateur Radio QSO from the deck of the training vessel Mir marked the ship's second involvement in a space contact. In 1999, students onboard the ship Mir exchanged greetings with French astronaut Jean-Pierre Haigneré, FX0STB, and Russian cosmonaut Victor Afanassiev onboard the Russian space station Mir.

This year, students of the nearby Val Saint Denis College greeted Lu with "Happy birthday to you" to acknowledge the astronaut's 40th birthday on the day of the contact. Lu then proceeded to answer 13 questions. Among other topics, students wanted to know about the crew's voyage on the Soyuz rocket to the ISS, how long it takes the ISS to orbit Earth and the main differences between the ISS and the Russian Mir space station.

Since there were no favorable ISS passes over France, two-way audio for the contact was handled via a MCI teleconferencing circuit. With the ISS over the Pacific at the time, Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, handled Earth station duties from Honolulu.

On the morning of July 7, Lu answered questions from space campers during a scheduled ARISS school group contact with youngsters at the Euro Space Center's ON4ESC in Belgium. One student wanted to know what Lu would change or add to the space program if he had the choice.

"I would love to go to Mars, and I hope that at some point we do have a mission which goes to Mars, Lu responded. No human mission to the Red Planet now is in the works.

Some 150 children gathered in the auditorium. The group included 45 Americans living in Europe, explained ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, who was on hand for the contact and introduced the juvenile audience to ham radio and the ARISS program.

Lu answered ON4ESC's call on right on schedule as well as the 17 questions from the youngsters during the nearly eight-minute pass.

The ARISS contacts from France and Belgium were the 104th and 105th school group QSOs, respectively. ARISS is an international project with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA. For more information, visit the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>>.

==>COSMONAUT-HAM PLANS TO WED WHILE IN SPACE

International Space Station Expedition 7 crew commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUO, plans to get married next month while still in orbit. If it happens, the wedding--which would have to take place by proxy--would be a space first. Fort Bend, Texas, County Clerk Dianne Wilson told ARRL that she issued a marriage license July 17 to Malenchenko and Ekaterina Dmitriev.

"The commander, through his attorney Harry Noe, presented communication of his status, proper photo identification and a power of attorney in order for me to issue the license," she said. "Texas law permits one or both applicants to be absent for the issuance of the marriage license and one or both applicants to be absent from the marriage ceremony by having a proxy stand in for one or both."

While Wilson said false rumors have been circulating that the wedding has been called off, she has confirmed with the couple's attorney that the ceremony will take place August 10 in Clear Lake, Texas. There's no word yet on whether Malenchenko's crewmate, US astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, will serve as best man in space.

Wilson said she and her staff celebrated the event with the bride by dressing in red, white and blue and decorating with similarly hued balloons to represent the colors of the Russian, US and Texas flags.

"This is the first time a marriage license has been issued in the world to a person 'not on this Earth,'" she added. "I had the honor yesterday of meeting the beautiful bride and hope someday to have the honor of meeting the groom."

The news service Reuters quoted NASA spokesperson Rob Navias as saying that Malenchenko had assured space officials that no ISS resources would be used for the event, so an exchange of vows via telephone may not be possible. Reuters reported that after Malenchenko returns from space in October, the couple have a church wedding in Russia followed by a honeymoon in Australia. Malenchenko is 41; Dmitriev, who lives in the Houston area, is 26.

==>FCC OPINION BOLSTERS FEDERAL PREEMPTION OVER RF INTERFERENCE MATTERS

An FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released earlier this month bolsters the doctrine of federal preemption over local efforts to regulate radio frequency interference (RFI). The ARRL had commented in the proceeding, WT Docket 02-100, which could have implications for Amateur Radio. The proceeding stemmed from efforts by Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to require telecommunication service providers to certify their facilities would not interfere with the county's public safety communication system.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

"We find that federal law preempts provisions of the Anne Arundel County, Maryland, zoning ordinances involving radio frequency interference," the FCC declared in granting Cingular Wireless' Petition for a declaratory ruling and denying the county's motion to dismiss. ARRL had supported Cingular's position in the proceeding. Cingular asserted in its petition that Congress had established a "pervasive regulatory scheme" that grants the FCC exclusive jurisdiction to regulate RFI, and that the Anne Arundel zoning amendments conflicted with the Commission's rules regarding resolution of RFI cases. The FCC also said it expected all parties to continue cooperating to resolve remaining RFI issues.

Anne Arundel County in January 2002 adopted zoning amendments requiring commercial telecommunication providers to demonstrate that their facilities would not degrade or interfere with the public safety radio system. The amended ordinance gave the county the authority to revoke a zoning certificate if such interference or degradation occurred or if telecommunication service providers did not certify their systems to be in compliance with FCC standards and guidelines.

The FCC said it found that the county's zoning provisions went beyond traditional zoning functions and attempted to regulate RFI. The FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-2196A1.doc>.

==>ARRL BOARD REQUESTS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT WRC-03 RESULTS

The ARRL Board of Directors has called on ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and the ARRL Executive Committee to develop ARRL policy recommendations for an FCC filing to implement the results of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) in the amateur rules. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, chaired the July 18-19 Board session in Windsor, Connecticut.

"The League, as the Amateur Radio representative in the United States, will, through its democratic process, review input from its members as to the impact and implementation of these results to the Part 97 rules," a Board resolution declared. A report on the policy recommendations is due next January. The Board expressed gratitude to the IARU and ARRL WRC-03 team for its "tireless and dedicated efforts in promoting Amateur Radio" and congratulated it for achieving the IARU's goals at the month-long international conference, which wrapped up in Geneva July 4.

Delegates to WRC-03 reached a compromise on a 200-kHz worldwide allocation--7000 to 7200 kHz--effective in 2009, with no change to the existing 300-kHz allocation in the US or elsewhere in Region 2. The conference also eliminated the

requirement that amateur applicants prove Morse code proficiency to operate below 30 MHz, leaving it up to individual administrations to retain or drop Morse as an exam element. WRC-03 decisions also resulted in changes affecting international third-party traffic, guidelines for standards of competence of amateur licensees, and recognition of the licenses of visiting amateurs.

The Board also implemented some recommendations of the wide-ranging Final Report of the Volunteer Resources Committee to the ARRL Board of Directors--an Evaluation of the ARRL's Field Organization. The committee, chaired by ARRL Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, concluded that the state of the ARRL Field Organization is "fair," but not sufficient to meet the League's obligation to provide emergency communications, especially at the national level.

In light of the report, the Board called for a comprehensive system to enhance the communications capabilities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). There are situations, the Board said--especially given the League's new Citizen Corps partnership with the Department of Homeland Security--when ARES "must have the capability to pass traffic across the nation quickly and accurately."

The Board also called on all Section Emergency Coordinators to develop, implement and maintain a comprehensive Section Emergency Plan by year's end. Additionally, the Board asked Sumner to formally establish leadership training courses as a part of routine Section Manager orientation.

In response to the so-called "Minute 56" report initiated at last July's meeting, the Board voted to initiate a process to revise ARRL band plans for amateur allocations between 902 MHz and 24.25 GHz. "New band plans will be developed using as a goal the full amateur deployment of each band," the Board said. The Board voted unanimously to authorize President Haynie--with assistance from Imlay and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, "to explore specific terms of expanded partnering plans with the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). Such cooperation could involve greater integration of amateur operation in the bands from 902 MHz to 24.25 GHz in public safety and homeland security communications."

Citing the Amateur Radio tradition of Elmering (mentoring) new and prospective amateurs, the Board okayed a resolution instructing the VRC to develop two or more viable options for an ARRL Volunteer Mentor program that would provide for "the promotion, support and growth of mentoring in Amateur Radio." The VRC is to present its options at the Board's January meeting.

Additional details are on the ARRL Web site. The minutes of the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting will be posted on the ARRL Web site.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

==>ARRL BOARD NAMES AWARD WINNERS

The ARRL Board of Directors has announced its list of 2002 award winners to recognize excellence, achievement or innovation in several areas. The Board also created two new awards--the Knight Distinguished Service Award and The President's Award--and it named ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Joe T. Knight, W5PDY as the first recipient of the award bearing his name.

Knight, who served as New Mexico's SM for 27 years, "has distinguished himself as a leader among leaders" who often has "gone above and beyond the call of duty" by volunteering to train and orient new SMs, the Board said. He stepped down recently for health reasons. Knight received an in absentia standing ovation.

The President's Award will recognize an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals.

Eighteen-year-old Ben Schupack, NW7DX, is the winner of the 2002 ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Award. The HPM Award recognizes an exceptional amateur under age 21. An avid CW operator and ARRL member, Schupack is the Northwest Division manager for the League of Young Radio Amateurs (LYRA) and belongs to several Western Washington radio clubs. He enjoys QRP radio construction and recently designed an HF bicycle mobile station. An accomplished musician, he's also involved with athletics and community service. In May, Schupack became the first recipient of the William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship. He will attend Whitman College this fall. As the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award winner, Schupack will receive a cash award of \$1500 and an engraved plaque.

Edmund Weiss, W1NXC, will receive the ARRL Herb S. Brier (W9AD) Instructor of the Year Award. Named for the late, long-time CQ Novice column editor, the award honors an individual who represents the spirit of Brier's effective and caring Amateur Radio instruction. Weiss's past students credit his positive attitude, dedication to ham radio and upbeat, attentive and encouraging style. He'll receive an engraved plaque.

Bruce Watson, AA3LX, is the ARRL Professional Educator of the Year. This award goes to a teacher who uses Amateur Radio within the curriculum. A seventh-grade science teacher at Mars Area Middle School in Pennsylvania, Watson "actively involves students in hands-on activities and incorporates many activities in interdisciplinary units," said the school's principal, Richard Cornell. Watson will receive an engraved plaque.

Joseph Giraudo, N7JEH, is the recipient of the ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award. The award is presented to an

Amateur Radio operator for outstanding volunteer work in recruiting newcomers to Amateur Radio. "Joe has done more to recruit new hams and ARRL members in Eastern Nevada than anyone else," said ARRL Nevada Section Manager Dick Flanagan, W6OLD. He will receive a \$100 ARRL gift certificate and an engraved plaque.

Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, is the recipient of the Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award in recognition of his groundbreaking articles, "A Software-Defined Radio for the Masses," in the July/August and September/October 2002 issues of QEX. The articles describe the development of the SDR-1000, one of the first multimode software-defined transceivers with HF capability. Youngblood is a member of the ARRL SDR Working Group. The DeMaw Award consists of an engraved nine-inch pewter cup.

Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, is the winner of the ARRL Technical Innovation Award. Taylor is the developer of the EchoLink <<http://www.synergenics.com/el/>> voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP) Amateur Radio repeater linking system. EchoLink boasts more than 94,000 registered users in 136 countries. Registration is free, and 1500 stations typically are on-line enjoying 300 QSOs at the same time. The ARRL Technical Innovation Award carries a cash award of \$500 and an engraved plaque.

Danny Hampton Jr, K4ITL, is the recipient of the ARRL Technical Service Award. Hampton is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network, established in the early 1970s. Today the network sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina. The system is heavily used for public service work. He'll receive a \$100 ARRL gift certificate and an engraved plaque.

Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, is the winner of the ARRL Microwave Development Award. The award recognizes his many contributions to microwave equipment design and development. On August 18, 2001, after several years of hard work, Malowanchuk and Al Ward, W5LUA, completed the world's first 24-GHz Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) contact (see "The Journey to EME on 24 GHz," Oct 2002 QST). He'll receive a \$100 ARRL gift certificate and an engraved plaque.

At the recommendation of the ARRL Public Relations Committee, the Board granted a Lifetime Achievement Award to well-known DXer and filmmaker Dave Bell, W6AQ. The Board cited the Emmy and Peabody award winner's many significant contributions to the ARRL, including his recent work as director on the recent Amateur Radio Today CD-ROM presentation and his production work on several films promoting Amateur Radio. Bell is a past chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee.

==>ED LU IS "THE PIANO MAN" ABOARD THE ISS

With apologies to singer Billy Joel, US astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, is "The Piano Man" in space. During a July 14

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

contact arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, Lu told students at Space Camp Turkey--home of YM3SCT--that one of the things he enjoys doing in his off-hours is playing the piano.

"We have a small piano up here. It's an electronic piano, and I like to play the piano in my spare time," Lu explained to the 124 space campers at Space Center Turkey in Izmir. Twenty of the youngsters--who were from the US, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Israel and Azerbaijan--got to ask questions of the astronaut during the ham radio/teleconference linkup. An MCI teleconference line handled two-way audio between the space camp in Turkey and the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club, NN1SS, in Maryland, where ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, sat at the controls.

The ARISS contact kicked off a week of activities at Space Camp Turkey. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, in Belgium served as mentor and moderator for the contact, while Aziz Sasa, TA1E, managed arrangements at the Space Camp.

Responding to a question about where the ISS crew gets its water, Lu told the space campers that water arrives in huge containers aboard Progress supply rockets from Russia. The water, he said, serves two purposes: it's used to drink, and it's used to generate oxygen to breathe.

"I do want to say that I do pass over Turkey very often, and it is a very beautiful country," Lu said as a coda to the contact. "I've looked down, and I've taken a number of nice photographs of the cities there, and I can tell you live in a wonderful place. It's quite beautiful."

Sasa, who is president of TRAC, Turkey's International Amateur Radio Union member-society, said he thought the contact had made a big impression on the youngsters and hoped some of them would become interested in Amateur Radio as a result of the experience. Nearly 200 others attended the event, including news media.

ARISS is an international program with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

==>WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE MORSE REQUIREMENT POST-WRC-03?

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse code to operate below 30 MHz. While Morse exam elements remain on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have apparently become the first countries to delete their Morse requirements for HF operation. In the US, however, the FCC is unlikely to act on its own motion to simply make the Morse testing requirement go away.

"There isn't an exception in the Administrative Procedures Act that I am aware of that would permit the Commission to issue an administrative fiat changing the license structure or exam-requirement rules," said an FCC staffer who's closely involved with Amateur Service rules. Other countries can do this because they have different laws and procedures, the FCC staff member observed, adding that even if it could be done here, "that still leaves unanswered the fundamental question: What do you want the new rules to be?"

In its December 1999 Report and Order restructuring Amateur Radio licensing, the FCC stopped short of revising the rules to sunset the Morse requirement automatically if WRC-03 deleted Morse proficiency from the international Radio Regulations. The FCC also acknowledged "a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" on the Morse code issue within the amateur community.

The ARRL's policy for several years has been that Morse should be retained as a testing element in the US. At its July 18-19 meeting in Connecticut, however, the Board said it would solicit and review input from members on the Morse testing requirement and other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03.

The first move on the Morse code question in the US is for someone to file a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking a rule change. No Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>> has spearheaded the battle to eliminate the Morse requirement and would be a likely organization to file such a petition. NCI Executive Director Carl Stevenson, WK3C, said late last week that NCI was still studying the matter and had not yet made a final decision on a plan of action. An ARRL member, Stevenson says he hopes personally that the League would join NCI in actively encouraging the FCC to eliminate the Morse exam element as soon as possible.

Hopes for a quick resolution to the Morse question could be wishful thinking, however. Once a petition to drop the Morse exam element is filed, the FCC will put it on "public notice" by assigning an RM number and soliciting comments. If more than one such petition is filed, the FCC is obliged to invite comments on each. When that process is completed, the FCC may determine that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is in order. The Commission at that point could incorporate all Morse-related rule making petitions into a single proceeding. The NPRM would get a docket number, and the comment process would begin anew.

Further complicating and extending the process, the FCC most likely would incorporate other pending Amateur Radio-related issues into the same NPRM. At the end of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC would issue a Report and Order (R&O) that includes its decision on the Morse code requirement and any other issues incorporated into the proceeding. The whole process could take a couple of years, perhaps longer.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Ratification of the WRC-03 Final Acts by the US Senate does not appear to be necessary before the FCC can act or begin the rule making process. Following World Administrative Conference 1979 (WARC-79) which resulted in three new HF amateur bands, the FCC acted in 1982, prior to Senate ratification of the conference's Final Acts, not only to initiate the rule making process but to give amateurs limited access to 30 meters.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has advised hams in that country that the Morse qualification requirement remains in effect for operation below 30 MHz, "pending a review by Industry Canada of the impact of the WRC-2003 regulatory changes on the Canadian radio regulations, policies and procedures."

==>ARRL URGES IMPROVED RFI IMMUNITY STANDARDS FOR CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

The ARRL has told the FCC that improved interference standards for consumer electronic devices is the most pressing need as the Commission considers the interference immunity performance of receivers. The League this week filed comments in response to an FCC Notice of Inquiry (NOI), "Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers" (ET-03-65), released last March to gather input on the issue. While recommending "either mandatory receiver immunity standards or at least guidelines" in most other services, the ARRL said no receiver immunity standards are necessary or practical in the "essentially experimental" Amateur Service.

"The real need for receiver immunity specifications is in the area of consumer electronics," the ARRL said. "With the current explosion of consumer electronics and unlicensed devices, the Commission must--concurrently with consideration of receiver immunity standards in licensed radio services--establish interference rejection standards for unlicensed home electronic equipment and systems as well."

At the same time, the ARRL said, development of any receiver immunity standards or guidelines "should not be used as a means of justifying the overlay of otherwise fundamentally incompatible spectrum sharing partners."

The League said the FCC has had the authority to require improved RF interference immunity of consumer electronics and systems for many years "and has failed repeatedly to exercise it." The result has been "many thousands of instances of complaints against Amateur Radio operators and, in some cases, civil and criminal actions being filed," the League said. In its 21-page reply to the NOI, the ARRL recited the recent history of legislative and regulatory efforts to come to grips with interference from RF sources, including amateur stations, to receivers used in other services, such as TV and radio broadcasting, and to consumer electronics.

"ARRL continues to believe that receiver immunity should be on the order of 3 V/m for receivers that might be in the near

field of an Amateur Radio station," the League said. At that distance, a receiver would be immune to an approximately 100-W ham radio transmission into a 0 dBd antenna 100 feet away. The League conceded, however, that such a standard would not address the interference immunity of telephones, computers, alarm systems, audio systems and other consumer electronics that "constitute the bulk of the instances of interference involving Amateur Radio operators."

The ARRL suggested the FCC mandate a standard for all consumer electronics or adopt a labeling or grading system that allows consumers to make their own choices about the importance of interference immunity and its value in terms of increased product cost. The League also said software-defined radio (SDR) technology offered the best opportunity to deal with receiver immunity.

The ARRL advised the FCC against relying exclusively on manufacturers to agree on how to deal with interference immunity.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to make interference susceptibility of unlicensed devices a determining factor in whether a licensed radio service should be given an allocation in bands in where unlicensed—and unprotected—devices are deployed. As an example, the League cited the FCC's recent refusal to allocate a sliver band in the vicinity of 136 kHz "because of the ill-conceived prior deployment of unlicensed power line carrier [PLC] systems."

The FCC, in effect, "refused to make an allocation based on interference susceptibility of unlicensed and unprotected RF devices and systems," the League said. "This is improper spectrum management and the policy should be revisited."

The ARRL's comments on the NOI are available on the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-65/ARRL-ET-03-65-cmts.pdf>>.

==>TWO RECENT IRAQ WAR CASUALTIES WERE AMATEUR LICENSEES

Two of the most recent casualties of the war in Iraq were Amateur Radio licensees. According to an Associated Press report, Specialist Jon Fettig, KC0HSQ, of Dickinson, North Dakota, died July 22 in an ambush on a road some 50 miles north of Baghdad. Another soldier from Fettig's Army National Guard unit was wounded in the attack. Both belonged to the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company based in Bismarck. Fettig, 30, a member of an engineering unit in Dickinson, had volunteered to fill a vacancy in the Bismarck company to bring it up to full strength. A Guard member for some 11 years, Fettig died at the scene of the ambush.

On July 23, Nadisha Yassari Ranmuthu, 4S7NR--an international Red Cross aid worker from Sri Lanka--was shot and killed and his Iraqi driver wounded after their vehicle,

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

marked with the Red Cross emblem, came under fire south of Baghdad. Ranmuthu, 37, a communications engineer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), reportedly died instantly. The Red Cross has 850 staffers now working from eight bases in Iraq. Ranmuthu was there to install communications equipment at Red Cross offices and to help train Iraqi operators to use it, news accounts said.

==>ARRL RE-SOLICITING 2003 McGAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

During its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to re-solicit nominations for the 2003 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award. The ARRL Public Relations Committee has determined that none of the nominations submitted for this year's award adequately fit the award criteria.

"All three nominees have achieved notable success in the area of public service," Committee Chairman Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, said, "but the committee did not feel that the nominations reflected the important volunteer public relations efforts for which the award is given."

Those planning to nominate someone for the 2003 McGan Award are encouraged to read "Announcing the 12th Annual McGan Award" (QST Feb 2003) for more information. The article highlights the significant differences between public relations and public service. Public relations involves efforts specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the attention of the general public and the news media in a positive light.

Nomination forms are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/McGan-Nom-Form03.pdf>>. Return completed entry forms and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, c/o Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Nominations must be received at ARRL Headquarters by 5 PM Eastern Daylight Time on September 2, 2003.

==>IN BRIEF:

* California antenna bill reaches governor's desk: Proponents of California's Amateur Radio antenna bill, AB 1228, are encouraging California amateurs to contact Gov Gray Davis to urge him to sign the measure, which is now on his desk. On June 30, the California Assembly on a 77-0 vote concurred with changes in language that the Senate had made in the legislation. The bill went to the governor for his signature on July 3. AB 1228 would incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.html>> into California law. ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, are asking that members consider sending a message either via e-mail <governor@governor.ca.gov> or via the US Postal Service similar to this sample letter

<http://www.kkn.net/Sample_Letter_AB_1228.html>. Send mail to Gov Gray Davis, ATTN: Armand Feliciano, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. All correspondents should include their name and address. The governor's office does not accept e-mail attachments. "Amateurs also may wish to send a QSL card with the message, 'Please sign AB 1228,'" Vallio said. "That may also prove to be effective." Davis vetoed a similar Amateur Radio antenna bill three years ago. The most ham-populated state in the US, California is home to some 100,000 licensees--almost 15 percent of the US total.

*** Astronaut works dozens of stations from ISS during Field Day:** US astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, worked more than three dozen stations from NA1SS aboard the International Space Station during Field Day 2003 June 28-29. The contacts appear to have been made during at least two ISS passes over North America. Operating the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station equipment, Lu managed to contact 39 stations in the US, Canada and Mexico on 2-meter FM simplex. For more information on ARISS, visit the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>>.

*** Museum Ships Special Event set:** The USS Cassin Young Radio Club will sponsor the annual Museum Ships Special Event July 19-20 (UTC). Seventy museum vessels--including everything from aircraft carriers and battleships to submarines and tugboats--are poised to participate in the event. While most vessels are in the US, several are in Europe. Stations set up onboard participating vessels will use SSB and CW (as well as other modes, including AM, PSK31 and IRLP) on various HF amateur frequencies. All of these museum ships are open to the public. More information, including suggested frequencies and a list of participating vessels, is available on the USS Cassin Young Radio Club Web site <<http://www.qsl.net/ww2dd/event.html>>, which will be updated as new information is available. The destroyer USS Cassin Young in Boston Harbor will be on the air during the Museum Ships Special Event as WW2DD.

*** ARRL Instructor's Manual Supplement now available:** The ARRL Instructor's Manual Supplement, edited by Jan Carman, K5MA, this 32-page booklet provides lesson plans, student assignments and review questions that are compatible with the new Technician exam pool that became effective July 1. The Instructor's Manual Supplement also is designed for use with the new fifth edition of the popular Now You're Talking! study guide. The supplement will accompany all copies of the ARRL Instructor's Manual shipped after August 1. It's also available separately (\$5.00 plus shipping) via the ARRL on-line catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8039>> for those who already have a current edition of the Instructor's Manual, and it's free for downloading in PDF format from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/InsMan.pdf>>. For additional information, visit the ARRL Volunteer Instructor Support Program Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/>>.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

*** Active Club Online Primer now live!** If your club is looking for loads of helpful information to keep things moving, check out the Active Club Online Primer <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/cpw/>>. Combining the best of the completely updated Club President's Workbook and the Special Service Club Manual, this online resource permits quick access to hundreds of pages that can enhance your club's functioning and help it to attract new members. Need to know how to get your club more involved in public service? How to present programs that make meetings more lively? How to help hams with disabilities? Find it fast on the Active Club Online Primer!

*** Vote on QST Cover Plaque Award:** The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for June was Bill Wageman, K5MAT, for his article, "The Transverter—An Introduction to a Useful Device." Congratulations, Bill! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award--given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue--is determined by a vote of ARRL members. Voting takes place each month on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the July issue of QST. Voting ends July 31.

*** Hold that AMSAT-NA ballot!** Due to a printing error, incorrect Board of Directors' ballot information recently went out to AMSAT-NA members. AMSAT-NA has announced that it will reprint all 2003 ballot materials in another color to differentiate between the ballots just mailed. AMSAT members should use only the new ballots. Any of the incorrect white ballot cards received will be destroyed. Direct questions or comments to AMSAT-NA Corporate Secretary Martha Saragovitz <martha@AMSAT.rg>.

*** Corrections:** The story "Cosmonaut-Ham Plans to Wed While in Space" in The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 28 (Jul 18, 2003) gave an incorrect call sign for ISS Expedition 7 commander Yuri Malenchenko. His call sign is RK3DUP. The story "California Governor Signs Amateur Antenna Bill," in the same issue contained an outdated Web link to the text of the legislation. The latest link is <http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_1201-1250/ab_1228_bill_20030714_chaptered.html>.

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