



KEY CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

September 2003

60m Band Now Available

From the ARRL Letter

The new five-channel 60-meter domestic secondary amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight local time on July 3. The FCC Report and Order granting the allocation was published June 3 in the Federal Register. Federal government users are primary in the 5 MHz band.

The FCC has granted amateurs use of five 2.8 kHz-wide channels with center frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz. The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees. The only permitted mode will be upper-sideband USB phone, and 50 W ERP is the maximum power allowed.

Users of the 60-meter channels should set their carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel center frequency. ARRL suggests restricting transmitted audio bandwidth to 200 Hz on the low end and 2800 Hz on the high end for a total bandwidth of 2.6 kHz. ARRL recommends that amateurs considering modifying existing amateur equipment for operation on 60 meters contact the equipment's manufacturer for advice.

Club Meeting!

Kent West, KC5ENO

Remember to attend the Key City Amateur Radio Club meeting, Monday,

8 September, on the second floor of the city library.

Introducing Shaun

Shaun, INKLINK466

My name is Shaun and I live in Aspermont, Tx., 60 miles north of Abilene.

I have been into radio since I was knee high to a grasshopper but unfortunately it has all been 11 meter. I am currently studying to get my Technician's license which I will take Aug. 2nd there in Abilene. Wanted to take it sooner but no one was giving it that I knew of. I am also a member of another ham group on Yahoo,

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hamradiohelp/>

The guys and gals in that group have been so supportive and helpful when it comes to questions and pushing me to study. If it wasn't for them I would have put the study book on the shelf and forgot about it.

I have always been interested in ham, ever since I lived in Japan back when I was 15 (35 now). We studied CW in eagle scouts and got to sit in on a few Japanese radio fest. I love all radio in general.

I want to learn all I can and get into all subjects of ham. My biggest problem is, when it comes to learning out of a book, it don't sink in. I am a hands-on learner. That is why I was looking into a ham group close to me.

I tried to make the meeting the other night but unfortunately, I work nights

and couldn't get off. Hopefully I will make the next meeting.

Been to your web site and went through it extensively. KCARC looks like a great and fun group to be a member of. Looked at all the pictures and everybody seems to get along real well like one big happy family. I like that. Hope to become a member soon.

[Editor's Note: Shaun recently joined the KCARC Newslist, and this was his first post.]

Review of *The QSB Song*

Kent West, KC5ENO

The group Hindsight had its recent song "The QSB Song" highlighted in the July 2003 issue of QST. I went to <http://www.radiointel.com> and tried to download it, only to find it was in a proprietary Windows format. I sent an email to the group, and Russ, K3PI, kindly sent an industry-standard MP3 version of the song via email. Here's my take on it.

I like it. It has a good beat; had my head bobbing to it the whole song (and this is at 0530; I'm never functional this early).

The tuning noise at the very beginning might have been a tad too long for first time listeners who don't know what they're hearing, but after the song shifts to other sounds, the listener will be left thinking back in retrospect "That wasn't too long; it was just unfamiliar to me." By the time that segment gets repeated at the end of the

song, it turns out to be just the right length. It's also a good length on a second listen.

I really like the QSB morse at beginning and end, in two speeds. Non-ham listeners would be curious about what the morse code says, and a good few would find out. It wouldn't take many listens to absorb at least those three letters into their brains, and then they'll feel special that they know "some" morse code.

Non-hams are likely to be befuddled by the terms used in the song; but then, who listens to the words anyway? As long as it's got a good beat, which it does, the words are just something to learn to allow the listener to become a participant in the music by singing along. The song passes in this area; it wouldn't take long to learn to sing along with it, and thus to be singing it in the back of your brain while driving to work or going up and down the aisles in the grocery store.

The only real negative I have about the song is that the phrase "Can't you zero beat my beacon / Can you jump back on the frequency?" sounds like a (n) euphemistic reference to some sort of "dirty sex" act. Of course that's probably because I was raised on rock from the 60's and 70's when everything was a(n) euphemistic reference to either sex or drugs. In other words, it may just be my "dirty mind" that conjures a shadow reference rather than the song itself sounding that way (and here I thought I had grown up . . . :-)

One other small issue is that I couldn't quite make out the phrase "Come in / I'm tryin' to ___ you"; later Russ explained that it's "I'm trying to clarify you".

I really like the last few drum beats that are audible in the fading finale.

All-in-all, I like the song. I'm astounded by people who can make music; I have no talents in that arena, and it's just fascinating to me to see someone make music happen. It's really cool!

Russ responded with the following:

The "sex" reference. Well, that was purely unintentional. It wasn't until after it was recorded that one of us no-

ticed that it could be interpreted that way. That lyric actually was originally, "can't you zero beat my signal" - but I didn't like it much. When I substituted "beacon" it seemed to work much better. I guess that if you are going to use "zero beat" in a song, the interpretation is inevitable.

The musical mastermind is Rick Whitehouse, an SWL from Wisconsin. On this song, I provided the lyrics and sound effects, including the cw.

The drum beats you refer to are also among my favorite parts of the song.

Like you, Rick and I are 60's-70's vintage - so we probably have some similar musical tastes.

You may find it interesting that we have done 5 songs together (3 more in the works) and we have never once spoken to each other. Everything has been done via internet (email, common software, and IM).

Vanity Fee Hike

Submitted by John Dyer, AE5B, from the ARRL Letter

The FCC says the new, higher Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9.

Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity application. The FCC expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and

are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the Commission concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing "a nominal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call sign," the Commission said.

The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request makes it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc.

What To Do About the Morse Requirement Post-WRC-03?

Submitted by John Dyer, AE5B, from the ARRL Letter

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made option-

al 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.

Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report July 14, 2003

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$776.05
	Income	15.00
	Expenses	266.82
	Balance on Hand	524.23
<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance Forward	1,686.07
	Income	30.00
	Expense	425.00
	Balance on Hand	1,291.07
Amount Needed to Balance		1,879.30
Total Amount on Hand:		
	Checking	1,772.42
	Check	15.00
	Cash	90.00
	Coins	1.88
	Total	\$1,879.30
** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
	Checking Service Fee (June)	15.00
	Southwestern Bell (July)	20.82
	Postage	37.00
	Equipment Insurance Annual Premium	194.00
	Total	266.82
(Hamfest Account)		
	½ Civic Center	425.00
	Total	425.00

Peggy A. Richard, KA4UPA

Treasurer, Key City Amateur Radio Club

**Key City Amateur Radio Club Income and Expense Report
August 11, 2003**

<i>Regular Account:</i>	Balance Forward	\$524.23
	Income	12.50
	Expenses	35.91
	Balance on Hand	500.82

<i>Repeater Account</i>	Balance on Hand	64.00
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<i>Hamfest Account:</i>	Balance Forward	1,291.07
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Amount Needed to Balance		1,855.89
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Total Amount on Hand:		
Checking		1,807.76
Cash		47.00
Coins		1.13
Total		\$1,855.89

** Itemized Expenses (Regular Account)		
Checking Service Fee (July)		15.00
Southwestern Bell (Aug)		20.91
Total		35.91

Peggy A. Richard, KA4UPA
Treasurer, Key City Amateur Radio Club

who spend most of their time in a text console, prefer to use text-based email clients such as Pine, Elm, or Mutt. People in poorer locales, such as third-world countries, may not have the computer resources you have, and may be forced to use text-based email clients. Also, administrators of those email lists may filter out HTML-based emails to cut down on spam, viruses/trojans, and bandwidth use. Oftentimes these lists have archives, which are unsuitable for HTML-based email, as plain text is easier to search, takes less storage space than HTML, and is presumed to be readable fifty or a hundred years from now, whereas today's HTML codes may have become forgotten.

Another place to avoid sending HTML email is to recipients who have to pay for their ISP service based on volume. HTML messages are simply bigger, bitwise, than plain text messages. This is also true for recipients who have slow network connections (such as dial-up), as HTML messages tend to take longer to download than plain text messages.

Another place to avoid sending HTML email is to recipients who will be reading their email on pagers, cell phones, PDAs, public access terminals in shopping centers, etc. Sometimes these devices can handle HTML messages; sometimes they can't. But almost always, it's easier to read plain text messages on these devices than it is to read HTML messages because of their limited screen "real estate". A message sent in a very large font may only show 3 or four letters per screen, which would make it very difficult to read such a message. Or a message in color might be difficult to read on a limited-color display. This could be a growing concern as these devices become more popular.

Plain text messages are smaller than HTML messages, so the use of plain text cuts down (only a very small amount, admittedly) on bandwidth usage. They don't carry viruses/worms, so they can be "safer". They are easier to convert to other formats, or even other languages, and they're easier to search and manipulate. They're univer-

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.

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."

HTML (Styled Text) vs Plain Text in EMail

Kent West, KC5ENO

E-Mail messages can typically be sent in either "Plain Text" format, or in "Styled Text" (HTML) format. Sending email with styled text (HTML) can add color and emphasize, and yes, even content to your messages. However, you should be aware that styled text messages are not always appropriate.

When sending email to a public email list, such as a "Yahoo Group" mailing list, etc, email messages should be sent in plain text. The reason for this is that not everyone has email clients that are able to read HTML-based email messages. For example, some computer programmers,



Randy Robinson, N5JZH (background) and Russell Dendy, KC5TAK, during Field Day 2003

sally readable.

This is not meant as a suggestion to stop using Styled Text for all of your email. It is meant to merely remind you of some of the issues.

Ad-Aware

Kristy Strickland & Kent West,
KC5ENO

Did you know that every time you surf the Internet you're at risk of spyware being installed on your machine? Organizations that install spyware can then track your Internet activity and are able to obtain some of your information, such as your email address, passwords, credit card information if you do any online-purchasing, etc. Oftentimes this "harvested" information will result in an increase of email advertisements ("spam") arriving in

your Inbox.

By using features built into *Internet Explorer* on *Microsoft Windows*, spyware can be installed automatically, without your knowledge, when you visit certain websites. Another method of installing spyware, which also can work with other browsers and other operating systems, is to trick the surfer into installing the spyware. This is usually done by offering some service such as checking your machine for vulnerabilities, or some feature, such as a pretty screen saver or a utility such as a pop-up ad blocker. This service or feature is really a "trojan" which supposedly provides a service or feature, but in reality installs spyware on your machine. Chances are very good that if you have *Microsoft Windows* on your computer and surf the web, especially with *Internet Ex-*

plorer, then you have spyware installed on your machine.

Ad-Aware is a free spyware removal utility. It scans the computer's memory, registry, and hard drives for known spyware and removes it safely. Before deletion, *Ad-Aware* does give an option to save the files that create spyware. You may automatically remove all ad components or just a few of them. The free version of *Ad-Aware* only allows you the ability to choose

1Note that *Ad-Aware*, although it blocks the ad components of spyware, will not necessarily block "pop-up" ads, which are the small advertisement windows that "pop-up" on your screen while you are online. Blocking pop-ups can be accomplished with other third-party utilities, which are not the topic of this article, or by using ad-blocking browsers such as *Netscape*.

the file locations of your backups and log files.

For \$15, you can purchase *Ad-Aware Pro*, which is an enhanced version of the free version. *Ad-Aware Pro* includes *Ad-Watch* that will prevent any spyware from installing on your Windows-based PC. By prohibiting the spyware installation on your computer you decrease the chance of your email address and surfing habits and other information being harvested.

Ad-Aware is easy to use and does not require a lot of space on your hard drive. It will not interfere with browsing speeds by contacting other servers every time you visit a new Web address. It does not connect to any other machines (which means that the *Ad-Aware* files are not updated automatically and will need to be updated manually on a consistent basis). *PC-World Magazine* awarded *Ad-Aware* the "Best Software of 2002" award. More information can be found at: <http://lavasoft.element5.com/software/adaware/>

Tidbits

Kent West, KC5ENO

* *OpenOffice.org* now supports direct saving to PDF format. No longer do you need to shell out cash for an application such as the full version of *Adobe Acrobat* in order to create .pdf files. Just download the free office suite *OpenOffice.org* from <http://openoffice.org>, create your document, and export it as a PDF file.

* USB Flash Drives are beginning to displace mechanical storage media, such a floppy disks and zip disks. These all-electronic devices can be almost as thin as a credit card and about a fourth the size, and plug into the USB ports of any USB-aware computer (Windows 2000, XP, Macintosh, Linux, etc). The common capacities are 64MB, 128MB, 256MB, 512MB, and 1GB, although even larger sizes are now beginning to show up on the market. Prices range from about \$30 for the 64MB size to around \$400 for the 1GB drive. Since they derive their

power from the USB port, no batteries are required, and since there are no mechanical parts involved, they are very fast and reliable. They're great for carrying large files, such as slide presentations or Windows Service Packs from one computer to another when the limited capacity of a floppy is inadequate, and since they're read/writable, you don't have to feel guilty about wasting most of a 700MB CDROM disk to burn a 10MB file.

* Your next cell phone, laptop, or HT battery might be a fuel cell. Most of the push toward this technology is coming from Japan. More info can be found at:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60268,00.html>

* Amateur Rocket enthusiasts hope to launch a 12-pound rocket this month that will travel at three times the speed of sound to 55,000 feet. They're using Linux and Amateur Radio in their project. For more info: <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,59144,00.html>

Key City Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 2722
Abilene, TX 79604

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Newsletter Staff

Editor:

Kent West, KC5ENO

Circulation:

Peg Richard, KA4UPA

Jim Richard, K1UQI

Contributing Editors:

Whoever . . .