

Feedline



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The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

May 2001

7 MHZ "REALIGNMENT" AMONG WRC-2003 ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY VIEWS

The FCC's World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 Advisory Committee has approved several "preliminary views"--or PVs--on expected WRC-03 agenda items. Among these is a US preliminary view supporting a realigned 40-meter amateur allocation at 6900-7200 kHz on a worldwide primary basis. The FCC is soliciting public comment on all preliminary views by May 9.

The preliminary view was developed by Informal Working Group 6, which is dealing with most issues of concern to amateurs. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, serves as vice chairman of IWG-6. The PV says that, alternatively, the US could support a 7000-7300 kHz worldwide primary amateur allocation.

Only amateurs in Region 2, which includes North and South America, have access to 7000-7300 kHz; the rest of the world has only 7000-7100 kHz, with the upper 200 kHz allocated for broadcasting. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the ARRL would prefer going back to the pre-World War II worldwide 7000-7300 kHz scheme. Some broadcasters, on the other hand, would like amateurs worldwide at 6800-7100 kHz, he said, so they would not have to move. A Radio Conference Subcommittee backgrounder from the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee--which reflects views of the federal government--said the issue "is liable to be very controversial."

Further complicating matters, Rinaldo said, is the fact that international HF broadcasters want to fold the 7 MHz realignment question into another WRC-03 agenda item examining the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations from approximately 4 MHz to 10 MHz. Broadcasters are expected to seek additional HF elbow room to accommodate digital transmissions to complement their existing AM channels.

Any realignment scheme will involve having to move existing occupants--broadcasters on one side or fixed and mobile services, mostly government and Part 90 users, on the other.

"We want 300 kHz," Rinaldo said--reflecting the position of the International Amateur Radio Union, "but, we have some flexibility as to where it is."

Another PV with implications for amateurs would oppose the use of 420-470 MHz for use by the Earth Exploration-Satellite Service for so-called synthetic aperture radars, or SARs unless it can be shown that the satellites "do not cause harmful interference to amateur systems and stations." SARs are used to map regions on Earth's surface and are expected to be deployed primarily over tropical rain forest areas.

Rinaldo emphasized that the preliminary views do not represent formal US positions and are subject to change as preparations for WRC-03 move forward.

Comments on WAC preliminary views may be filed via e-mail to wrc03@fcc.gov. The FCC's WRC-03 Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wrc-03>, includes additional information as well as links to related documents.

WRC-03 is scheduled to begin June 9, 2003, and continue until July 4, 2003. The conference is expected to take place in Venezuela.

The ARRL Letter, Vol 20, No 18

Official ARRL Field Organization Appointment

Description: Official Observer

The Official Observer program has been sponsored by the League for more than 50 years to help amateurs help each other. Official Observer appointees have assisted thousands of amateurs to maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with the regulations. The object of the OO program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the FCC.

The OO is also the backbone of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC. OOs are certified in the Auxiliary by passing a mandatory written examination.

The OO performs his function by listening rather than transmitting, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad signals, distorted audio, over deviation, out-of-band operation, etc. The OO completes his task once the notification card is sent.

In hard-core rules violations cases, OOs refer problems to higher echelons of the Amateur Auxiliary, and may be requested to gather evidence for possible FCC enforcement actions. Requirements follow:

1. Must take and pass examination to be certified as a member of the Amateur Auxiliary, an FCC requirement, based on study of the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary Training Manual.
2. Must be an ARRL Full Member and have been a licensee of Technician Class or higher for at least four years.
3. Must report to the OO Coordinator regularly on FSD-23.
4. Maintain regular activity in sending out advisory notices as needed.

The OO program is one of the most important functions of the League. A sincere dedication to helping our brother and sister amateurs is required for appointment. Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.
(<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/oo.html>)

FIELD DAY NEWS

Preliminary field day discussions are stilled being held. Once plans have finalized more information will follow.

CARC Minutes - 26 Apr 2001

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The April meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on 26 April, 2001. The meeting was opened by Mike, WA4KE. Introductions by the attendees was done. There were 14 in attendance.

Old Business - The death of Bill Hales, W4FNB, was announced. The club sent his family a sympathy card, and made a donation to the Raleigh Rescue Mission in his memory.

Field day was discussed. Mike, WA4KE, announced that this year will be a joint effort with the NC State Radio Club. He is taking sign-ups for equipment. Plan is to hold it at the Faculty Club, near the fairgrounds. Herb, W3HL, expressed concerns about holding it outside of the Cary city limits, and the affect on participation, both by the community and the Ham community. Will, K4IWW, said he had no problem with the Faculty Club. Ed, AB4S, and Alf, KQ4FP, had more discussion. Recommendations are to be in to Mike, WA4KE, by the 1st weekend in May. We expect to use the club call sign, N4NC.

Will, K4IWW, gave a report on the Swapfest. We have the building from 6 - 10 PM Friday, and from 6 AM to 5 PM Saturday. We will have about 5000 flyers to be mailed, we will save some money by sticking address labels ourselves, instead if hiring it done. Tickets will be back from the printers next week.

Treasurers report - Susan, WA4AKB, reported the following:

Checking	- \$1878.42
Savings	- \$1250.77
Cash on hand	- \$ 86.40
Total	- \$3215.59

Fox hunt - Lee, N4AJF, gave a report of a real fox hunt on 147.54 Mhz, the WDCG packet frequency. CARC participants, in various ways, were:

K4IWW, Will

N4AJF, Lee

KA4ATK, Dennis

WA4AKB, Susan

and 2 hams from NC State. The fox was found to be a broken or incorrectly-wired TNC.

Herb, W3HL, asked if there was enough interest to sponsor a beginning Ham class next fall. After discussion, a motion to investigate the class was passed.

After a refreshment break, the program was presented by NZOI, Charles. He gave a talk and demonstration on a different type of fox-hunting than we are used to. It was about the European (Radio-sport) type, and he showed the differences, as well as the similarities, to our usual type. He brought several types of hunting equipment, as well as a "fox", and demonstrated their use. It was a very interesting program.

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF
Secretary, CARC

FOX HUNT INFORMATION

Schenck Forest, Raleigh, NC
April 29, 2001

The last time a transmitter hunt was held at Schenck Forest the leaves were orange and yellow, and a cool breeze filled the forest. This time the leaves were green, and a hint of approaching summer was in the air. Several changes were apparent in the difficulty of the course, and the setup of the transmitters as well.

Like all Backwoods Orienteering Klub sponsored transmitter hunt events, the hunt format was similar to an international-style Amateur Radio Direction Finding competition. At 254 acres, Schenck Forest is a little small for holding a regulation transmitter hunt. But the transmitters' placements took advantage of much of Schenck's real estate, and the full course covered more than two miles if a straight line was followed between each transmitter. Overall, this was the most challenging course ever set up for a BOK radio orienteering event.

No decoys or other distractions were placed on the course, however, the usual number of big friendly dog obstacles were present along most of the park's trails. Transmitters one, two, and three were placed near trails, and could be reached without serious off-trail tramping. Transmitter four was about fifty meters from a trail, but its flag was visible from a major trail. Transmitter five was off by itself, up a thickly wooded hill, more than 100 meters from the nearest trail, and its flag was obscured by trees until a hunter approached within 20 meters or so. Interestingly, only transmitter number four was found by none of the hunters. Though transmitter four was not hidden especially well, it was farther from the starting point than any of the other transmitters.

For the first time at a BOK-sponsored hunt, each transmitter was provided with its own flag, independent and visibly different (with a blue stripe) from the orange-and-white control marks of the orienteering courses. The transmitters were the same Alinco DJ-S11 HTs, with Montreal Fox Controllers used during previous hunts, and they identified with a voice ID. Rather than being placed in ammo cans along the forest floor, the transmitters were located inside the control mark flags, and were hung high in trees. This helped improve the transmitting range, and prevented the flags and transmitters from being tampered with by all but the most observant and determined tamperers.

This was the first time that the Australian Ron Graham Electronics RX1/ANT1-144 hunting equipment was used at the Schenck Forest location. Unfortunately, the proximity of the forest to Raleigh amateur radio repeater sites rendered the Australian sniffers unusable. The RX1 receivers were not selective enough to allow hunting a 146.565 MHz fox while a strong 146.64 MHz repeater output was active. So most of the loaner hunting equipment was unavailable for this hunt.

Because the radio orienteering course was separate from all the regular orienteering courses, there were no "beginner" maps provided. Every hunter used a regular forest map that had none of the transmitters' positions indicated. The hunters relied entirely on their maps, compasses, and radio direction finding equipment.

Three teams, comprised of seven individuals, participated in the hunt. The results are given below, and have been posted to the BOK web site. Given the difficulty of the course, and the unusual equipment difficulties, everyone did very well.

Results

Team or Individual	Call	Club	Score	Time
Darrell Gammon and Maggie Gammon	KF4URC	CARC	4	3:51:05
Dennis Herman and Jeanne Herman	KA4ATK			
Harold Meder	-	BOK	2	3:49:01
Greg Johnson, Joanie Johnson	KG4AWG, KG4IYW	RARS	0	1:19:02

Special congratulations go to Harold Meder, who was participating in his first transmitter hunt, and managed to find two of the transmitters using borrowed equipment. Additional congratulations go to the Gammon/Herman families team for finding transmitter five. Very impressive!

Many thanks to the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh for sponsoring this event. Check the Piedmont Transmitter Tracking web site <<http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/>> for information on the next scheduled transmitter hunt. Happy Hunting, Charles, NZ0I

SHORTWAVE CORNER

British Broadcasting Corporation, the BBC

Radio Canada International has been broadcasting to the world since 1945. RCI's role is to develop an awareness of Canada and the realities of Canadian life. Thanks to RCI, Canadians living abroad or travelling around the world can keep in touch with their country everyday.

RCI broadcasts a full range of daily and weekly programs in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Chinese, Cantonese and Arabic. These programs consist of national and international news, regional events from across Canada, in-depth reports and interviews on political, economic, social, scientific and cultural issues.

RCI also produces weekly and monthly programs that are sent to numerous partner stations around the world and broadcast locally in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese:

Canada à la Carte, Canadá a la Carta and Panorama provide a series of reports and interviews broadcast on Radio Canada International concerning diverse national and international issues.

RCI also produces language lessons designed for broadcast on radio. These programs are broadcast on RCI as well as on partner stations in various country including China, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and in Latin America.

Go to the following link for more information:

<http://www.rcinet.ca/>