

Feedline



www.qsl.net/n4nc/
N4NC@arrl.net

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

September 2002

CARC FEEDLINE

Editor -- Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ
w4kaz@arrl.net

The deadline for submission to the Cary Amateur Radio Club FEEDLINE newsletter is the second Thursday of the month. Information should be forwarded by e-mail to the editor at w4kaz@arrl.net.

The FEEDLINE newsletter is published monthly by the Cary Amateur Radio Club. Permission is granted for reproduction in whole or in part to all ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs, provided credit is given to the Cary Amateur Radio Club and to the author of the reproduced material. All other permissions for use should be obtained by contacting the editor in writing.

CARC Officers for 2002

President Ed Stephenson, AB4S
Vice Pres. Clare Owens, N2RJB
Secretary Lee Swanson, N4AJF
Treasurer Susan Jones, WA4AKB

Other 2002 Volunteers

N4NC Trustee: Will Harper, K4IWW
Swapfest Czar: Alf Johnson, KQ4FP
Field Day Czar: Herb Lacey, W3HL
Listserv admin: Will Harper, K4IWW
Website admin: Susan Jones, WA4AKB

CARC Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Cary ARC
P.O. Box 53
Cary, NC 27512

E-mail: n4nc@arrl.net

Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

Listserv:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carc>

Pheedline Phun Phacts

Kaz, W4KAZ

This issue of the Feedline brings me to the end of my first full year as Feedline editor. I've received relatively little feedback, so I'll take that as a sign that I have not P.O.'d any body enough to elicit too vehement a comment, or that very few people actually read this stuff. (The latter seems much more likely...) Whatever the case, I'd instead like to reflect for a moment on "form" over "content"

After looking over MANY other newsletters available via the internet, I've decided that the straight "top to bottom" format has advantages over the "newspaper" format generally used for this sort of publication. The "newspaper" format is designed to present the highest possible number of advertisements to the reader by forcing "page-turning". Page turning can be pretty aggravating when viewing a document using the PDF reader on a computer monitor. (Well, I've found it sure aggravates me!) The Feedline contains no commercial messages, so....

So, unless someone can make a case for a change, this newsletter will stick to a very basic "top-to-bottom" presentation format. That gives me time to try to dig up "newsbites" and content rather than spend time formatting. (My ulterior motive....keep it simple!)

But please don't interpret that as a lack of interest in any items you may have to share. Please send in any items that you feel may be of interest to the amateur community. I know that I have missed several items over the past year, and I'll continue to miss items in the future. But every extra set of eyes and ears will help.

Also, if anyone does have objections, opinions, ideas, suggestions, etc, regarding any aspect of the Feedline, please let me know. Better yet, put it into print on these very pages!

Wow....another editorial bites the dust.

Coming Cary ARC Events

Cary Band Day

Saturday November 2nd is Cary Band Day, an event traditionally supported by the Cary ARC. All volunteers will be welcomed.

September 26th meeting

The program for the September meeting is to be a discussion of Uninterruptible Power Supplies by Clare Owens, titled "The Care, Feeding and Maintenance of Uninterruptible Power Supplies."

Clare is currently in the midst of battery changes and testing to his home UPS', and is going to share with us a discussion of tips on repair and maintenance on the devices.

Other Upcoming Local Area Events

Regional and Local Hamfests

Virginia Beach Hamfest: The dates are September 28th and 29th, and the location is the Pembroke Mall, exit 17B North off Rte 264 East. See their website at <http://www.vahamfest.com> for complete details.

Rock Hill, South Carolina: On Saturday, October 5th at Knight's Stadium, off I-77, exit 88.

Maysville, NC: Date October 13th, 2002, located off Highway 17 in Maysville, NC. Contact kb4mye@coastalplanes.com for more information on the fest.

Sumter, South Carolina: On Saturday October 26th. Sumter County Fairgrounds, 700 W. Liberty St, Sumter, SC Centrally located in South Carolina, about 15 miles West of exit 135 on I-95. 1 hour from Columbia, 2 hours from Charleston, Myrtle Beach or Charlotte.

JARSFEST, Benson, NC Rounding out the local area hamfests for 2002, on Sunday, November 17th, at the American Legion hall in Benson.
<http://www.jars.net/jarsfest.htm>

RTP Area Public Service Events

Duke Liver Center- Half Ironman Triathlon The seventh annual Duke Liver Center half-Ironman Triathlon is on September 29th, beginning at 7:30 am.. This event benefits the transplant research at the Duke Liver Center. Eric Haywood, KG4CXW is acting as ham communications event coordinator. See the Central Carolina Helping Hams website <http://www.hampublicservice.org/> and the event website <http://www.hampublicservice.org/dukeLiver.html> or contact Eric Haywood by e-mail at kg4cxw@arrl.net

2002 NC State Fair RARS is again supporting the Red Cross with communications operators at the NC State Fair for 2002, October 18th thru 27th. The event coordinator is John Guerriero, KG4HDT. Orientation classes will be held for the operators before the event. Contact John at KG4HDT@arrl.net. More event information is available on the event website at <http://rtpnet.org/~rars/public-service/events/statefair2002/>

RARS / Cary ARC Sponsor Fund Drive for PCRN

Gary, KN4AQ

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and the Cary Amateur Radio Club are joining forces to sponsor a membership/fund drive for PCRN, the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network. Memberships and donations to PCRN will be collected at the October 1st RARS meeting and the September 26th Cary club meeting. RARS pledges a matching donation of \$500 to add to the drive.

The immediate goal is to raise enough money for antenna work needed on the PCRN 145.39 repeater, located near Lake Wheeler in Raleigh. That repeater is the primary Wake County ARES repeater. It provides the widest coverage in the county due to an extremely sensitive receiver and tower mounted pre-amp. The pre-amp has failed, and the estimate for a tower climb (1000 feet) and repair is about \$900 (no volunteer tower-climbers need apply unless you have the proper certification, bonding and insurance. If you DO, call Danny K4ITL right away!).

PCRN sponsors several local repeaters, and a linking system that ties repeaters together over a wide area of North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The effort is always expensive, and is funded by membership and individual donations. Their treasury is low, though, due in part to having to replace the 147.105 Broadway repeater that was destroyed when the 1700-foot Broadway tower collapsed after being struck by an airplane last winter. (That repeater was quickly replaced and put back on the air temporarily from one of the WRAL towers near Raleigh. It is now being relocated to a new tower near Lillington).

If you will be at one of the club meetings, plan on making your donation there. If not, you can join/renew/donate by sending a \$15 minimum contribution to:

**PCRN
P.O. Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605**

More information on PCRN is available at their web site:
<http://www.qsl.net/w4fal/pcrn>

You can also check your current PCRN membership status at
http://www.qsl.net/w4fal/pcrn/pcrn_mbr_list.htm

Local PCRN Sponsored Repeaters

146.88 Raleigh (ARES/SKYWARN)
145.39 Raleigh (82.5) (Wake ARES)
147.105 Broadway (82.5) (SKYWARN)
147.135 Chapel Hill (82.5)
145.21 Trenton (SKYWARN)

For a full listing of PCRN repeaters, see http://www.qsl.net/w4fal/pcrn/pcrn_rpt_list.htm

Preface For The Amateur's Code

Editorial note from Susan, WA4AKB:

It is only coincidence that the article about patriotism falls during the 9/11 anniversary. Murray Merner kindly gave us permission to use these articles in BARC in January 2001, which was nine months prior to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Had we run these articles in 2001 rather than 2002, this article would have been on the presses waiting to go prior to the attacks. Since 9/11, and now on the anniversary, we have been hearing how "this changes everything".

The original publication date of this article was December 2000, nearly a year before the attacks. Had Murray written this series in 2001 rather than in 2000, the paragraph following the one about World War I and World War II would have added information about all of the amateur help during the trying times as a result of the terrorist attacks. Radio amateurs were then and always will be ready to serve and proudly fly our flags at Field Day and other events.

I do believe that radio amateurs are the most upstanding people who I have the privilege of knowing. These points do not describe a set of unattainable goals, but a good description of what all amateurs really are. They give us a good guideline for new amateurs and to continue to follow not only as radio amateurs, but in our daily lives as well. I hope you have enjoyed these articles as much as I enjoyed reading them in their original publication. Thanks, Murray, for these well written insights.

The Amateur's Code

By Murray Merner, K4MHM from Greenville, North Carolina
(Reprinted by permission from December 2000 BARC Ham Chatter
<http://www.qsl.net/w4amc/hc/hc0012.html>)

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M Segal, W9EEA in 1928. Every month one of the six items will be covered. The Code is a good guide for good Amateur Radio practice and for other aspects of our life. This the sixth and last installment.

The Radio Amateur is:

PATRIOTIC....station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Patriotism is a sense of duty and obligation usually to where one resides engendering a response to a call for need. Often there is some public display of being patriotic. Our transmitting privileges are granted by the Federal Communications Commission and provide a unique opportunity to serve our country and community.

During World Wars I and II, even while our transmitting privileges were put on hold, many Amateur Radio Operators were put to good use in the armed services serving as radio men on the land and sea. Many have served in the military in other roles and other wars. Amateur Radio continues to support our armed services by participating in the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) and otherwise providing communication between those in the service and their families.

At times of emergency and disaster we use our skills, equipment and organizations to assist and support response efforts. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) are organized specifically to be there when it counts. Many hams participate in Skywarn. The ARRL's annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is one way we continue to be ready for emergencies. Field Day is another preparation exercise and part of that is raising the American flag on a tower or mast. Many of us proudly have our call signs on our

vehicles and many times it's our license plate. Not only does it identify us as hams, it serves as a notice that we are willing to help.

While ham radio is fun, it is functional. Our role in serving our country and community is invaluable and often behind the scenes. Our country and community need us. While I don't know for sure, I think it is safe to say that there is not a public emergency in this country without Amateur Radio participation. There may be some complaints about our antennas or interference, but all that goes out the window when we're there to help save lives and ease misery. Our licenses don't obligate us, but our commitment to Amateur Radio and caring for people motivate us to play a part as good citizens.

The Amateur's Code may seem outdated to some, but the simple basic principles of life seem to keep us going in the right direction most of the time. Being Considerate, Loyal, Progressive, Friendly, Balanced and Patriotic are certainly good attributes to ascribe to - I hope we are ever mindful of them and practice them to our own and Amateur Radio's benefit. - K4MHM

Fuel Cell Update

Kaz, W4KAZ

GE Power systems is currently developing a Fuel cell for the residential market that will run on natural gas or LPG. Browsing through the information on their web site, it appears that they intend the unit to be available through distributorships, which will probably initially be natural gas and LPG utilities, or gas/electric co-ops. They expect to make available systems up to 35 kilowatts

Pricing information is not available, nor is an estimated date of commercial availability. I just thought this might be an interesting QUIET alternative to gasoline generators for alternative home power. This solution makes sense for remote locations too, but their design does not appear intended to be portable.

For information from their website, see

http://www.gepower.com/dhtml/distributed_power/en_us/microgen/index.jsp/

Global Warming....No, Cooling....No, Warming...???....

Another tale in the "highly accurate" science of long term climate prognostication and it's political characterizations.

Kaz, W4KAZ

Only a few short months ago I related a bit of media hand-wringing over the summertime collapse of part of the "Larson B" ice sheet in Antarctica. Funny, but I don't recall seeing ANY mainstream media coverage of this latest "global warming" tidbit from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. It would appear that over the past 20 years, satellite records show an **increase** in the sea ice pack covering the Antarctic continent in the southern hemisphere. The study also shows that the northern Arctic region, in contrast, shows the area with shortening seasons of ice pack coverage to be greater than the area with lengthening seasons.

Oh, the woes of orbiting a four percent variable star! What's that sunspot count again?

<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/20020820southseaice.html>

http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/antarctic_020822.html

<http://spacedaily.com/news/020910020829.wq287cho.html>

First Commercial Moon Mission Given Green Light

Kaz, W4KAZ

(Editor's Note Now this would make a great spot for a repeater....a new EME possibility!....W4KAZ)

In a landmark decision the US government has cleared the way for TransOrbital, Inc. to become the first private company in the history of space flight to win approval from the U.S. government to explore, photograph, and land on the moon. The company expects to launch its Trailblazer Mission from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan within the next 9-12 months.

The approvals and licensing by the U.S. State Department and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) position TransOrbital as the only company presently authorized by the U.S. Government to return to the moon. Once launched, the Trailblazer will provide stunning, high-definition (HDTV) video and maps of the lunar surface (at 1 meter resolution), as well as new images of earth-rises over lunar craters. Additionally, the Trailblazer mission should provide the opportunity to view the equipment left behind from past Apollo and Russian landings. The mission will culminate with the delivery of a time capsule containing personal cargo from Earth (such as messages and photographs), and a final "barnstorming" video as the probe impacts the lunar service.

The media collected during the mission will provide TransOrbital with an array of content vital to future scientific and exploratory endeavors, as well as educational and entertainment uses.

"We're not returning to the moon simply to explore... we're returning because there are true opportunities there - true revenue streams," said Dennis Laurie, TransOrbital CEO.

The regulatory approval is a significant hurdle for commercial space enterprises, as they must satisfy a number of design requirements and directives. For TransOrbital, the process took two years to complete.

Press release: <http://www.transorbital.net/PressReleases/press020828.html>

Story: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20020902/moon.html>

RFI Generators Proliferate

Excuse me sir, is that a laptop computer under your shirt?

Kaz, W4KAZ

Laptops and PDA's sporting new "Ultra-wideband" (UWB, for you acronym geeks) networking technology may "get the boot" from commercial aircraft due to interference problems they cause. Studies by NASA with United Airlines on Boeing 737 and 747 aircraft indicate the UWB devices cause interference with collision-avoidance and instrument landing systems. The devices will likely soon be banned outright as carry on items, as airline personnel are not going to be expected to be able to identify the offending UWB enabled items.

RF here, RF there, RF, RF, everywhere! Better pack your HT in the checked baggage too.....

See <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/5/26910.html>

UWB

Kaz, W4KAZ

For more information on some of the uses being discussed for ultra-wideband, here are a couple of interesting internet links that are still active at the time of this issue. The "aetherwire" link will point you to more than you ever wanted to know about UWB. (Well, more than I ever wanted to know....W4KAZ)

<http://www.sciam.com/2002/0502issue/0502leeper.html>

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/18019-1.html

<http://www.aetherwire.com/>

ARDF Team USA Competes In Slovakia

Kaz, W4KAZ

Local area ham, **Charles Scharlau, NZ0I**, participated with ARDF Team USA in the Eleventh Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championship, held in the Slovak Republic in the first week of September 2002. (That's foxhunting combined with a **nice vacation to Europe**, no?...W4KAZ) For complete information, including a good photograph of the USA ARDF team, see Joe Moell's web site at: Hope you had fun Charles!
<http://members.aol.com/homingin/farsnews.html#slovakia>

Patent On JPEG Claimed

Kaz, W4KAZ

Forgent Networks (FORG) in July "clarified" its licensing program regarding Forgent's JPEG data compression technology, owned by its subsidiary Compression Labs Inc., embodied in U.S. Patent No. 4,698,672.

From their July press release:

"JPEG is a standardized image compression mechanism and is designed for compressing either full-color or gray-scale still images.

Forgent has the sole and exclusive right to use and license all the claims under the '672 patent that implement JPEG in all "fields of use" except in the satellite broadcast business. Forgent's "fields of use" for licensing opportunities include digital cameras, digital still image devices, personal digital assistants (PDA's), cellular telephones that download images, browsers, digital camcorders with a still image function, scanners and other devices used to compress, store, manipulate, print or transmit digital images.

Forgent and a national law firm, who has made and continues to make a significant investment to develop Forgent's IP licensing program, are the sole beneficiaries of the patent license revenue. "

The release further states their intention to "discuss licensing opportunities". This might become an interesting new source for attorney's fees.....

Money, money, money, money.....MONEY!

A couple of stories on the story.....

<http://techupdate.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,2875443,00.html>

http://news.com.com/2100-1001-945686.html?tag=fd_lede

The Forgent press release:

http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/ir_site.zhtml?ticker=FORG&script=410&layout=-6&item_id=314044

CARC Minutes - 22 August 2002

Lee H. Swanson, N4AJF Secretary, CARC

The August meeting of the Cary Amateur Radio Club was held on 22 August, 2002, at the usual meeting place of the White Plains Methodist Church. The meeting was opened at 7:31 P.M. by AB4S, Ed Stephenson. Introductions were given, there were 13 in attendance, 12 members and 1 guest.

The Treasurers report was given by Susan, WA4AKB, as follows:

Checking:	\$5405.87
Savings:	\$1262.52
Cash:	\$48.00
Total:	\$6716.39

The Secretaries report was published in the Feedline.

Old business:

The Swapfest was reported on by Alf, KQ4FP. Will, K4IWW, reported on the problems of having two vendors selling the same line, one old and one new. He also suggested we print some early flyers for next year, to get them into the hands of vendors, who would help distribute them.

There was a discussion by Alf, Will, and Ed, AB4S, on who the audience of the Swapfest is. Is it the general public? It was decided to add the words "not for profit" to our advertising, to satisfy the requirements of some of the locations where we try to get our flyers distributed. We also talked about how to get more kids into Ham Radio. Some of the suggestions were - another license class, presence in schools, etc.

Announcements:

Lee, N4AJF, reported on the donation of an evaluation copy of some QSO logging software by Ron Scheckelhoff, WB8LZR. It only runs on Windows 2000. It was offered to anyone in the club who could and would run it, and was accepted by Ed, AB4S.

New Business:

We discussed how to get more people to the Swapfest. Some ideas included reviving the pre-registration prize, and the giving of a gift certificate, able to be used at any vendor who would be willing to participate.

A report was given on the 145.39 repeater. It is still running on the duplexer, as the coax to one antenna is bad, and the tower will have to be climbed to replace it. However, the receive preamp was discovered to be bad, it was repaired, and now the receive sensitivity is somewhat better.

The regular meeting was adjourned, and refreshments were enjoyed, in preparation for the program.

Program:

The program was presented by Herb, W3HL. It was titled "No-Math look at HF Tuners", the subject being the need, use, and design of the "antenna tuners" that we use to match the impedance seen at the transmitter end of the coax or twin-line feedline, to the output of the transmitter. Even though he did slip in some math, it was a very good presentation, and added some welcome knowledge of this subject to the CARC club members. Several examples of these tuners were also on display.

Florida Man Imprisoned, Fined For Deliberate Interference

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 34, August 30, 2002

Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo will spend a total of 15 months in federal prison--including two months already served--and pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. He'll also spend a year on supervised probation following his release, during which he cannot own radio gear or firearms. Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on eight misdemeanor counts. The sentence is believed to be a record for convictions of this type.

"It's sent a shock wave across the Amateur Radio and CB communities in South Florida," said Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, who was among the amateurs targeted by Flippo and who testified at his trial. "The CB guys are running for cover. You can buy an illegal CB amplifier pretty cheap right now," he quipped. Hams were surprised by the severity of the sentence.

Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley imposed the sentence August 29 on Flippo, of Jupiter. He had been found guilty June 19 of four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. Flippo has remained in custody since the guilty verdict and underwent a psychiatric evaluation prior to sentencing. The judge also said he wants a full financial disclosure from Flippo, who may face other legal actions unrelated to his radio operation convictions.

The jury took about a half hour to determine that he was guilty on all counts.

According to trial testimony, Flippo primarily had targeted members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.

Flippo had faced a maximum of eight years in prison--one year on each count--and up to \$80,000 in fines.

Last year, Flippo was convicted in state court of criminal mischief--also a misdemeanor--after ramming a ham's vehicle. He was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered him to dispose of his radio equipment. A ban on possessing radio gear also was a condition of his federal bond, which Hurley revoked during the trial.

Federal authorities arrested Flippo in July 2000. The criminal charges of which he now stands convicted covered violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. The defendant already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment.

Hurley ordered Flippo immediately back into custody to start serving his sentence. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

NTIA Heaves Potential Monkey Wrench Into 5-Mhz Band Proposal

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21, No. 35, September 6, 2002

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only, secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. The last-minute recommendation followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from organizations--including the ARRL--and from individuals.

On May 2, the FCC proposed granting the ARRL's requests for new amateur allocations at 5250 to 5400 kHz and 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and to elevate the Amateur Radio allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary and to create a primary Amateur-Satellite allocation there. Inlay said the 5250 to 5400 kHz segment was proposed because it appeared to have the fewest US government assignments.

The FCC went along with ARRL's proposal to permit amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes or to break the band down into mode-specific subbands. In its comments, the ARRL said that the band should be open to General and Extra class licensees and that band planning was sufficient to maintain order among modes.

Two non-amateur organizations commented negatively. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance (HPPA), while not opposing the allocation, suggested that its Part 15 home wiring telecommunication devices operating in the 5 MHz range be presumed to not cause interference to amateur operations and not have to cease operation if interference is alleged. The ARRL called HPPA's request "absurd."

The Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) said the FCC should not grant the 5-MHz band request because amateurs could interfere with its planned deployment of Part 15 broadband devices operating in the same region. "No Part 15 device manufacturer is entitled to oppose an allocation to a licensed radio service based on future deployment of an unlicensed device, period," the League said in its reply comments.

The League also took a dim view of a suggestion by the IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee that Part 15 devices operating in the 2.4 GHz region enjoy a "safe harbor" of operation. The ARRL reminded the FCC that such Part 15 devices have "no allocation status at all."

The ARRL's comments and reply comments urged the FCC to immediately implement the three proposals. "The Commission cannot make allocation decisions based on non-technical assertions of Part 15 users or user groups or manufacturers of such devices," the ARRL said. "ARRL contends that compatibility between amateur uses in the subject bands and those of incumbents is not a substantial concern in any of the three cases."

A copy of the ARRL's comments

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-comments.pdf>> and a

copy of ARRL's reply comments

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-reply.pdf>> in ET

Docket 02-98 are available on the ARRL Web site.

The NTIA letter is available on the FCC Web site

<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513290159>.

ARRL Responds To Implied 222-225 Mhz Threat

The ARRL Letter Vol. 21, No. 36, September 13, 2002

The ARRL has taken issue with a suggestion made in a non-Amateur Radio-related FCC proceeding to turn the 222-225 MHz amateur allocation over to commercial interests. In reply comments filed this month, the League urged the FCC to "do nothing" with the proposal of Data Comlink (DCL), a consortium of 20 electrical coops and allied companies.

"ARRL presumes that the proposal by DCL for reallocation of the 222-225 MHz band will not be seriously evaluated by the Commission, as it is well outside the scope of this proceeding," the League said in its September 5 filing with the FCC. Until DCL raised the 222-225 MHz suggestion last month in its own comments in WT Docket 02-224, the ARRL had remained silent in the proceeding.

DCL claimed in its comments that the amateur allocation at 222-225 MHz "is being underutilized" and that the band "would be much better utilized for commercial use." ARRL asserted that the band, far from being underused, "remains a critical VHF allocation" for amateurs. The League noted that the ARRL 2002 Repeater Directory--albeit not a comprehensive listing--lists 1690 repeaters throughout the US, indicating an even larger number of individual users. "Indeed the number of individual amateurs using this band has increased steadily since 1989, when the amateur allocation at 220-225 was reduced by 40 percent," the ARRL said, "and now much commercially manufactured equipment is available to amateurs."

DCL had claimed that "only handfuls [sic] of individuals in the Amateur Radio Service even use this spectrum, while hundreds of thousands of potential commercial users wait with no alternatives." The League characterized as "invalid" DCL's arguments in favor of reallocating 222-225 MHz from the Amateur Radio Service and noted that the FCC earlier this year had set aside an additional 8 MHz of spectrum for Land Mobile Service operations.

The League's reply comments in the DCL proceeding are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt02-224/arrl-comments.html>>.

The ARRL has not commented in an unrelated Petition for Reconsideration filed by Warren C. Havens on behalf of himself and Telesaurus Holdings GB LLC, in which he holds a majority interest. Filing last month under PR Docket 92-257 and RM-9664, Havens is seeking to have the FCC reconsider its decision to auction certain AMTS spectrum and instead adopt his "Advanced Technology Land Infrastructure and Safety Service" (ATLIS) proposal. Under that plan, Havens wants to see 222 to 225 MHz reallocated from amateur to public safety use. His ATLIS plan proposes to share 902-928 MHz on which amateurs are secondary.

Amateur Radio-Carrying Rocket Flight Rescheduled

The ARRL Letter Vol. 21, No. 36, September 13, 2002

A group of Amateur Radio operators and amateur rocket enthusiasts hoping to make aerospace history this month will try again to put the first amateur rocket into space from the Nevada desert. The Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) suborbital vehicle will carry several Amateur Radio payloads to assist in documenting that the rocket reaches an altitude of more than 60 nautical miles--which is considered to be "space."

Avionics Manager and CSXT Program Co-Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE--one of the hams involved--says a new launch window has been set. "We're very excited about getting the rocket up in the air," he told ARRL. This month's attempt will mark the third by the group. High winds scuttled a launch planned for late June, turning it into what Knight characterized as "a very expensive dress rehearsal." An attempt in 2000 got off the ground but just missed its mark.

"The rocket will go up this time, Knight said, exuding confidence. "Technologically it's all ready to go." Additionally, he pointed out, the weather this time of year is more favorable, and the team has a broader launch window than it had during the June attempt. The group of space enthusiasts last month got final clearance for the September launch from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Bureau of Land Management.

A live color TV transmitter will transmit throughout the flight. "The images from space should be truly spectacular," Knight said. Much of the avionics aboard the vehicle is Amateur Radio technology, and many on the CSXT crew are avid hams.

According to a team news release, its Primera rocket "is the most powerful amateur rocket ever created." (Primera Technology is a primary sponsor for the project and is helping with support and materials, Knight says.) At 17 feet tall and weighing just over 500 pounds, the rocket will reach Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) in just 15 seconds. Moving at more than 3200 MPH, it will reach space in just a minute and a half. The team will recover the vehicle, which is designed to automatically break into two pieces. CSXT's founder and Program Director Ky Michaelson is calling the attempt "the culmination of years of work by a wonderful team."

Funding has come largely from team members' pockets. Knight estimated the costs to date are approaching \$100,000. Additional information, including a graphical overview of the rocket's planned flight into space, is available on the CSXT Web site <<http://www.civilianspace.com>>.

Hurricane Watch Net, W4EHW, Activated

ARRL Website

<http://www2.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/09/20/3/?nc=1>

Friday, Sept. 20th, 2002

The HWN activated on 14.325 MHz September 19 for the first time this hurricane season, while Isidore was still a tropical storm. The storm has continued to gain strength, however, and now packs winds of 100 MPH, with higher gusts.

As of 1800 UTC September 20, the National Hurricane Center was predicting that Isidore was about to make landfall over Western Cuba. A hurricane warning remained in effect for several provinces.

Well-known Cuban amateur and International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Area C Emergency Coordinator Arnie Coro, CO2KK, said it appeared that the main impact of the storm was poised to strike the Isle of Youth (*Isla de la Juventud*) and the western part of Pinar del Rio Province.

"We request that 7040 kHz, 3740 kHz and 7125 kHz be protected if all at possible," Coro said, adding that there were excellent relay stations at several locations. He said amateur operators were deployed at CO9BNA at the Cuban weather service, *Instituto de Meteorología*.

Isidore was moving at about 8 MPH to the west-northwest. Heavy rainfall of up to 30 inches and damaging surf conditions were forecast for the storm's path. Official advisories are available on the NHC Web site, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>