

## Hams Could Lose Most of UHF 420-450

The ARRL is organizing opposition to a new threat to the 70-cm Amateur Radio band. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has asked the FCC to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis, and the 430 to 440 MHz segment is an international allocation. The 70-cm band is the second most popular of the hobby's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment.

The LMCC request, based on "additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community," acknowledges Amateur Radio's use of 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz, and suggests that ham radio applications can remain secondary to PMRS in those segments, but offers no explanation of how sharing could be accomplished. The LMCC says it believes the 430 to 440 MHz subband "is more important to the amateurs for use in emerging technologies such as links with spacecraft and amateur television applications."

The petition also suggests that equipment availability and technology resulting from an expanded PMRS presence on 70 cm would benefit hams "pursuing such applications as compressed video television in the 430-440 MHz band." The LMCC concedes, however, that its "most urgent need" for PMRS is voice and

low-speed data applications, not advanced technologies which might come later on.

The petition also notes that PMRS already uses 420 to 430 MHz in three Canadian border cities (Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit) and a "reduction in military use of this band is foreseen."

The LMCC also seeks allocations at 1390 to 1400 MHz, 1427-1432 MHz, and 1670 to 1675 MHz as well as 85 MHz at 960 to 1215 MHz by 2010.

Comments are due on the LMCC's Petition for Rulemaking, RM-9267, by June 1. Reply comments are due by June 15.

Experts say that the best way to kill RM 9267 is through a massive letter writing campaign to the FCC. A campaign that outlines the specific use of the band by Amateur Radio Interests - informational filings that detail how every hertz of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz is utilized on a day to day basis by hams.

The commentary **cutoff date** on RM 9267 is **June 1st**. This leaves precious little time for radio amateurs around the nation to react. Those responding must **be certain to reference RM 9267 at the top of your letter**. Send comments to:

Secretary  
FCC  
Washington, DC 20554

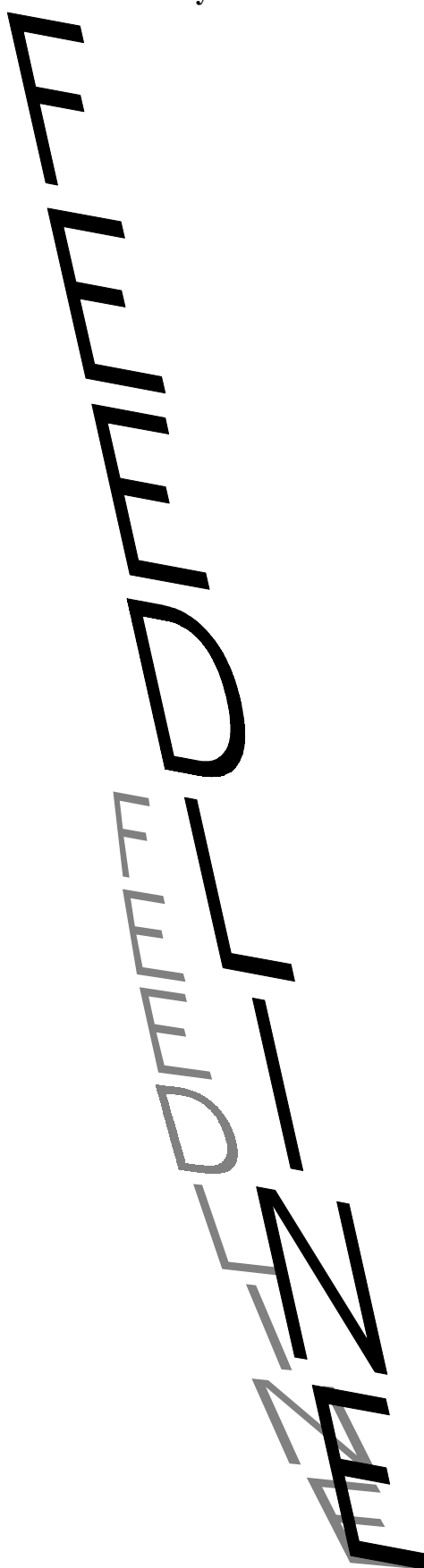
Again, that June 1st as the commentary cutoff date on RM 9267.

(Selected for Feedline by KM4LB)

### Verbal Morse

The Morse code has a new group of supporters in military circles but not the kind you might expect or want. Australia's Q-News reports that radio operators that are believed to be members of the Southern Sudan Peoples Liberation Army have been heard on the 40 meter ham band. What they are doing is sending messages by vocalizing the Morse code in both English and Sudanese local languages. According to VK2EA, the pirate operators are actually speaking each dot and dash. Presumably they think its giving them a measure of military security.

(from the Amateur Radio Newsline Via Q-News) (Selected for Feedline by KM4LB)



## Feedline

Feedline is a member-supported publication of the Cary Amateur Radio Club and is published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the second Thursday of the month.

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Cary, North Carolina 27511

## Cary Amateur Radio Club

The Cary Amateur Radio Club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, **7:30 p.m.** in the lower level of the Christian Life Center of White Plains United Methodist Church. The June, November, and December meetings are held off-site. Call for location of those meetings.

**Next Meeting: May 28**

### 1997 Officers

KE4ZEQ	Frank Lynch	217-1999
	President	
KE4CDI	Charles Nichols	639-1049
	Vice-president	
K4IWW	Will Harper	467-0224
	Treasurer	
W3HL	Herb Lacey	467-9608
	Secretary	

## HerbLacey - W3HL

## Club Notes

The April 23 meeting was called to order at 7:30:09 p.m., by Pres., Frank, KE4ZEQ. All present introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report - Will, K4IWW, reported: Savings, \$1,189.85; Checking, \$1,720.73; C-O-H, \$45.00; Total, \$2,955.58. DUES are still being received. Dues = \$9.

Gossip Alert: Ed, x-WA2MYZ, is now: W3ED. There goes the neighborhood!

ARRL - Reed, AB4W, NC Section Manager reported that there was a National Hurricane Conference held recently in Norfolk, VA. They are getting Amateur Radio more involved. Another bit of info is that the VA ARES is being setup very similar to the NC model (i.e., around District Emergency Coordinators [DEC]). For everyone's info, Tommy Babb, KF4JFQ, is the Wake Co. ARES PIO. He can be reached at: 772-6720, 557-7008, or [tbabb1022@aol.com](mailto:tbabb1022@aol.com).

Piedmont-Coastal Repeater Network (PCRN) - Mike, WB4TQD, reported the power amp in the 146.88 MHz repeater has been fixed. Also, the 440 MHz outage has been fixed. The Roanoke hub station needs an antenna. Hope to have the backbone linking up, again. Just got permission to get up on the tower to re-install a new one.

G A II: PCRN's Master Audio Engineer, Norbert, WB4UBU, (with RF talent as well), is getting married in May!!! All the best to Norbert

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Off the Web....

## Fema Goes

SANTA MONICA - James L. Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said today that FEMA is launching a new approach to emergency management that involves a move from the current reliance on response and recovery to one that emphasizes preparedness and disaster management.

Witt announced the Project Impact initiative at the El Niño Community Preparedness Summit in Santa Monica, Calif., where panelists and participants from the private sector, local governments in Western states and citizens groups discussed measures they are taking to prepare for El Niño. Witt noted that the gathering in Santa Monica represents a model for the new approach.

"We're here today to do something that's unusual, and it shouldn't be," he said. "We're here to plan for a potential disaster. We're working together to protect and minimize the loss of lives and property....[we're here] to collectively share the common sense preparedness and prevention efforts that will reduce the effects we anticipate that we may face from El Niño."

FEMA's new Project Impact includes a national awareness campaign, pilot communities around the U.S. that demonstrate the benefits of disaster mitigation, and an outreach effort to businesses and communities using the new Project Impact Guidebook that offers a formula communities can follow to become "disaster resistant."

Information released by FEMA at the Summit includes disaster prevention and preparedness tips for individuals, communities and businesses. Call FEMA at 800-480-2520 to order El Niño Individual, Business and Community Preparedness Packages. Visit FEMA on the Internet at <http://www.fema.gov> for updates and links to other emergency preparedness organizations.

### TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS

\* Purchase flood insurance to cover the value of your home and its contents. Call 800-427-4661 for flood insurance information.

\* Move your valuables, appliances,

electric panels and utility meters to upper floors so flood waters won't damage them.

\* Have a family disaster supply kit in your home, including plenty of pure water, a first aid kit, a flashlight and fresh batteries, warm blankets and a battery-operated radio.

\* Have a family disaster plan, including evacuation plans.

\* Have an emergency kit in your car that includes the same items you have in your home disaster supply kit, plus an adequate supply of your prescription and medicines.

\* Keep your car full of gas and have plenty of spare cash - gas pumps and ATMs won't work without power.

\* To reduce your risk from wildfire events, move shrubs and other landscaping away from the sides of your home, and install tile or flame-retardant singles on your roof.

### TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

\* Develop business interruption plans and implement mitigation strategies to minimize the loss of jobs and business activity.

\* Line up alternate vendors for essential supplies and equipment. Have back-up equipment and know its availability. Sign contracts on these items if necessary to avoid last-minute rushes.

\* Encourage local community prevention efforts that reduce the risk to critical local infrastructures like electricity, water and roads that are necessary for the continued operation of your business.

\* Purchase applicable insurance and know your assets. Standard insurance does not include earthquake or flood insurance.

\* Have a plan to help your business recover after a disaster. Call FEMA at 800-480-2520 to order Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry.

### TIPS FOR COMMUNITIES

\* Remove debris from in and around culverts and local streams to allow the free flow of potential floodwaters in the culverts.

\* Local elected officials should learn the procedures for obtaining state and federal assistance in the event of an emergency.

### FEMA...

\* Government agencies need to make

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Telegraph Served AP for 8 Decades

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Associated Press once had an army of 1,500 telegraphers who spread the news to the world in staccato bursts.

"There's only four of us left," says Aubrey Keel, whose career spanned bureaus from coast to coast and whose world was the 46 combinations of dots and dashes that made up Morse Code.

For the eight decades the news cooperative depended upon the telegraph, a good fist was in demand. His own could tap out up to 45 words a minute, the 96-year-old Keel boasted as he demonstrated his trade Wednesday as part of the AP's 150th anniversary observation at The Freedom Forum's Newseum, a museum in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Va.

From his home in Kansas City, Mo., Keel brought the tools that once ruled the business - a vintage green Western Union telegraph like the machine he started on, and a Vibroplex "lightning bug" that is still made today.

Smoothly, swiftly, he flicked his wrist, and "dahditditdahdahdididit" became verse received by a retired Illinois railroad telegrapher, George Nixon, seated with his own machine in the back of the room:

"Along the smooth and slender wires, the sleepless heralds run. Fast as the clear and living rays go streaming from the sun. No pearls of flashes, heard or seen, their wondrous flight betray. And yet their words are quickly caught, in cities far away."

Keel recalls the words flashing over the wire as the stock market crashed in 1929, and as baseball play-by-play and stock quotations flowed across. Trained telegraphers were at either end of the wire, one to translate words into dots and dashes and transmit them, the other with earphones and a typewriter at the other end to translate the dots and dashes into words.

And they had to know three "languages" of Morse Code; American, International and Continental (created because the space letters C, O, R, Y and Z and the long L couldn't

transmit along submarine cables) as well as Phillips Code, a shorthand version of Morse.

First recruited by the railroads during a telegrapher shortage in World War I, Keel took years to develop the skill that now comes so easily.

"I don't know how else to explain it. After you do it for a while, it's like music," Keel said. "It's like riding a bicycle or playing the piano. You get rusty at it, but you don't forget it."

Fellow operators worked for railroads, post offices, pumping stations, large companies, boards of trade - and Western Union paid extra for "bonus" operators who could take messages on a faster, hot wire.

But the newspaper telegraphers "had it made," Keel said. When he was hired by the AP in Lubbock, Texas, Keel made \$32.60 a week for 48 hours of work. The average railroad salary was about \$25, he said.

Older operators had a reputation for hard living, but Keel had learned his lesson as a novice in an earlier job. It was Prohibition, and he decided to drink a bottle of home brew with his more experienced colleagues.

"I came back, and the wire started up - I could hear it, but I couldn't get it down," Keel said. "You never saw a man sober up as fast as I did."

He remembers when the Texas AP phased in the Teletype printer in 1928, letting 30 operators go in one day.

"Someone said, 'Those Teletypes will never work, they'll have us back in a week,'" Keel recalled.

But they didn't. Keel weathered the storm, eventually becoming communications chief in the Milwaukee, Des Moines and Los Angeles bureaus. He retired in 1966.

Today, he often "talks" to retired telegraphers transmitting via ham radio - unless he's busy using e-mail from a home command center that includes two computers, radio gear and a digital camera and scanner. His old employer now transmits news at 9,000 words a minute.

He glanced down at his old "green key," adjusting the Prince Albert to-

bacco can that changes the telegraph's pitch.

"It's hard to think that AP started and for 80 years, that was their means of communication. And look at what they are today," he said.

(Selected for Feedline by W3HL)

### TRIAD SPOTTER TRAINING YIELDS GREAT HAM RADIO PR

Bill Boyes, KB1G, Triad\* SKY-WARN EC, reports getting great publicity from the recent spotter training class (April 23, 1998) in Rockingham, NC. Bill says:

"Channel 2, WFMY, did a great piece, including a major plug for the Amateur Radio end of SKYWARN. They went up to a ham's car and said, 'what makes this spotter vehicle more valuable? Here are one, two, three reasons.'" The reporter was pointing to the antennas on the car. He mentioned hams prominently, and said that it was a ham who first spotted the tornado in Mayodan."

Bill also said that of the 155 people attending the spotter training, about 2/3rds were non-hams who received an excellent introduction to our service.

73,  
Gary Pearce KN4AQ  
NC PIC  
(Selected for Feedline by W3HL)

(Continued from page 2)

sure that their communications systems are operational and working on the same frequencies and systems.

\* Conduct intensive training for emergency responders. State emergency management operations, in partnership with FEMA, have excellent training packages.

\* Conduct emergency management exercises to allow those would need to respond in an emergency work out a system and procedures.

(Selected for Feedline by W3HL)

## Using Amateur Radio in Emergencies

If your loved ones are in a disaster area, can you use Amateur Radio to contact them?

Since hams in a disaster area usually are very busy helping with immediate relief problems, it is usually very difficult to contact loved ones in a disaster area via Amateur Radio. But, it is possible.

First, since hams in the disaster area may be called upon to assist local emergency officials, you should wait until the immediate crisis has passed and restoration efforts have begun. At that time, local hams may begin handling what is known as "health and welfare traffic." If you know a ham in your community, he or she may be able to enter a message into a traffic net which can then relay it to the affected site.

The message should be brief (i.e. "Fred, We're worried. Call home, Mother"). Once received at the disaster site, your message may take considerable time to reach its intended destination since hams there may have no way of reaching your loved ones because of road blockages or outages in local telephone service. Do not pester your local ham to see if the message has been received. He or she has no way of knowing, and may be busy handling hundreds of similar

messages.

In a disaster area, can you use Amateur Radio to get word out to loved ones?

Yes. But the first rule is, have patience. When disaster strikes, all lines of communication, including Amateur Radio, are overloaded. Amateur Radio operators in the affected area must give priority to supporting local emergency relief efforts. When the immediate danger has passed, most provide "health and welfare" communication traffic for local residents unable to reach a telephone.

If you are in an affected area, locate an Amateur Radio station (often identified by a sign or banner) and leave a very brief message (i.e. "All is well here, love, John") address and telephone number for your loved ones outside the disaster site. Radio operators will put your message in line as part of their daily net "traffic" where it will be relayed via ham radio to the area where your loved ones live. Someone there may then be able to telephone your loved ones with your message. Since most hams are volunteers, most are unable to make long-distance calls on your behalf.

(Selected for Feedline by W3HL)

### For the birds

Remember our story a few weeks ago asking hams to help monitor for a flock of radio tagged migrating whooping canes? Well word from the organization involved in tracking the birds is that their migration cycle is now complete.

The radio-tagged birds are part of a federal migration experiment. They were recently detected by satellite tracking to be about 30 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. This is the end of their migration cycle and members of the research team have expressed their appreciation to all of the radio hobbyists who volunteered to help in this airborne transmitter hunt.

(via the Amateur Radio Newslines)

(Selected for Feedline by KM4LB)

## DUR-HAM-FEST

May 23

8AM to 3PM

South Square Mall  
Durham, NC

Talk-in 147.225+,  
VE Exams(\$6.35).

For further information contact: Rodney Draughon, 794 Harris Mill Road, Rougemont, NC 27572

[ae4jw@juno.com](mailto:ae4jw@juno.com)

or

336-364-7420.

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP) - Hey, good buddy. Clean up your language because Smokie knows your handle.

The local sheriff's department has seized \$75,000 worth of citizens band radios from at least 14 foul-mouthed operators, some of whom allegedly solicited sex from truckers.

One tractor-trailer driver made the mistake of directing some rough language toward Sheriff Ron Watkins.

"He was making obscene comments to me when I was in my squad car. He didn't think I was listening," Watkins said Monday. "Now, I've got his mobile unit."

Watkins said profanity and sexually explicit language have been a problem on the airwaves for years. He decided to crack down after receiving a complaint from a father whose son and his son's friends were studying to obtain a ham radio operator's license.

No one has been arrested, though Watkins said he plans to file charges.

(Selected for Feedline by W3HL)

(Continued from page 2)

and his bride!

SouthEastern Repeater Association (SERA) - Frank, KE4ZEQ, the Raleigh area has new 2m and 440 MHz repeaters. There is now a Greensboro-Graham-Efland-RTP-Raleigh link running. Why are so any repeaters going to "tone-access?" Density! It seems to reduce excessive keying from adjacent channel splatter. What about having to make emergency calls, when you don't know the tones? No answer. This problem needs solving.

Field Day - We have just received written permission to use Bond Park, again, with the same caveats. These caveats mean we need to be good citizens while using Bond Park. More about this next two months. FD: June 27-28.

CARC Mid-Summer SWAPFEST - Saturday, July 18. Please try to be involved in the 'FEST this year. The more hands we have makes the load lighter for everyone else. Our 'FEST, by design, requires a minimum of labor. But, we do need some. Also, as the time approaches, talk up the 'FEST on the air.

--- Break for Refreshments ---

Program: Pres., Frank, KE4ZEQ, presented an excellent program on the design and characteristics of Yagi-Uda antennas. If you have an