



Grant Amateur Radio Club



Issue 9

Newsletter

September 1997

IN THIS ISSUE...

OFFICERS CORNER

Nothing submitted

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Deforest Picnic Dates
 Ham Foils escape
 Scanner lock down
 Next Camp-a-rama
 GARC Library grows
 Talk to Mars
 Last Meeting electric
 Last camp out notes
 Watch your head
 MARS CW ban
 Look up for \$50
 CQ Ma Bell
 Become Famous

CALENDAR

Birthdays
 Club Events
 Hamfests
 Puzzle Corner

September 4th
 at 7:00pm



NEXT CAMP-A-RAMA

(KF4JNX) Gas up the motor home, dust off the tent. The dates are now in for the next get-together, September 5th, 6th, and 7th at the Maysville River Park. Talk in will be on the Georgetown or Maysville Repeaters, or on 146.52 simplex. Contact KF4JNX for a head count and to let her know what your bringing.

October 17, 18, 19 at the Maysville River Park is the last scheduled camp out and should include an fall paddle wheeler ride. Mark your calendar now for these events.

SCANNER LOCK

(World Radio) Another bill introduced in Congress to beef up prohibitions against electronic eavesdropping has scanner enthusiasts and equipment makers worried and could affect some Amateur Radio equipment. HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1997, was introduced by Rep Billy Tauzin of Louisiana. If passed, it would--among other things--amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ban the sale of scanning receivers capable of receiving transmissions on any frequency allocated to any Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS). The CMRS is a relatively new umbrella designation of subscriber-based radio services that act like telephone services. In addition to cellular telephone, such services include commercial paging services, commercial air-to-ground services, offshore radiotelephone, personal communication services, and specialized mobile radio services.

HR 2369 would prohibit receiving, divulging, publishing or using any intercepted transmission, and subject violators to substantial fines. It also would make it illegal to modify equipment so that it may be used to unlawfully intercept or divulge radio communications. The FCC would be charged with investigating complaints and enforcing the stiffer regulations.

As currently drafted, the bill appears to affect equipment available to scanner enthusiasts, hams who use scanning transceivers to receive out-of-band, and hams who use out-of-band capability for volunteer work. It would not affect ham frequencies, per se.

DEFOREST PICNIC IN SEPTEMBER!!

(WB8IOW) Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 9th for the Deforest Amateur Radio Club Picnic and meeting to be held at the Adams Lake shelter house. They always have great food and fellowship so bring a covered dish and join in. Table service and plates will be provided by the club and they still have some soda left from their weather picnic. N8YWX is personally looking forward to acquiring a few new recipes for the future.

Adams Lake is on State Route 41, a mile north of West Union, Ohio. Any questions? Call (937) 544-3763 or call N8YWX on the 147.00 MHz repeater. PL code 94.8 or repeater wake up code 500 on tone pad.

Meal begins at 6:30 PM, meeting will follow. 73, N8YWX

HAM FOILS PRISON ESCAPE

(KL7Q) Thomas Sorrow, KE4ITN, of Cleveland, Alabama, was recently recognized by the Alabama Department of Corrections for confiscating electronic parts and schematics for a transceiver from an inmate. The inmate, serving a life without parole sentence for capital murder, was plotting to escape from the maximum security St. Clair Correctional Facility at Springville, Alabama. Sorrow, an Extra Class licensee and correctional officer employed at St. Clair, credits his hobby for his being able to identify the contraband and to assist in foiling the inmate's escape plot.

GARC LIBRARY ADDITION

(KB8SUM) Thanks to Ramond KB8SMR our club library is expanding. A big thanks goes out to him from our club for his June contribution of numerous issues of QST magazine, via Hal KB8SUM.

If your electronics publications are running you out, contact an officer, and donate to us.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Name	Date	Call
Bill	9/6	NA8J
Ridney	9/21	N8XGP
Steve	9/29	KB8VLA
Kim	9/30	N8YWX

BUY, SELL, OR TRADE

For Sale, a Drake Model TR-4 Sideband Transceiver. Full coverage on all amateur bands 10 through 80 meters. Interested persons please contact Hal KB8SUM at (937) 378-3400

HAMFESTS UP AND COMING

September 6-7

Kentucky State Convention, Louisville, KY

Herb Rowe, W4WQD
5612 Highway 160, Charlestown, IN 47111

812-294-4905

E-mail: glha@thepoint.net
<http://www.thepoint.net/~glha/>

September 20

Southern Kentucky Ham fest, Cave City, KY

Larry Bru mettt, KN4IV
108 With ers Dr., Glas gow, KY 42141
502-651-2363

brumett@glasgow-ky.com
<http://www.geocities.com/Capitol-Hill/5421>

September 21

Greater Cincinnati ARA, Cincinnati, OH

Paul N. Rie del, WB8NFT
6850 Ed mar Ct., Cin cin nati, OH 45239
513-681-6263 or 513-733-3900

Fax: 513-733-0770

E-mail: paulr@fuse.net

September 28

Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

William Beck man, N8LXY
1-800-CLE-FEST
216-999-7388

<http://www.hac.org>

September 28

Independent Radio Association, Springfield, OH

Ber nie Corbin, N8XKF
6483 Brush Hollow Dr., New Carlisle, OH 45344-9148
937-882-6559

HOT TIME HAD BY ALL AT THE AUGUST MAYSVILLE CAMP-A-RAMA

(Edi tor) On August first, sec ond, and third, the place to be was the camp ground at the Mays ville boat docks. We had the usual over abun dance of great cooks and good food, and fine mu sic, but this time we also had a nice pad dle wheel ride down the Ohio on the Pad dle wheeler *Cindy*, thanks to Bob N4VGI.

An added event this time was the 1st an nual GARC blood and guts cham pi on ship vol ley ball tour na ment. I'll let the side op po site the vic tor ex plain the gory de tails, but for now let's suf fice to say that Jerry, KB8PVY and I, N1DJS whooped any and all com ers. 'All com ers' some times be ing as many as eight against two. Jerry and I are still await ing our trophy. Re-match any one?

Talk to Mars.... at 2400 baud?

(Webl ine) For the past month, the na tion has been en thrall ed with pano ramic pic tures of the dusty red Mar tian sur face and alien rocks called Yogi and Barnacle Bill. But you might be sur prised at how ba sic the com mu ni ca tions de vices are that re lay those pic tures 120 mil lion miles back to Earth.

It turns out that heart of the telecommuni cations sys tem re lay ing mes sages from the So journer rover to the Path finder lan der is a pair of modi fied Mo torola 9600 baud wire less mo dems trans mit ting at 2400 baud. These are nearly the same type of mo dem you could buy for less than \$600 each back here on Earth. (NASA ac tu ally paid about \$1000 each af ter some mi nor changes.)

The trans mis sion speed of 2400 baud is due to error-checking and other protocol overhead. This low speed is stunning considering how often we complain about long waits as so ci ated with mo dems a dozen times faster.

The lander, which has a custom-built Motorola X-band transponder, actually beams the in for ma tion to Earth about four times faster than it com mu ni cates with its Mars- roving part ner. It has a maxi mum speed of 11,060 bits/sec (which is still less than half the speed of a com mon 28.8 Kbps mo dem.)

So, why the snail-like speeds?, Sim ple. Lots of in ter fer ence. Un like Earth bound com mu ni ca tions, NASA has to beam im ages mil lions of miles through empty space even with ra dio fre quen cies cho sen to mini mize the noise, this is still a daunt ing task (as a refer ence, the one-way sig nal tran sit time is about ten min utes.) Power and vol ume are also at a pre mium. The Mars lan der has an an tenna about the size of a din ner plate, and it is pow ered by just 10 watts. In con trast, NASA can rely on a net work of an ten nas, each larger than a foot ball field, to cap ture the min us cule sig nals beamed from the lan der, and trans mit ting power of 20,000 watts to send sig nals back.

In all, JPL (NASA's Jet Pro pul sion Labo ra tory) and Mo torola spent about \$7mil lion dol lars and 21 months to de velop the com mu ni ca tions sys tem, a lot of money by cor po rate stan dards, but not much by NASA stan dards. Af ter find ing the Mo torola UHF mo dems - which were orig i nally de signed for mari time com mu ni ca tions - JPL tried to make them more rug ged. It re placed the metal cas ing with lay ers of fi ber glass and alu min um tape, re placed plastic con nec tions with wires and re moved parts that were not suit able for the vac uum of space. And be cause the mo dems were not built to op er ate un der the ex treme tem pera tures of Mars, JPL also placed them in a spe cial in su lated box on the rover. JPL de signed the an ten nas in ter nally

Con sider ing all the pos si ble prob lems, sci en tists on the proj ect say that the com mu ni ca tions sys tem has per formed re mark ably well. For in stance, when the craft landed on Mars, it hap pened to land right side up - mak ing it pos si ble to send sig nals im me di ate ly to Earth - some thing they called "l ain luck"

MAYSVILLE CLUB MEETING WAS ELECTRIC

(Edi tor) If you didn't make the com bined GARC and Maysville club meeting in August, then you missed great food, great times and a presentation on the dan gers of elec tric ity that was shock ing to say the least.

Thanks to the Maysville club for their hospi tal ity that was um um good!

NEED TO BE FAMOUS?

(Editor) Become a contributor to the GARC newsletter. You don't need to spell correctly, or write coherently (take the editor for example). Just have an idea that is of interest to the club. Jokes, technical discussions and personal opinions all published free of charge. See the newsletter cover sheet for an address to send your literary gems.

WATCH YOUR HEADS

(AMSAT) To mark the 40th anniversary of the 1957 launch of Sputnik I satellite and the start of space conquest, l'Aeroclub of France and the Russian Astronautical Federation have embarked on a joint venture to launch a miniature, working version of the original Sputnik.

Students from the FR5KJ radio club at JulesReydellet College in St. Denis, Reunion Island, and at the Polytechnic Laboratory of Nalchik Kabardine in Russia are cooperating on the mini-Sputnik I. The miniature will be able to work in space after it's hand-tossed by a cosmonaut from the Russian *Mir* space station. The Russians will build the satellite body. A transmitter made by the French students will be placed inside and will emit a continuous series of beeps on 2 meters starting October 4, 1997. During any given month, the signal will be able to be received in every part of the world. (The original *Sputnik I* satellite transmitted a beacon on 20 MHz.) The idea was to interest youth in space projects and inspire them to consider careers in space-related fields.

GOING, GOING, SOLD

(K4JRB) E. F. Johnson Company to be sold: Transcript International Inc. has announced it's signed a letter of intent to acquire E. F. Johnson Company, a former ham radio manufacturer. Johnson was a popular manufacturer of ham transmitters, antenna tuners and station accessories during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Some Johnson ham equipment still is highly prized among collectors. E. F. Johnson is privately held and posted revenues of \$79.3 million in 1996.

The company manufactures equipment for the public safety and land mobile services. Transcript went public in January 1997 and had 1996 revenues of \$13.8 million. The total sale price is said to be \$34 million.

E. F. Johnson Company founded in 1923 by Edgar F. Johnson in Waseca, Minnesota, was one of the first developers of two-way radio systems. The company employs 650 people at its Waseca, Minnesota, facility. For more information, see <http://www.transcript.com/Pages/News/efj.html>.

MESSAGE TO MARS MEMBERS: CW BAN REMAINS IN EFFECT

(Webline) MARS members can put those bugs, paddles and keys away again. The head of the MARS program, Joseph Frizzell, says the ban on the use of CW on MARS frequencies remains in effect. Frizzell said a "miscue" led to an erroneous announcement within the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program to the effect that CW would again be permitted for informal use on MARS frequencies (see The ARRL Letter, Vol 16, No 32). Some Navy-Marine Corps MARS members had already resumed using the mode in the wake of that announcement.

Frizzell said that while he personally has no objections to the use of CW, he must follow the policy dictates now in effect. CW was banned from MARS frequencies as of last October 1 as a result of the policies of former Assistant Secretary of Defense Emmett Paige. "The policy has not changed," Frizzell emphasized this week. "That's a fact."

Both Frizzell and Paige are hams.

Frizzell said a change in policy is always possible, but he added that "there's nothing on the horizon" to indicate that CW will again be authorized for use on MARS frequencies. Frizzell said Congress has asked for a report on the MARS program by year's end. Among other things, the report will look into possible changes in the MARS mission.

GARC SEARCH

K	A	8	K	8	Y	G	V
I	8	B	B	V	8	M	N
8	J	R	8	K	8	A	8
A	4	B	S	A	8	M	O
W	B	8	U	J	M	J	G
X	1	V	M	C	D	W	C
4	A	B	8	A	M	1	8
W	N	K	F	7	L	N	N

No one to talk to on the repeater? Dx'ing slow? Need some idle time activity? Then see how many GARC club member calls can you find in the above word search table? (Sorry for those members whose call signs wouldn't fit. Maybe next month?)

LOOK UP AND EARN \$50

(VE7OHM) A balloon with a crossband repeater aboard was successfully launched August 9 by the North Okanagan Radio Amateur Club (NORAC) of Vernon, British Columbia Canada. Dubbed VBX (for Vernon Balloon eXperiment), the launch project took place during the sixth annual Sky High Hamfest on Silver Star Mountain. Approximately 70 contacts were made through the airborne repeater — the farthest away in Tacoma, Washington. As of August 14, the balloon still had not been located. Wilfried Mulder VE7OHM, reports the balloon's path would have taken it south toward California. NORAC is offering a \$50 reward plus free admission to next year's Sky High Hamfest to the lucky finder. For more info, see <http://www.junction.net/norac/vbx.htm>

CQ CQ CELLPHONE

(Webline) Maybe it's a bit of an inside joke on the part of cellular telephone manufacturer Nokia of Finland, but Sam Haviland of Farmington Connecticut, recently discovered that one of the ring options on Nokia's Model 638 makes the phone send CQ in Morse code. Haviland, a Navy veteran, is not a ham but he still remembers the code.

