W6HA

The Transponder

The monthly newsletter of the Hughes Amateur Radio Club

Octobber 2002 **Vol 4, No 10**

CLUB MEETINGS:

When: SECOND TUESDAY of each month - starting at 12:00 noon

Where: Hacienda Hotel Coffee Shop

Club Website: http://members.aol.com/W6HA

2002 CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Bruce Shaphran W6BLS
w6bls@qsl.net
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VICE PRESIDENT:
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W6HA STATION MANAGER:
Brian Johnson AB6UI
wjohnson3@west.raytheon.com

CLUB REPEATER: W6HA/R
445.620 MHz out/440.620 MHz in
PL 127.3 Hz Location: Bldg. R1
Packet (node :hughes) 145.61s W6HA

AFFILIATED 220 REPEATER: KA6N/R
223.000 MHz in /224.600 MHz out
PL 100.0 Location: Palos Verdes
Owner: Tom Richardson, KA6N

Hospitality Chairman:
Dale Birmingham WB6MMQ

HAC HF NET: HAC & Retired
Tuesday & Friday 1:00 Pacific
Primary: 14,237 KHz Secondary: 7,294 KHz

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TEAMS

Boeing Satellite Systems ECT
El Segundo:

Ed Gaitley N6EG
ed.gaitley@boeing.com
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W/S41/A369 416-3182

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BSS ECT Net
Wednesdays at 12:00 noon
445.620- (club repeater), 145.770 (s)

Raytheon Electronic Systems ECT
El Segundo:

Bob Campbell KC6POY
????
????

Conrad Sillars KC6PHI
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RES ECT Net: El Segundo
Thursdays at 12:00 noon
445.620-, 145.770s, 223.460s

October, 2002

MEETING NOTICE

Date: October 8, 2002
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: Coffee Shop at the Hacienda Hotel in El Segundo

August Meeting Notes:

No notes are available for the September meeting.

Club Notes –

- Club dues were due on or before the July meeting. Dues are still $15 for regular members and $10 for retirees. For those that still haven't sent in their dues, please do so.

Amateur Radio News, Rumors and Items of Interest:

(from the ACS-Newsletter, via e-mail)

U.S. To Implement Wireless Emergency Telecom Network

By William New, "National Journal's Technology Daily"

The U.S. government will establish an emergency wireless communications system for the nation's top decision makers by the end of the year, a Bush administration official said.

Implementation of the Wireless Priority Services program, an effort of the 22-agency National Communications System (NCS), is being sped up since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to Brenton Greene, the NCS deputy manager. It is already a pilot program in Washington and New York City and is "fully on track" for full implementation in December, Greene told a conference of the Air Force Communications and Electronics Association.

The system gives priority to key decision makers to connect their calls "anytime, anywhere," he said. It will use the Global System for Mobile Communications technology standard and involves VoiceStream Wireless, Cingular Wireless, AT&T, and Nextel Communication.

The system would have a minimum impact on consumers by never using more than 25 percent of bandwidth, Greene said, adding that the use of handheld computers and the Internet also is being examined.

The wireless system was commissioned and approved in 2000 but received no funding, he said. It builds on the existing landline-based Government Emergency Telecommunications Services, under which a special calling card is used for access to priority switches.

Before Sept. 11, 2001, there were 40,000 users of the system, 1,500 of whom used it that day. About 10,000 priority calls were made on and immediately following Sept. 11, with a 95-percent completion rate, Greene said.

Lt. Gen. Harry Raduege, head of the Defense Information Systems Agency, leads NCS, which was created by presidential executive order after communications problems between heads of state during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis heightened the threat of conflict. The system was created to provide a single, unified communications system for the President and other decision makers during emergencies.

In 1984, the emergency system was broadened to include 22 federal departments and agencies. They are represented on the NCS through the Committee for National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications, which meets at least twice yearly. The preparedness committee provides recommendations through the president's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board, which is headed by Richard Clarke, director of the Office of Cyberspace Security.

Also under the NCS is the Federal Communications Commission's Telecommunications Service Priority Program, which gives priority to companies with highest need for circuits during a disaster. The program was vital to the restoration of Wall Street financial operations in six days after Sept. 11, Greene said.

The Shared Resources High Frequency Radio Program also is under NCS. Known as SHARES, it provides a single, interagency emergency message-handling system by bringing together existing high-frequency radio resources of federal, state, and industry organizations when normal communications are unavailable for transmitting national security information.

Other groups that coordinate with the NCS include the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee and the National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications, a public-private body that works to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts nationally and internationally.

From the ARRL Newsletter -

==>HAM-CONGRESSMAN APPOINTED TO KEY HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden is one of two amateurs in the US House of Representatives, and his appointment to the key House panel is considered good news for the amateur community. Walden's appointment was announced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana.

"With his extensive background in broadcasting, Greg has a world of experience and expertise in telecommunications issues," Tauzin said. "His knowledge of the issues will help the Subcommittee address digital television, spectrum management, broadband deployment and other telecommunications matters."

For his part, Walden said he was elated to become a subcommittee member. "I intend to work diligently to help invigorate the economic engine in Oregon and across the country," he said. "I am anxious to roll up my sleeves for Chairman Tauzin and Chairman Upton and work hard under their very effective leadership." Walden, who represents Oregon's second congressional district, was elected to Congress in 1998.

Within the amateur community, he's best known as one of the original cosponsors--with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--of HR 4720. That's the bill pending in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas.

==>COSPONSOR LIST FOR CC&R BILL, HR 4720, CONTINUES TO GROW

Four new cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. The latestadditions make a total of nine new cosponsors in the past month alone. HR 4720 has been referred to the House Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee.

To date, 27 members of the US House of Representatives have agreed to cosponsor the measure. The list includes two amateurs--Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR. Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives.

==>REPEATER? REMOTE BASE? FCC ORDERS CALIFORNIA SYSTEM TO SHUT DOWN

The FCC has ordered a UHF Amateur Radio system in the Los Angeles area shut down until it either obtains coordination or comes up with an acceptable plan to prevent interfering with a coordinated repeater just 10 kHz away. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says the owner of the 447.250-MHz system on Mt Disappointment, Steven R. Decho, KE6FX, has complied with the FCC request, which was included in a September 4 Warning Notice.

"For over two years, your Mt Disappointment KE6FX station has been characterized by lack of control and identification problems," Hollingsworth wrote. "The real basis of this matter seems to be that you object to a recent change in spacing standards by the coordinator and do not wish to conform to them." The regional coordinator, the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRRBA), has told the FCC that the coordination for KE6FX was abandoned.

The FCC considers the KE6FX station a repeater, while Decho, who resides in Draper, Utah, calls it "a remote base." As a remote base, he has claimed, KE6FX does not require coordination. But the FCC said Decho did submit outdated coordination documents in his response last year to FCC communications.

In either case, Hollingsworth again pointed out, the KE6FX system is causing interference to the coordinated WA6UZS repeater 10 kHz away. If it's a repeater, Hollingsworth explained, KE6FX is obliged to prevent interference to the WA6UZS repeater under §97.205 of the FC rules. If it's an auxiliary station or a remote base, "the fact remains that it interferes with the WA6UZS repeater," Hollingsworth said.

In previous communications with Decho going back about a year and a half, Hollingsworth among other things cited "reports of dead carriers that last for weeks, a tone that lasted continuously for three weeks, weekends of 2-meter rebroadcasts and a repeating CW identification that lasted for weeks." Over the July 4 holiday this summer, the system re-broadcast other repeater traffic and ignored attempts by WA6UZS repeater personnel to contact Decho, the FCC said.

In August 2001, the FCC said the KE6FX beacon identifier that activated without operational input, the rebroadcasting of other repeater traffic, dead carriers, continuous tones or repetitive CW identifiers "must cease immediately" and normal repeater traffic, if any, must not interfere with WA6UZS.

==>ARRL RESPONDS TO IMPLIED 222-225 MHZ THREAT

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

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.

"We have a happy rocket," Knight said, noting that the team plans no major changes to the rocket that was set to go in June. As for potential problems, Knight says he can't foresee anything other than Mother Nature's failure to cooperate. One thing will be done a bit differently in that regard. The team had been taking its 40,000-foot weather data from a National Weather Service Web site. Now, it will use a radio-equipped balloon to measure the data real-time.

A container in the rocket's nose will carry commemorative coins, business cards, US flags and mementos to commemorate the victims of September 11, Knight said. "We're proud to be doing that," he added. In addition, the rocket will carry some personal items plus a few photographs, including one of Knight in his younger rocketeering days, "to bring things full circle," he explained.

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."

Among those on hand for the momentous launch will be Worcester Polytechnic Institute student Julia Cohn, KB1IGU, who--while still in high school--helped design and build some of the vehicle's avionics. She'll be

taking a week away from classes to witness the launch. Her former high school electronics instructor and mentor, Chet Bacon, KA1ILH, and other students in Bacon's electronics classes also contributed to the project.
Other amateurs involved include Rod Lane, N1FNE--whose garage and basement workshop were largely given over to rocket construction and integration--and Don Skinner, N1HWR.

"We've got the whole team coming out, which was a logistical challenge in itself," Knight said.

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>.

- ARRL to sponsor legal seminar at Pacificon:

The ARRL will sponsor a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar in conjunction with Pacificon--the ARRL 2002 Pacific Division Convention. Pacificon takes place October 18-20. The seminar is designed for practicing attorneys who also serve as ARRL volunteer counsel, but it also is open to the general public. The seminar will cover recent developments affecting regulation of the Amateur Radio Service, including antennas, RFI, international regulation and licensing and possible future developments. This interesting and informative seminar will be held Friday, October 18, 2002, 9 AM until 1 PM, in the Sun Valley Room of the Airport Sheraton Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA 94527. Instructors will be ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and longtime ARRL Volunteer Counsel Phil Kane, K2ASP. Attending attorneys who pay the necessary fee will be eligible for approximately four units of CLE credit. To insure adequate seating, notify John Hennessee, N1KB, at ARRL HQ (n1kb@arrl.org; 860-594-0236; fax 860-594-0259) that you plan to attend. The cost for attorneys wishing CLE credit is $50. For all others, the seminar fee is $10 for ARRL members and $15 for non-members, payable before the seminar begins. The fee does not include admission to Pacificon. Required course material is the ARRL book Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur, available for $49.95 via the ARRL on-line catalog <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8217>. For more information about Pacificon, visit the Pacificon 2002 Web site <http://www.pacificon.org/>.

- Job opening at ARRL Laboratory:

The ARRL Laboratory has a job opening for an RFI/EMC specialist. The successful candidate will work at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on a variety of technical projects and programs relating to radio-frequency interference and its effect on the Amateur Radio Service. An Amateur Radio license and experience is required for this position. This job is a unique opportunity to work with ARRL members, the FCC, industry groups and standards organizations to make a real difference in this critical area for Amateur Radio. Some additional duties of this position are: Works with amateurs to find solutions to RFI problems; maintains and improves ARRL's RFI information; writes articles, book material and papers about RFI; and develops and maintains a database for tracking and documenting RFI problems. Send a resume and salary expectations to Bob Boucher, Personnel Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St,
Newington, CT 06111. Resumes may be sent via e-mail to rboucher@arrl.org. No telephone calls, please. ARRL is an equal opportunity employer.

Ham Radio on the Internet – Interesting Ham Radio Internet Links

Are you a fan of Icom radios? If so, check out this interesting site for everything Icom:

http://www.qsl.net/kk5dr/

Contest Calendar (from WA7BNM's contest page, http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/)

October 2002

YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 9 - 0200Z, Oct 11
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z - 2400Z, Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 12 - 0800Z, Oct 13
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1500Z - 1859Z, Oct 12
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 - 0500Z, Oct 13 and 1300Z - 2200Z, Oct 13
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z - 2100Z, Oct 12
Iberoamericano Contest	2000Z, Oct 12 - 2000Z, Oct 13
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z - 0400Z, Oct 13

YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 16 - 0200Z, Oct 18
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 19 - 2400Z, Oct 20
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 19 - 2400Z, Oct 20
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 19 - 1459Z, Oct 20
Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW	0000Z - 0200Z, Oct 20
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW	0700Z - 1900Z, Oct 20
Illinois QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 20 - 0200Z, Oct 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 - 2400Z, Oct 27
ARRL International EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 26 - 2400Z, Oct 27
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 26 - 2400Z, Oct 27

November 2002

IPA Contest, CW	0600Z - 1000Z, Nov 2 and 1400Z - 1800Z, Nov 2
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 2 - 1200Z, Nov 3
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 - 0300Z, Nov 4
N. American Collegiate ARC, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 - 0300Z, Nov 4
ARCI Running of the QRP Bulls	2100Z, Nov 2 - 0300Z, Nov 4
IPA Contest, SSB	0600Z - 1000Z, Nov 3 and 1400Z - 1800Z, Nov 3
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z - 1100Z, Nov 3 and 1500Z - 1700Z, Nov 3
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z - 1700Z, Nov 3
Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone	2300Z, Nov 8 - 2300Z, Nov 10
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 9 - 2359Z, Nov 10
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 9 - 1200Z, Nov 10
Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest	1800Z - 2400Z, Nov 9
LZ DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 16 - 1200Z, Nov 17
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 16 - 0700Z, Nov 17
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 - 0300Z, Nov 18
N. American Collegiate ARC, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 - 0300Z, Nov 18
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 16 - 0100Z, Nov 17
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 23 - 2400Z, Nov 24
ARRL International EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 23 - 2400Z, Nov 24

Club Projects

Club Information

Club Shack

The club shack is in E1, Lobby D. There is a Kenwood TS-520 HF radio connected to an SGC folded dipole. This station is open to all club members. There is another station, located in Building E6 in the Raytheon campus. The E6 station is for Raytheon Emergency Preparedness use and any Raytheon employees or Hughes/Boeing employees/retirees who have badged access to building E6 can use the radios on a non-interference basis.

Raffle:

Raffles have been suspended until further notice.

Club Newsletter:

If you have items that would be of interest to the club, any comments, letters, or items for sale or trade please email it to Ed Gaitley, ed.gaitley@boeing.com. If anyone needs a club application, please contact me and I will send one to you.

Club Elections:

Club Membership:
Club Treasury:

There is currently around $1400 in the treasury.

Club Roster:
Contact the club treasurer, Ray Waldemar for club roster information.

Repeater Codes:
The repeater frequency is 445.620 MHz. The autopatch codes have not changed.

E-mail – bag:
No e-mails submitted this month.