



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:

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August 2009

Minutes of the July 20, 2009 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW & Candy, WB8DPZ, WA8DTU, DB8DW, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, KB1KDW, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, N8OGZ, N8QF, NR8R & Barb, K8RJH, N8TFH, W8ULC, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, W8WLM

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Don, WA8DTU, asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published was made by Bob, N8RJH, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2009 membership is presently 89 members representing 64 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the Monroe remote receiver site is presently down due to waiting on the electrician to restore

power. Carl also reported Dial Echolink system was off the air for three days due to a crashed computer. It is now working again.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, offered sincere thanks for all of those who participated in the Dial/BCVHFA Field Day picnic. She complimented Alison (wife of Jason, KD8GXD) for the 'novel' edible Kenwood transceiver that brought much good cheer to those who saw or tasted it. Lorie received a round of applause from the audience.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, announced that the next exam will be on August 19th, a week before the new 6-week long Technician Class starts. Beverly promised to get a schedule out to instructors. Jason, KD8GXD asked if more instructors were needed and she encouraged anyone interested to let her know and she would try to find a spot for them.

Old Business

Ron, N8QF, reported that the Dial trailer is presently in the shop, being 'worked in'. He had hoped to check on the progress on meeting day, but was unable.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, at the **Golden Corral**

New Business

Barney, N8HP, brought up an issue at the request of Jim, W8ISZ, who was not able to attend the meeting. The motion requested approval of the purchase of new sections of electrical conduit (which is used for the frame in the Hamvention/Field Day shelter) so that the trouble caused by missing pieces can be avoided in the future. Barney requested that the Club approve the reimbursement for up to a 'bundle' (10 pieces) of conduit. Bob, NR8r, seconded the motion which passed. Barney stated that no action would be taken until Jim, W8ISZ, and Dave, KD8W, could coordinate so that multiple purchases could be avoided.

Gordon, KI8I, announced that he, John, W8WCQ, and several others would be heading up to Lake Erie on August 1 to activate the Marblehead Lighthouse, as part of the Lighthouses on the Air. He announced that he would be operating on 40 meters (7258 to 7270 approximately) and that John would be have a station on 20 meters (14270 plus/minus) from about 8:00 am until approximately 4:00 pm. Gordon asked that people listen for them, and if heard, give them a call.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and John, W8WCQ seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Hamfest Announcement

Barney, N8HP, received a notice for the Ripley County, Indiana Hamfest to be held at the 4H Fairgrounds in Osgood, Indiana on the 22nd of August. Persons desiring more information should contact Delbert Felix via email at WY9L.THEBIGDOG@GMAIL.COM.

News and Information

ARRL Responds to FCC's Proposed Allocation for Medical Devices in 70 cm Band

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on behalf of the ARRL, [filed comments](#) on August 11 regarding a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, ET Docket 09-36, issued by the FCC in March 2009. In the NPRM, the FCC proposed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices -- called

implanted neuromuscular microstimulators -- would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). These devices would be used on the 70 cm band on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

Researchers with the [Alfred Mann Foundation](#) -- a leading medical research organization located in Santa Clarita, California -- have developed a wireless medical micro-power network to tie together tiny devices implanted in victims of paralysis, creating an artificial nervous system to restore sensation, mobility, and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. "The Mann Foundation argues that the frequency range just above 400 MHz is optimum for their application, which requires no more than 1 mW of RF spread across about 5 MHz of bandwidth," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote in "[It Seems to Us](#)," published in the June 2009 issue of *QST*. "However, recognizing the presence of a variety of incumbent radio services in that range, specifically including the amateur service, they have proposed four channels for flexibility in avoiding localized interference. Two of the four channels are 426-432 and 438-444 MHz; the other two are above and below the 420-450 MHz band."

In its comments to the FCC regarding the *NPRM*, the ARRL said it believes that the choice of frequency bands for MMNs as proposed is "unfortunate and unnecessary" and that "the WMTS [Wireless Medical Telemetry Service] offers a far more suitable solution than does the 413-457 MHz band for MMNs."

Sumner, in his editorial, said that the FCC's proposed rules raise two concerns: "First and foremost, the devices would be required to accept interference only from stations authorized to operate on a primary basis. The Mann Foundation has assured us that amateur stations will not cause its system to malfunction, so we see no reason why this cannot be reflected in the rules, even though our allocation is on a secondary basis. Second, while the Mann Foundation researchers appear to have done their homework, others who try to take advantage of the new rules may not be as rigorous."

The ARRL asserts in its comments that due to redundant interference rejection design, the devices developed by the Alfred Mann Foundation "appear to have some reasonable prospect of avoiding the disastrous consequences of RF interference to implanted MMNs." The ARRL stressed, however, that the FCC should not permit the marketing of MMNs or any similar device in the 420-450 MHz band: "(1) unless and until thorough RF interference susceptibility testing is conducted on the AMF devices relative to high power Amateur Radio equipment; (2) at parameters other than those inherent in the Mann system, which incorporates notably redundant interference rejection design characteristics; and (3) without very

specific patient notifications and labeling of the body-worn MCUs [Master Control Units] and other portable components which provide firm assurance that the devices will not malfunction in the presence of RF fields from authorized radio services in the same bands."

The ARRL did acknowledge that it thought the Commission to be correct when it stated in the *NPRM* that "[g]iven the low transmitter power and duty cycle limits that would typically be used by either the implanted MMN device or the external MCU, we expect that the risk of interference from MMNs to incumbent operations in these frequency bands would be negligibly small." The ARRL pointed out, however, that no testing has been done to verify this conclusion and "such testing should be concluded and the results analyzed before this anticipatory conclusion can be relied upon."

In its comments, the ARRL made note of the fact that there is Part 90 spectrum above 450 MHz available for low-power biomedical telemetry, but "the Alfred Mann Foundation argues that bands between 450 and 470 MHz are unsuitable due to the fact that the band is 'congested and populated with commercial, high-power transmitters that could preclude reliable operation of lower-power, wireless medical implant devices.' This, the ARRL said, "is a very worrisome contention, and not the argument that should be made by the proponent of a new service that is secondary to other incumbent licensees. ARRL contends that if the 450-470 MHz band hosts services that are incompatible with reliable operation of MMNs, then the 420-450 MHz band, and especially the segment proposed for MMNs at 438-444 MHz is equally incompatible with MMNs."

Pointing out that Amateur Radio television transmitters and repeaters and FM voice repeater input and outputs operate in this segment in particular, "the potential for interference to MMNs is on the same order, or worse, than would be the case if MMNs were to operate in the Part 90 biomedical telemetry band between 450 and 470 MHz," the ARRL told the FCC. "In the segment 426-432 MHz, amateur television stations transmit on a wide bandwidth basis. Amateur Radio stations are permitted to operate at power levels up to 1500 W PEP output, and the RF environment at 420-450 MHz, with primary government radiolocation facilities and highpower amateur facilities is no more conducive to reliable MMN operation than would be the 450-470 MHz band."

The ARRL also voiced concerns that nowhere in the *NPRM* does it mention what the allocation status of MMNs would be relative to the Amateur Radio Service. Though the Alfred Mann Foundation has proposed that MMNs would be secondary to incumbent licensed operations in the subject bands, the Amateur Service is presently secondary to government radiolocation in this band; this represents a cooperative sharing arrangement that is satisfactory to both government agencies and the Amateur Service, the League contends.

"While it is presumed that the proposal is for MMNs to be secondary to both government radiolocation and to the Amateur

Service (as opposed to Amateur stations and MMNs being co-secondary) this is not clear from the *NPRM*," the ARRL maintained. "Because the interference susceptibility of MMN devices generally is not known, it would be improper to create a co-secondary allocation for MMNs anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band at this time. The Amateur Service has a practical inability to protect patients wearing RF susceptible MMNs from interference from ongoing amateur operations in the 420-450 MHz band, and therefore all MMN operation is going to have to be conditioned on the ability to withstand and operate in the presence of such high-power signals, and thus *subordinate* in allocation status to the Amateur Service. Unless this interference rejection capability is demonstrated by MMN proponents in advance, the devices should not be allowed to operate anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band."

Imlay and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with the Alfred Mann Foundation in February 2009, but Imlay said that so far, they have not responded to the ARRL's request to "cooperate in a firm statement that their devices would not malfunction in the presence of nearby RF signals from Amateur Radio stations. Failing that, these comments reflect our continuing concern about the effect on implant patients from unpredictably close Amateur Radio station operations. Other radio services affected, both above and below the 430-450 MHz band, are taking similar positions."

ARRL

Mickey "Santa Claus" Hicks, WO6T (SK)



(Aug 11, 2009) -- Mickey Hicks, [WO6T](#) -- known to many amateurs and their children as Santa Claus -- passed away Sunday, August 9. He was 79. For the past 38 years, Hicks, a ham for almost 50 years and a long-time Amateur Radio instructor, would get on the air for 10 days each December as W6S (Whiskers-6-Santa). ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, [profiled Hicks in December 2008](#): "The Amateur Radio community has been quick to embrace the W6S operation. Mickey says that the first year operating as W6S was 'a hit with the operators of all ages and their children.' Mickey noted that most children are a bit apprehensive of talking over the radio, let alone to Santa! He said one of the most challenging parts of operating is when he hears 'This one is shy and won't talk.' That's not a problem for Mickey -- he says after a few warm-up questions (such as 'Can you say hello to Rudolph?'), he can strike up a conversation that lasts a few minutes. He has even heard back that the parents weren't able to get the microphone away from the kids

afterward!" Hicks told the ARRL in 2001 that his Santa's Workshop has been a great ham radio recruiting tool. One of his most memorable experiences was when a young girl he'd once spoken with on the air as Santa came by with her ham ticket in hand to thank him in person for getting her interested. "I had tears in my eyes, of course," he said. Mark Slater, WI6J --Hicks' QSL manager -- said Hicks was an avid DXer, contester and rag chewer: "He had a passion for radio and making new friends through the hobby he enjoyed so much. Mickey will be greatly missed." Slater said that he will continue to confirm WO6T/W6S QSL requests "indefinitely." Hicks, of Bakersfield, California, was a member of the ARRL A-1 Operator Club and a long-time member of the ARRL, the Northern California DX Foundation, the Central Valley DX Club and the Kern County Central Valley Amateur Radio Club. -- *Thanks to The Daily DX for providing some information for this story*

[Link to this item](#)

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