

# FEEDBACK



JUNE 2000

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 6



## JUNE MEETING

The meeting for the month of June will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on June 2, 2000 at 8:00 PM.

This is the month everyone has been waiting for! FIELD DAY IS JUNE 24 and 25, 2000. Everything should be in readiness for the big event. We are working hard at making sure the equipment is in perfect operating order. Some of us will have to get together and make sure the computers are running in sync and are all operating properly.

This year we will again hold Field Day at Petros Park in Perry Township. It seems to be the most ideal spot to operate from. The picnic pavilion is on top of a nice size hill overlooking the Timkin Faircrest Steel Mill. From there we seem to be able to radiate out in all directions unobstructed by trees or any other obstacle.

Directions to the site are; Route # 21 south to Navarre Road, east to Perry Drive, turn south to the park (about 1/4 mile). From I 77; south on 77 to US # 30 west, exit on Richville Dr, turn left on Richville dr follow to Perry Drive, left on Perry to the park. Total mileage from US 30, about 3 miles. When you see the Timkin Steel mill, just before the tracks, be sure to turn left. Someone at the site will have a two meter radio on tuned to the 147.18 MHz repeater.

So be sure to mark your calendars and plan on attending the event. Dan N8DZM says that we will have a "never forgettable" dinner on Saturday evening. Be sure to bring a covered dish and a large appetite!! See you at the meeting and FIELD DAY !!!

## JUNE PROGRAM NOTICE

Don W8DEF, has indicated that the program for this month will be a video on Field Day. This will be very appropriate as June is Field Day month!! Should be very interesting! See you there!!

## - SHORT SKIP -

GOT T.V.I.? C02KK, Arnie Coros of "DXers Unlimited" fame says that a lot of T.V.I. is actually front end overload of your T.V. / V.C.R. The cure is really quite simple. Simply "snap" a couple of Radio Shack's snap on ferrite beads, part number 273-105C over the cable where it enters your T.V. or V.C.R. Zamo! No more interference.

As C02KK would say, "73 amigos and happy DXing!"

DE WB8OWM



E-COM TRAILER AT THE MOVIES??? See page 6

## **May 5,2000 MARC MINUTES**

The May meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center, with 39 members and guest present. The meeting was called to order by Perry W8AU at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

We welcomed our guest speaker Jim N8PXW from the Cuyahoga Falls ARC. He brought with him the equipment showing how to do "fox hunting" and directional finding. He also gave a demo in the parking lot after the meeting. Sorry some of us missed it.

We then had a brief intermission and everyone enjoyed refreshments.

The meeting was called back to order by Perry W8AU. Jim WA8GXM made motion not to read but approve minutes of last months meeting and second by Gary WC8W.

Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. It was accepted by Jim WA8GXM and seconded by Gary WC8W. Anne is selling Field Day Pins for \$5.00 anyone participating in any event on that weekend ,even cooking is eligible to buy one.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Gary WC8W and DAN N8DZM gave update on purchasing a computer for the MARC . Motion was made and second by Sandra N8TZB that Dan N8DZM will be buying the new computer for the MARC.It was then voted on and passed. A big thanks goes to Dan N8DZM for obtaining a printer and monitor for the MARC.

Dan N8DZM made a suggestion to change the Field Day menu. He would like to roast a pig this year.Everyone thought it sounded great.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Perry W8AU announced our first safety break will be next weekend. With everyone helping it should be a big success.

Jason KC8LIN told of how he saw the movie FREQUENCY,talked to the manager and arranged for the E-COM trailer to be at Movies 10 for some public relations.

Terry N8ATZ said the ARRL will offer an award to the best ARC for the most effort in promoting this movie.

John KB8LBZ needs help with the Air Show the weekend of Field Day. If you can help contact John.

Don D8DEF gave his report, he outlined newsletters from other ARCs. Told of the VE session coming up May 27th.He also told about the ARRL contest going on this year. This could earn MARC \$1,000.to purchase equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

50-50- for \$13.50 was won by John KB8LBZ

**Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC**

.... DAYTON, DAYTON, DAYTON !!!!! .....

Did you make it to Dayton ? I made it down for Friday and Saturday and had a great time. I saw a few fellow club members and a few that I haven't seen for a while. I hope that you had as good a time as I did there. I spent a little too much but who doesn't ? My only big purchase was a new Epson color printer. I know, all that way for a printer ! I couldn't help it, nearly fifty bucks cheaper than around here. Even picked up a spare color cartridge for it for ten dollars !. I also picked up a Compaq 486 mono chrome laptop for only seventy-five bucks and it has a working battery. It should make a great portable packet station but I'm having too much fun with it right now. Any ham gear ? Yes I picked up a new HT battery, speaker mike and a new case for it, does that count ? Thanks to my XYL Lynnette, I also came back with about a hundred pounds of literature and catalogs. If they were giving it out, she picked it up. And of course I'm sure we all picked up yet another Yeasu hat !

Dayton as usual brings out it's share of unusual sights, lets see everything from the hearty ham wearing a tower on his hard hat to a goat in the flea market. I wonder what the goat sold for !. I took a lot of pictures over the weekend, as soon as they're developed I'll post them on the website !

.... WEBSITE UPDATE ....

Speaking of Dayton, I had the opportunity to meet & talk briefly to Al Waller, K3TKJ. Al is the owner and operator of QSL.NET, our website server. A self made tycoon who decided one day several years ago to give something back to his fellow hams. Asked by a fellow ham buddy to create a website for him, it started what would become a major supplier Amateur Radio websites anywhere. Al's card says "CONNECTING HAMS AROUND THE WORLD", and he's doing just that. Al offers his websites for free to ham radio organizations, asking only a ten dollar donation once a year. No commercial sites allowed, that is another part of his ventures. Ten dollars, what a deal - I saw an offer in the flea market for websites for only \$ 129.95 per year, and this is considered cheap !. We are fortunate to have an opportunity to promote our club and hobby using this exciting new medium. How popular are his websites ? Well lets see, Al said he currently has about 10,000 amateur websites on his servers. Recent technical upgrades cost about \$ 8,000 dollars. He now receives about 100 requests for new amateur radio websites every day ! His servers also record an average of 25,000 hits every day on websites. I could go on and on about his setup but suffice to say that Al has done it right !. Thanks Al for this terrific opportunity !

.... KUDOS' TIME AGAIN !!! ....

Did you happen to notice the article in the Massillon Evening Independent a short time ago ? Congratulations go out to member (Big) John Edel, K8LBZ. John's son John E. Edel has just been promoted to Associate Vice-President of McDonald Invest-

ments Inc, in its Findlay, Ohio office. A 1972 graduate of Washington High School, where he was a drum major in the Tiger Swing Band, he earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Findlay and a master of arts degree from Ohio State University. Congratulations go out to both John Jr. and John Senior for a terrific job !

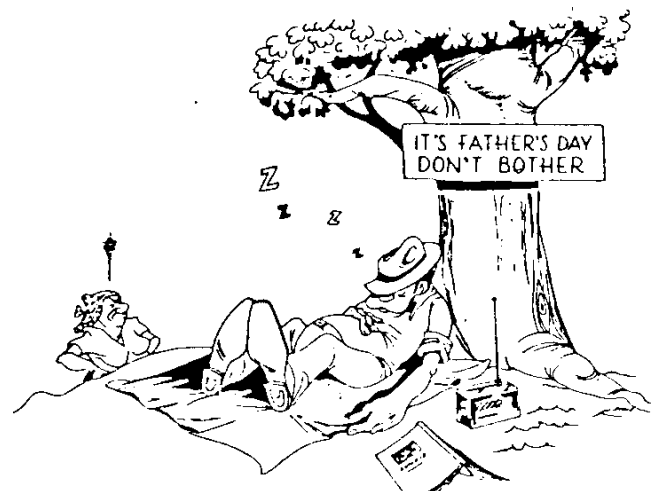
.... MARC ASSISTS IN MS WALK ....

I don't know how it happened but my report on the MS Walk in April got lost somewhere in my laptop ! Here is what it should have said.

Members of the MARC opened the 2000 public service season on April 9 by assisting with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's annual MS Walk held at Quail Hollow State Park in Hartville. Previous rainy weather and a chilly morning didn't dampen didn't dampen the spirits of the more than 500 plus people who braved the weather and very wet & muddy trails to raise money for this very worthy cause. Again this year we were happy to assist in communications between rest stops, administration, and the main parking center at the local elementary school. We are glad to report a safe effort for everyone except maybe a few muddy sneakers !. Event coordinator Jack Wade - N8LCS wants to thank everyone who gave up their Sunday to assist with this event. A big thanks to the following amateurs who helped out, Saundy - N8TZB who held down the fort Administration, Don - W8DEF, Linda - K8MOO & Terry - N8ATZ who staffed the rest stops, Jeff - KC8KIX & Jason - KC8LIN who monitored trail activity, and especially to Bruce - AB8FB who was stationed at the Elementary School. This was Bruce's first public service event since re-acquiring his amateur license. Another fine job by your Massillon Amateur Radio Club !

Out of stuff for this month. Till next time 73's

Terry - N8ATZ



**Father's Day June 18th**

## ARLD022: DX news

ZCZC AE22  
QST de W1AW  
DX Bulletin 22 ARLD022  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT May 25, 2000  
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The 599Rpt, Mayer, QRZ DX, The Daily DX, DXNL, 425DXnews and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

TUNISIA, 3V. Hrane, YT1AD, will be QRV from club station 3V8BB during the CQ WPX CW contest. He will also be active before and after the contest. QSL to home call.

PALESTINE, E4. Radek, OK1FHI, and Zdenek, OK2BZM, are QRV until May 30 as E4/OK1FHI and E4/OK2BZM, respectively, from the QTH of David, E41/OK1DTP. They will be a Multi/Single entry as E41/OK1DTP during the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to home calls.

MOLDOVA, ER. Slawa, ER1LW, will sign ER6A in the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to home call.

FRANCE, F. The Castres DX Gang will be QRV from Fort Brescou, IOTA EU-148, as F5XX/p until May 29. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including the newer bands. QSL via F5XX.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. A group of hams will be QRV from May 27 to June 4 from Iles du Salut, IOTA SA-020, and may use the callsign FY5HE/p. Activity will be on all HF bands, including 6 meters using CW, SSB and some SSTV. QSL via F8BXI.

TEMOTU ISLANDS, H40. H40MY is usually QRV on 20 and 12 meters. QSL via JA0IXW.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Trey, N5KO, and Steve, K6AW, will be QRV as HC8N during CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via AA5BT.

MONGOLIA, JT. Nicola, I0SNY, and other Italian operators are QRV as JT1Y for several weeks. They will sign JU1Y during the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to I0SNY.

ARUBA, P4. Carl, AI6V, will be active in the CQ WPX CW contest as either P49V or P40V. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV. Oldrich, OK1YM, is now active as SV/OK1YM and will participate in the CQ WPX CW contest as either a 40 or 10 meter

entry. Meanwhile, he has been active on 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW. QSL via the OK DX Foundation.

PALAU, T8. Steven, K7USJ, is QRV as T88SH until May 30, and can be found especially on 10 meter FM and CW during his morning and evening hours. QSL to home call.

COSTA RICA, TI. Phil, N0KE, will participate in the CQ WPX CW contest as TI5N. QSL via TI5KD.

ANTIGUA, V2. Brian, N3OC, and Bob, N5NJ, are QRV as V26OC and V26O, respectively, until May 31. They will be a Multi/Single entry as V26OC in the CQ WPX CW contest. Before and after the contest, look for them on 160, 30, 17, 12 and 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Diana, K2DO, and George, N2GA, will be QRV from Providenciales until May 30 as VP5/homecalls. Look for their VP5GA station to be a Single Op/All band entry in the CW WPX contest. QSL to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ WW WPX CW Contest, ARCI QRP Hoot Owl CW Sprint and the Memorial Day CW Sprint are all on tap for this weekend. Please see May QST, page 91, for details.

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Page last modified: 03:39 PM, May 2000 ET

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## PROPAGATION NEWS

ZCZC AP21

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 21 ARLP021

From Tad Cook, K7VVV

Seattle, WA May 26, 2000

To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP021

ARLP021 Propagation de K7VVV

Sunspots and solar flux numbers have dropped since their peak last week, although because the peak came at the end of the previous reporting period on Wednesday, May 17, the average solar flux number for this week is not much lower. Average solar flux is down less than 2 points this week, and average sunspot numbers are down about 37 points.

There was a big geomagnetic shock on Wednesday, when the planetary A index rose to 73, indicating severe storm levels. The planetary K index was either 6 or 7 for 15 hours. This was after a quiet week where the K index was often 1 or 2. Aurora was sighted as far south as Oklahoma and Missouri on May 23 and 24.

The K index is updated every 3 hours, and a 1 point change is very significant. The A index is updated every 24 hours, and represents the average K index for the previous day. A 1 point change in the A index is very small. For instance, if the K index were 2 for all of the eight 3-hour periods in a day, the A index for the day would be 7. But if the K index were always 3 throughout a day, the A index would be 15. A constant K index of 4 would result in an A index of 27, and a K index of 5 would mean an A index of 48. If the K index were 6 for all periods in a day, then the A index would be 80, and an A index of 132 would result if all periods had a K index of 7.

CW contesters concerned about the CQ Worldwide WPX test this weekend can relax. The latest projection shows geomagnetic conditions settling down. The predicted planetary A index for Friday through Tuesday is 10, 10, 12, 20 and 15. There is more upset seen for early next week, but Friday through Sunday does not look bad. The predicted solar flux for Friday through Tuesday is 165, 160, 150, 145 and 140. Near term solar flux should bottom out near 130 around June 2 or 3, then rise to a peak around the middle of June.

With longer days in the northern hemisphere along with higher sunspot counts and solar flux, look for greater worldwide propagation after dark on 20, 17 and 15 meters.

Sunspot numbers for May 18 through 24 were 297, 239, 282, 271, 207, 150 and 185 with a mean of 233. 10.7 cm flux was 252.9, 254.3, 245.6, 232.3, 214.9, 204.3 and 189.4, with a mean of 227.7, and estimated planetary A indices were 10, 9, 6, 7, 9, 22 and 73, with a mean of 19.4.

Here are some path projections for this weekend's contest, with the best bets for working major points on the globe from the USA.

From the East Coast of the USA to Europe, 80 meters 0030-0500z, 40 meters 2330-0600z, 20 meters 2100-0830z, 15 meters possibly anytime day or night, but not a good bet. To Southern Africa, 80 meters 0000-0430z, 40 meters 2330-0500z, 20 meters 2200-0230z and 0430-0600z, 15 meters 2130-0100z. To South America, 80 meters 0000-0930z, 40 meters 2330-1000z, 20 meters 2130-1100z, 15 meters 1900-0700z and 1000-1400z, 10 meters 1430-2300z and 0100-0400z. To Australia, 80 meters 0830-1000z, 40 meters 0800-1030z, 20 meters 0700-1200z, 15 meters 0600-0700z and around 1030z. To Japan, 20 meters 0900-1100z, 15 meters 1330-1730z and 0300-0500z. To the USA West Coast, 80 meters 0230-1030z, 40 meters 0100-1200z, 20 meters all hours, best 0330-0600z.

From the middle of the continental USA to Europe, 80 meters 0200-0400z, 40 meters 0100-0600z, 20 meters 2230-0830z, 15 meters 1300-0230z. To South Africa, 80 meters 0130-0430z, 40 meters 0100-0430z, 20 meters 0000-0230z and 0400-0530z, 15 meters 2130-0130z. To South America, 80 meters 0130-1000z, 40 meters 0100-1030z, 20 meters 2300-1130z, 15 meters 2200-0700z and 1030-1230z, 10 meters possibly 2300-0600z. To Australia, 80 meters 0830-1130z, 40 meters 0800-1230z, 20 meters 0700-1300z, 15 meters 0700-0900z. To Japan, 80 meters around 1030z, 40 meters 0930-1130z, 20 meters 0800-1330z, 15 meters 0400-0700z and 1300-1330z.

From the USA West Coast to Europe, 40 meters 0330-0430z, 20 meters 0100-0800z. To Southern Africa, 80 meters 0330-0430z, 40 meters 0300-0430z, 20 meters 0100-0230z and 0330-0500z. To South America, 80 meters 0300-1000z, 40 meters 0200-1100z, 20 meters 0100-1200z, 15 meters open all hours, best 0330-0800z, 10 meters 1700-0130z and 0330-0600z. To Australia, 80 meters 0900-1330z, 40 meters 0800-1400z, 20 meters 0700-1500z, 15 meters 0530-1000z, 10 meters 0530-0700z. To Japan, 80 meters 0930-1300z, 40 meters 0930-1330z, 20 meters 0700-1600z, 15 meters 0430-0830z and 1430-1500z and 1800-1900z. To the USA East Coast, 80 meters 0230-1030z, 40 meters 0100-1200z. 20 meters all hours, best 0330-0600z.

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Page last modified: 08:40 AM, 26 May 2000 ET

Page author: wlaw@arrl.org

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## MARC E - COM TRAILER MAKES “BIG SPLASH” AT THE MOVIES

-NORTH CANTON- Club member Jason Stroll , KC8LIN, was very successful in “negotiating” that the club’s E-Com Trailer be set up in front of Movies 10 on May 6, 2000 to help publicize the movie “Frequency”. The Club members helped to pitch in and set up the trailer and operate for several hours in front of the movie house. This also generated publicity for the club as Perry W8AU had his picture in the Canton Repository’s Western Stark County Section. Here are some additional pictures taken during the event.



The “negociator” Jason KC8LIN, at the contorls; logging another one!



Backside view of the trailer



All set up and ready to operate. Inside is Jim, WA8GXM, and Jason, KC8LIN, and an unidentified operator.

## ARRL NEWS

ZCZC AG27

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 27 ARLB027

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 26, 2000

To all radio amateurs

### ARLB027 FCC says ULS registration can protect license record

Registering now on the FCC's Universal Licensing System can benefit amateurs, even if they have no plans to file an application anytime soon. FCC staffer Steve Linn, N4CAK, says that ULS registration "protects your call sign within the system" and could prevent it from inadvertently being deleted or reissued due to a filing error.

Linn also pointed out that amateurs filing for a change of address should file an "administrative update" (AU) and not request a "modification." The ULS will not renew an amateur's license unless it is within the 90-day window of expiration or within the two-year grace period after expiration. The same applies for those upgrading under restructuring.

Linn said the FCC continues to work out the bugs in the ULS. He said that support for the Mac platform and other browsers, such as Internet Explorer, should be available soon.

The FCC in late April opened the ULS to Web filing. Linn advised filers to use the on-line system whenever possible, since it helps users to avoid errors that will not get trapped when filing on paper and could lead to delays or errors in your FCC record. Visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> for more information or to access the ULS.

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## EXCERPTS FROM ARRL LETTER

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 19, No. 21

May 26, 2000

### ARRL-VEC PICKS UP PERSONNEL, PROCESSING PACE

The ARRL-VEC now has seven fulltime, three temporary, and eight just-added volunteer staff members chipping away at the mountain of applications resulting from the April 15 license restructuring. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, reports his staff now is wrapping up April 24 receipts from VE sessions. The ARRL-VEC received nearly 23,000 applications between April 15 and May 26.

ARRL-VEC staff was able to submit some 5000 applications to the FCC this week, up significantly from previous weeks. On May 25 alone, 1453 applications were filed with the FCC. Jahnke still estimates it will take approximately six weeks from exam session to the time the paperwork is filed electronically with the FCC, although some grants have been showing up sooner than that. The key is when the session paperwork arrived at ARRL-VEC. The FCC typically grants applications overnight.

Jahnke says there were approximately 4000 applications in the April 24 receipts alone that include sessions as long ago as March 25 and as recent as April 18. ARRL-VEC processes applications according to the date the package arrives in the mail. "We have staff working over the weekend, and we will have staff working over the holiday weekend," he said.

Inquiries concerning the status of applications continue to impair the staff's ability to rapidly process the incoming stacks of applications. "You can't blame people for wanting to know what their status is, but when everyone wants to know, progress slows," Jahnke said. Another thing that slows progress is having to follow up on missing or incomplete information on the NCVEC Form 605 application from a test session.

Jahnke has estimated that the first 30 days of the restructuring surge—April 15 through May 15—will yield 17,200 new Generals and 13,100 new Extras. The ARRL-VEC is now posting the status of test session processing at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/status.html>.

### DAYTON 2000: HAMVENTION-CONVENTION 2000 A HIT!

Amateur Radio's upbeat mood spilled over into Dayton Hamvention 2000, which hosted the ARRL National Convention. Early indications were that the three-day event, which ended Sunday, attracted more than 30,000 visitors for the first time in its history.

"This appears to be the largest Hamvention in history," Great Lakes ARRL Director George Race, WB8BGY, announced last Saturday. Hamvention General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said this week that the official Hamvention attendance had not yet been determined. Hamvention weather cooperated for the most part with partly sunny to overcast skies and generally cool temperatures.

Sales counters were busy. Several dealers reported running out of popular items well before the end of Hamvention.

Hamvention banquet speaker Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, exhorted his audience to work toward making the Amateur Radio Service the finest radio service ever. Hollingsworth, who's the FCC's special counsel for amateur radio enforcement, reiterated that the Commission is in the enforcement business to stay.

"To work with you in restoring the Amateur Radio Service to its rightful place in the American communications infrastructure is the greatest privilege of my professional and personal life," Hollingsworth told the banquet audience.

Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended Dayton Hamvention for the first time in his role as the League's new president. "These are extremely exciting times for Amateur Radio," he told those attending the ARRL Forum Saturday. "I hope y'all are as excited about our future as much as I am, because if you are, we can do nothing but win."

Haynie discussed the broad parameters of "The Big Project"—his ham radio in the schools initiative that would offer a turnkey curriculum in Amateur Radio as well as equipment for use in middle school classrooms. Haynie said he plans to have the program, funded by corporate and foundation grants, in place by the end of 2001.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, flew in from Istanbul, Turkey, just to attend the League's National Convention. Sumner has been on the International Amateur Radio Union team representing Amateur Radio interests at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2000.

During his "Vision for Amateur Radio's Future" on Saturday, Sumner noted that Amateur Radio's demographic peaks in the late 40s or early 50s. "This is the 'baby boom' moving through the system," he said. "The point of entry for Amateur Radio today is not principally teenage, as it perhaps was 30 or 35 years ago." Sumner said today's technology has opened Amateur Radio's once "unique window on the world" to many outside the hobby, especially those on the Internet. That trend will continue, he predicted, as telecommunication costs drop. In the future, the population that got into ham radio as a cheap personal communication service will no longer be attracted to the hobby, he said. "The effect of that is that the licensing figures likely will go down."

He predicted a precipitous drop in the number of Amateur Radio licensees in the US starting in 2001, when many licenses of those who had entered the hobby a decade earlier as a part of the initial flurry of code-free Technicians expire. But he doesn't see that as a major negative for ham radio—just indicative of a shift in focus of the participants.

Sumner said he's seen a higher regard for disaster communications capabilities of Amateur radio at WRC-2000 than he'd seen at other recent conferences. "A low-technology solution to disaster communications is not a bad thing, it's a good thing," he said. "All you need is two hams and it will work." Sumner said if a proposed "harmonized" worldwide allocation at 7 MHz ever is approved at a future World Radiocommunication Conference, it will not be because of DXing or contesting but because of disaster communications capability.

Sumner said Amateur Radio will continue to have a role in scientific investigations. And he said personal achievement and accomplishment will continue to provide an incentive to be a part of Amateur Radio in the future. "Lest we forget," he said, "it's supposed to be fun."

At Dayton Hamvention, Yaesu introduced its Model V FT-1000MP HF transceiver, which features 200 W output and several improvements over the original MP platform. The radio could be on the market by month's end. Kenwood also had a developmental all-band, all-mode transceiver on display. Elecraft debuted its K1 transceiver kit, a two-band, low-power unit aimed at backpackers and travelers. Ten Tec introduced its Pegasus FP (for "front panel") HF transceiver, a desktop version of its popular PC-controlled Pegasus. A new player, Mobat Communication—a partnership of Motorola and Bartal—introduced its MICOM H transceiver, a computer-programmable DSP-based HF radio.

#### DAYTON 2000: FCC FEELING RESTRUCTURING'S IMPACT

The impact of restructuring is being felt at the FCC. During the

well-attended Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announced that the Commission already had processed nearly 9200 license upgrades as of May 19—six times the normal flow of applications.

"It appears Advanced class licensees are upgrading in significant numbers," he said. "So are the Technician Plus class licensees." He recommended that experienced amateurs help newcomers to bridge the gap between their new license classes and their sometimes less-than-fully developed operating skills.

"Just like you, newly minted Generals and Extras want to comply with the rules," Cross said. "Just like you, they have invested a lot in getting that signal on the air, although it may be on the wrong frequency. And just like you, a correction that starts with 'you idiot' isn't going to get the result you want."

Cross defended the FCC's action lowering the Morse code requirement to 5 WPM. He also credited the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee with "an amazing job" of revising the question pools in very short order. "They aren't easy questions," he said. "These exams are not 'dumbed down' by any stretch of the imagination. If anything, they're more difficult because the easy questions are gone."

Cross also said the FCC has a copy of its pre-April 15 database to keep track of which Technicians have HF privileges as a result of having taken a Morse code exam in the past.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth also addressed the FCC Forum. "Nothing about restructuring bothers me from an enforcement standpoint," he said. "We have a basically good set of rules" that the FCC is willing to enforce. While insisting he did not want to trample on anyone's First Amendment rights, Hollingsworth urged amateurs to present a good face to the nonamateur community by maintaining a high level of on-the-air decorum. "We're being listened to all the time," he said. "So we have to think about what kind of impression we're making."

\* W1AW/8 QSL info: QSL cards for the Dayton Hamvention-ARRL National Convention 2000 special event station W1AW/8 go to W8BI, Box 44, Dayton, OH 45401. Cards should not be sent to ARRL Headquarters for this operation since the logs are in Dayton.

\* Australian 75-meter band to expand: The Australian Communications Authority has announced that the band 3776 to 3800 kHz will be reallocated to the Amateur Service there as of January 1, 2004.—WIA QNews

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League—The National Association For Amateur Radio—225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Jim Haynie, W5JBP, President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President.