

Hamfests

November 12 found several TCARC members attending the annual ATV Banquet in Litchfield. There were lots of door prizes, good food, and the presentation by Bob Heil of Heil Sound was interesting.

The Ft Wayne Hamfest was November 18 and 19 at the Memorial Coliseum in Ft Wayne. It was a well-run hamfest with a good crowd on Saturday. Those attending seemed to be in a better buying mood than other recent hamfests. TCARC was well represented by KB9LCJ, KR4S, KC9DUU, KC9JVY, and K9QZI, along with KC9IHU. In addition to the 2 large rooms of vendors, there were several seminars and VE exams. The weather cooperated well this year, with moderate temperatures and no precipitation.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25, the Evansville Radio Club held their annual hamfest. Located in a very nice 4-H park near Evansville, the hamfest was well attended and it appeared that attendees were in a buying mood. It was a pleasure to work with the hamfest committee, and they even provided pizza for all vendors setting up tables on Friday evening. Again, the weather was excellent. It was warm enough for outside tailgating, but no one took advantage of that.

Coming up this Saturday, December 9, is the Carthage, Illinois hamfest. It runs from 8 to 1 on Saturday only. Mark, KA9SZX, has invited any TCARC members attending the hamfest to stay at his place in Macomb. You can contact Mark via EchoLink (146.76) most days. This is a fairly new hamfest, and is small, but enjoyable. The hamfest is at The Hancock County Extension Center, 660 North Madison, in Carthage.

Thinking ahead, the Orlando, Florida hamfest is coming up on February 9-11. This is a great time to get away from our winter weather and enjoy warm Florida. The hamfest is large, both inside and outside. It is an ideal time to visit Florida. If you have the time and want to take in 2 hamfests, you can stop in Jackson, Mississippi the weekend prior, February 2-3, for another one.

Amateur Radio "Omnibus" Rules Changes to go into Effect December 15

From ARRL News

A little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared November 15 in the Federal Register. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

- * Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)

- * The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. This will make PACTOR III at full capability illegal. Other digital modes effectively rendered illegal below 30 MHz include Olivia and MT63 (when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz), 1200-baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

- * The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the Federal Register has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the Report and Order for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon."

For more information, see the band chart <http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf> and the Frequently Asked Questions on WT Docket No. 04-140 <<http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>>. Both have been updated to reflect the R&O as it was published in the Federal Register.

FCC Corrects J2D Error in "Omnibus" Report and Order

From ARRL News

The FCC released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding. As originally worded, §97.3(c)(2) inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter.

Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC Erratum revises §97.3(c)(2) of the Amateur Service rules going into effect December 15 to read:

"Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having (i) designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, 1 as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol;

(ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted."

In its comments on the proceeding, the ARRL argued that a 500-Hz bandwidth limitation in the definition of data emissions would have unintended consequences because the limitation would also apply to Amateur Radio bands where a higher bandwidth is allowed. In its R&O, the FCC said relaxing the bandwidth limitation "would de facto eliminate the separation of narrow bandwidth and wide bandwidth emissions," which it called an "reasonable means to minimize interference on shared frequencies and bands."

The Commission said in the running text of the R&O that it would address the League's concern by revising the Part 97 rules "to clarify that the 500 Hz limitation applies only to the emission types we are adding to the definition of data when transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies below 30 MHz." Unfortunately, the language of the intended revision that appeared in the original version of the R&O inadvertently included J2D emissions among those to which the 500-Hz bandwidth limitation would apply.

The FCC incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the version of the R&O that appeared November 15 in the Federal Register. The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST (0501 UTC).

ARRL Membership

Please remember to renew your ARRL Membership through TCARC. We receive \$2 for each renewal and \$15 for each new membership transmitted through the club. Please complete the ARRL form and send to TCARC at the return address on this newsletter, along with a check to TCARC in the amount required by the ARRL. We will forward it and our check to the ARRL.