
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

June 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....N3OJN Stan Riffle
1.V.PRES.....KB3EAQ Debbie Mehutcs
2.V.PRES.....N3GZZ Joe Streit
SECRETARY...N3SVM Bob Reid
TREASURER...N3ALS Wes Morar

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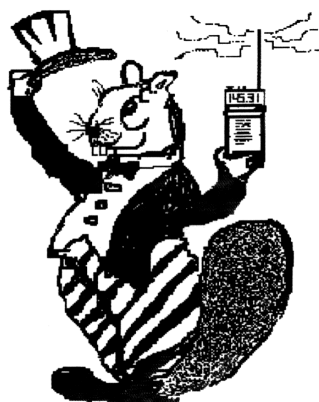
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

Newsletter Editor

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

Newsletter Distribution

KB3EAQ....Debbie Mehutcs



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585

TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898

HOSS TRADERS.....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910

CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5

WPA PHONE & TCF.....6:00 PM DAILY...3.983

ROOSTERS NET.....6:00 AM DAILY...3.990

E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255

COUNTY HUNTERS.....10:00 AM DAILY..14.336

RIP VANWINKLE.....7:00 AM DAILY..145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER.....8:30 PM WED....145.31

B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER...9:30 PM WED...28.360

WPA TRAFFIC.....9:00 PM DAILY..146.88

QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A.'s WEBSITE AT:

www.geocities.com/the_bvara

If you have a submission for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM you may submit it to Janet N3NBJ by any of the following means.. E-mail: ke3ed@arrl.net, Packet: ke3ed@k3oiw.wpa.pa.usa.na, or typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

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CLUB MEETING

The June Meeting of the B.V.A.R.A. will be held at Brady's Run Park shelter #10 on Friday June 22nd, after the covered dish dinner which starts at 6:00 PM. Please plan on attending and don't forget a covered dish for us to drool over. HI HI!

DAYTON HAMVENTION

Well the 50th Annual Dayton Hamvention is now history. But what a great time that was had. Although this was the first year since the event was changed to May that it has rained there was still an enormous amount of activity in the flea market. Club members known to have attended this year were Ron K3OIW, Dave KA3SMF, Joe N3GZZ, Tony KE3ED, Gary KA3TYK, and Bob N3SVM. I know we did our share to remove as many items as possible from the show, HI! Many new and "pre-enjoyed" items were taken back to our cars for the long ride back home. Rumor also has it that on his first excursion to the famed Hamvention, Bob N3SVM's number was drawn for the hourly prizes. Congratulations Bob!

Of course by the time the event came to a close we were all ready to go home. But now for next years plan.....

Field Day

Field day plans are moving right along. The event, which will take place the weekend of June 22nd, 2001 is always anxiously anticipated by hams all of the U.S. and Canada. Presently our Chairman Al WA3GFM is hard at work planning stations and arranging equipment. If you can lend him a hand I know he'll appreciate it. Setup for the event, antennas and shelters, will take place Friday June 22nd and we will need lots of help to get those things done.

Logging will be done with computer as in the past. If you are afraid of computers don't let that stop you. It's much easier than you think, and is a lot of fun.

So mark your calendar and we're looking forward to seeing you at Field Day!

W3QVX SK**CALLOUS BOTTOM NET**

3.9125Mc at 11:00Am every day except Sunday

It is with much sadness that I report W3QVX, Joe Swaney, has become a SILENT KEY. About 9:15 PM, on Monday, May 21, 2001, Joe went to be with his Lord, after a lingering illness. He will be sadly missed by many. Joe was cremated. No viewing. Private Family Funeral.

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W3QVX, Joe, was a LIFETIME MEMBER of the B.V.A.R.A. and belonged to the B.V.A.R.A. longer than any other living person I know.

He joined the CALLOUS BOTTOM NET back in the 1960's and was a very faithful participant to within a week of his death.

Being a retiree of BELL TELEPHONE CO. he was always an active member of the PIONEERS and their radio net.

I could probably write a book about the good things Joe did, but I doubt if I could make up a sentence of anything bad. Oh yes, he will be missed.

Enclosed you will find a check from the CALLOUS BOTTOM FUND in the amount of \$25 as a memorial to Joe to be given to his favorite radio club, the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association.

WB3FKB, Bob Wilcox, Net Control

GET WELL WISHES!!

We want to pass on get well wishes to the following members, Wes N3ALS, Clyde N3AK, and Joe KB3LS who have been under the weather as of late. We wish a speedy recovery and hope to see you all very soon.

B.V.A.R.A. SPONSORED TEST SESSION

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday June 2nd, 2001 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building, 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

Testing will start promptly at 10:00 AM so please plan on arriving at least 15 - 30 minutes prior. Walk-ins are welcome. Talk-ins will be on the 145.310 (W3SGJ) repeater. Use minus offset and 100 hz pl tone. Also you can see our exact location via APRS on 144.39 Mhz. Look for W3SGJ.

All candidates wishing to take a test should bring the following:

1. Two (2) forms of identification.
2. A pencil and a blue or black pen.
3. Your original AND a photocopy of your current license (if any).
4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of \$10.00.

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will be multiple choice.

All Technician Plus operators licensed as such prior to March 21, 1987 should bring a copy and the original proof of this credit.

Candidates are welcome and encouraged to join us for breakfast at the Chippewa Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe at 8:00 AM. For more information contact Tony KE3ED at the following:

Packet: ke3ed @ k3oiw.#wpa.pa.usa.na
Repeater: 145.310 (W3SGJ) minus offset & 100 hz pl tone.
E-mail: ke3ed@bellatlantic.net
Phone: (724) 774-4173

==>DENNIS TITO PHONES HOME VIA HAM RADIO

Having the time of his life aboard the International Space Station, US businessman Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, this week made his first Amateur Radio contacts from his perch in space. Tito arrived aboard the ISS on April 30.

The first "space tourist," Tito spoke May 1 via Amateur Radio with his family as the ISS was passing over Hawaii. The audio was telebridged to the mainland. On May 2, Farrell Winder, W8ZCF, in Cincinnati, reported snagging two contacts with the ISS--the second time chatting with Tito for several minutes. Tito used the NA1SS call sign for the contact. He reportedly made a few other contacts this week as well.

Winder said Tito told him he loves space and was having a ball. "He said it is the greatest experience of his lifetime," Winder said. He also said Tito was eager to know what was being discussed about him on Earth.

During Tito's visit, the crew of Russian Commander Yuri Usachev, UA9AD, and US astronauts Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Jim Voss, are undertaking a minimal work routine and maintenance schedule. Winder says he also spoke with Helms during another pass.

In a TV interview from space earlier this week, Tito said he was not nervous at all about the launch. He reports suffering some space sickness early on but has begun to get used to weightlessness. "I'll tell you, there is nothing like this as an experience," Tito said. He said the ISS crew welcomed him and gave him a tour of the spacecraft.

Tito reportedly will pay Russia a total of some \$20 million for the privilege of going into space. He and two Russian cosmonauts launched April 28 from Kazakhstan on a 10-day Soyuz vehicle taxi mission. NASA initially opposed Tito's visit, but Russia insisted. Last week, NASA relented and agreed to the arrangement under certain conditions.

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Tito, 60, took and passed the Technician exam earlier this month after a volunteer examination session was set up for him in Russia.

==>7 MHZ "REALIGNMENT" AMONG WRC-2003 ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY VIEWS

The FCC's World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 Advisory Committee has approved several "preliminary views"--or PVs--on expected WRC-03 agenda items. Among these is a US preliminary view supporting a realigned 40-meter amateur allocation at 6900-7200 kHz on a worldwide primary basis. The FCC is soliciting public comment on all preliminary views by May 9.

The preliminary view was developed by Informal Working Group 6, which is dealing with most issues of concern to amateurs. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, serves as vice chairman of IWG-6. The PV says that, alternatively, the US could support a 7000-7300 kHz worldwide primary amateur allocation.

Only amateurs in Region 2, which includes North and South America, have access to 7000-7300 kHz; the rest of the world has only 7000-7100 kHz, with the upper 200 kHz allocated for broadcasting. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the ARRL would prefer going back to the pre-World War II worldwide 7000-7300 kHz scheme. Some broadcasters, on the other hand, would like amateurs worldwide at 6800-7100 kHz, he said, so they would not have to move. A Radio Conference Subcommittee backgrounder from the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee--which reflects views of the federal government--said the issue "is liable to be very controversial."

Further complicating matters, Rinaldo said, is the fact that international HF broadcasters want to fold the 7 MHz realignment question into another WRC-03 agenda item examining the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations from approximately 4 MHz to 10 MHz. Broadcasters are expected to seek additional HF elbow room to accommodate digital transmissions to complement their existing AM channels.

Any realignment scheme will involve having to move existing occupants--broadcasters on one side or fixed and mobile services, mostly government and Part 90 users, on the other.

"We want 300 kHz," Rinaldo said--reflecting the position of the International Amateur Radio Union, "but, we have some flexibility as to where it is."

Another PV with implications for amateurs would oppose the use of 420-470 MHz for use by the Earth Exploration-Satellite Service for so-called synthetic aperture radars, or SARs unless it can be shown that the satellites "do not cause harmful interference to amateur systems and stations." SARs are used to map regions on Earth's surface and are expected to be deployed primarily over tropical rain forest areas.

Rinaldo emphasized that the preliminary views do not represent formal US positions and are subject to change as preparations for WRC-03 move forward.

Comments on WAC preliminary views may be filed via e-mail to wrc03@fcc.gov. The FCC's WRC-03 Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wrc-03>, includes additional information as well as links to related documents.

WRC-03 is scheduled to begin June 9, 2003, and continue until July 4, 2003. The conference is expected to take place in Venezuela.

==>AO-40 TRANSPONDERS TO OPEN FOR EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION

The AO-40 team has announced plans to inaugurate experimental transponder operation on Saturday, May 5, at approximately 0800 UTC. The announcement came in the wake of successful initial transponder tests last weekend.

"We expect good conditions on Saturday morning over North and South America and Europe," said AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, an AO-40 team leader. Guelzow said the 435 MHz and 1.2 GHz (L1-band) uplinks will be connected to the 2.4 GHz (S2-band) downlink passband.

It's estimated that AO-40 will be available on May 5 in the Western Hemisphere from 0800 until approximately 1400 UTC. Stations should use only SSB and CW. Guelzow said it's expected the transponders will remain available over a period of approximately 10 days.

"Needless to say, we're all very excited," he added.

The uplink frequencies are 435.550-435.800 MHz and 1269.250-1269.500 MHz. The Downlink passband is 2401.225-2401.475 MHz. The transponders are inverting, so a downward change in uplink frequency will result in an upward frequency shift in the downlink.

Users are asked to avoid the "middle" 2.4 GHz telemetry beacon and give it a clearance of 5 kHz on either side. "If the beacon cannot be copied because of interference from transponder users, the passband will be closed and the transponder shut down," Guelzow warned.

He emphasized that the operation is experimental, the schedule subject to change, and the transponders could be shut down at any time without warning.

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, last week raised the possibility that AO-40 could inaugurate transponder operation this summer, if tests and orbital maneuvers between now and then go as planned.

AO-40 ground controllers also plan to test the problematic VHF and UHF transmitters again.

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In other AO-40 news, AMSAT-DL reported the RUDAK experiment was powered up and made available to the RUDAK team for testing on May 1. The RUDAK—the German acronym stands for "Regenerative Transponder for Amateur Radio Communication"—is a digital transponder system that can be programmed to perform a variety of functions.

Jim White, WD0E, in Colorado reports reliable command results with the RUDAK-A processor on the L-band (1.2 GHz) uplink. This week White successfully loaded the primary housekeeping task on RUDAK-A, which is now sending telemetry and a pass-through of the IHU downlink. The RUDAK-B software has not been loaded yet, and White said that a lot of testing remains. He requested that hams not attempt to uplink to RUDAK until testing is completed, and it is made available for general operation.

==>TRIAL DATE SET IN DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, UNLICENSED OPERATION CASE

Monday, May 7, has been set as the tentative trial date in Federal District Court in the case of William Flippo, arrested last summer for interfering with Amateur Radio operations and for transmitting without a license. The date could change, however. Flippo, of Jupiter, Florida, faces four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference to a licensed service. He was taken into custody last July and is free on bond.

The criminal charges set for trial cover violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of last year. Each count carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Flippo, 58, already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment. In January 2000, the FCC referred the matter to the US Attorney after Flippo failed to pay the fine, and the interference complaints continued.

During a search of Flippo's property after he was taken into custody, the FCC reportedly seized some three dozen items related to the alleged offenses, including radio equipment. Flippo was released on \$100,000 bond. As a condition of his release, Flippo was prohibited from making any radio transmissions and from contacting any witnesses in the case. Neither he nor any of his family members may handle or possess firearms, and Flippo's travel was restricted to southern Florida.

Personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office followed up on complaints from amateurs that Flippo—also known by his CB handle of "Rabbit Ears"—regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters.

FCC personnel visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 as a result of amateur complaints alleging malicious interference. The FCC said it was able to track offending signals to Flippo's residence. At one point, an agent monitored and heard taped portions of a 2-meter ham radio net earlier that day being replayed on top of amateur communications on 10 meters, the FCC has said.

==>ARRL FILES ADDITIONAL ULTRA-WIDEBAND COMMENTS

The ARRL once more has recommended that the FCC take a "reasonably conservative" approach in its plans to deploy ultra-wideband (UWB) devices on an unlicensed basis under its Part 15 rules. The ARRL's latest comments came in response to a late-March FCC request for comments on five reports addressing UWB's interference potential. The comments were filed April 25.

The reports were submitted by Qualcomm, Time Domain, the NTIA, and the Department of Transportation (two reports). Reply comments are due by May 10.

Citing the Qualcomm report, submitted March 5, the ARRL said "the broad nature of the interfering signal . . . indicates that any interference would extend to all VHF and UHF amateur bands." That particular report dealt with lab tests to assess the impact of UWB emissions on PCS phones using code division multiple access (CDMA).

The March 9 reports by Time Domain--a leading UWB proponent--and from the NTIA dealt with interference potential from UWB devices operating below 2 GHz to GPS receivers at the L1 and L2 (1.5 and 1.2 GHz) frequencies. "Considering the wide frequency range and roll-off characteristics assumed, it is probable that interference to L1 or L2 will also adversely affect amateur station receivers in the band 1240 to 1300 MHz," the ARRL said, reacting to the Time Domain study.

The League has arranged with the University of Southern California's UWB lab to test the interference potential of UWB devices to "typical Amateur Radio station configurations." Those test results, the ARRL told the FCC, are expected in the next few months.

The ARRL also took advantage of the latest comment round to reiterate its opinion that the FCC has failed to provide either a specific definition of UWB or key operating parameters and performance criteria. Neither has the FCC proposed any rules or parameters, the ARRL said.

The ARRL said the FCC must propose "specific definitional and operating rules" for UWB and solicit additional comments from interested parties before issuing a Report and Order in the proceeding.

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In its initial comments filed last September, the ARRL advised the FCC to put its UWB proceeding on hold until more evidence was available on the technology's interference impact. More recently, the ARRL joined an industry coalition in calling on the FCC to issue a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making before it takes final action to authorize UWB equipment.

The League has said that its own review supports a conclusion that UWB has potentially beneficial applications that should be accommodated under the FCC's Part 15 rules "subject to appropriate interference avoidance regulations." Based on test results to date, the ARRL said, "the Commission should restrict UWB operation in existing crowded bands to operation above 6 GHz."

All of ARRL's comments in the UWB proceeding are available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-153/index.html>.

==>AO-40 TRANSPONDER TESTS A HIT! 10-GHz TEST SET

The inaugural AO-40 transponder tests this past week have been a huge success. Reports from amateurs making their first contacts on AO-40 have come from all over.

"It was just great!" enthused AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, who worked a dozen or so stations via AO-40 last weekend. AMSAT has announced plans to test the 10-GHz X-band downlink over the weekend. The solid state X-band amplifier will be turned on and adjusted on May 13 at 0500 UTC, at MA 165. If that works, the 60-W traveling-wave tube amplifier will be fired up. "Beacons will be used and probably the L1 uplink," said the AO-40 team's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS. Guelzow said plans also call for connecting the C-band receiver to the X-band downlink.

AO-40 ground controllers opened up the next-generation satellite's transponders May 5 for general amateur use on an experimental basis. Stations can uplink on either 435 MHz or 1.2 GHz. The transponder downlink is at 2.4 GHz. The operation is experimental, the schedule subject to change, and the transponders could be shut down at any time without warning.

Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, in Vermont, says he successfully logged a dozen contacts in the first hour of operation, including two contacts using the Mode-L uplink. "I also logged my first DX contact with IZ8EDE." Seguin said his final first-day tally was 24 contacts.

Ed Krome, K9EK, in Indiana, echoed N1JEZ's comments. "Wow, AO-40 was terrific on this first morning of transponder operation, he said. "After almost 10 years, what a thrill!

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, in Texas also got lucky, racking up several DX contacts in Europe and later in Japan.

At this point, AO-40 may be available for use several hours a day, starting at orbital positions MA 136 and continuing through MA 240. During recent passes, the transponders have been available for six hours or so from a given point on Earth.

The tests have shown that uplink frequencies (without taking Doppler into account) are 435.495-435.780 MHz and 1269.211-1269.496 MHz, and the downlink passband is 2401.210-2401.495 MHz. The transponders are inverting, so a downward change in uplink frequency will result in an upward frequency shift in the downlink.

Users are being asked to avoid the "middle" telemetry beacon at 2401.323 MHz. For maximum QSO signal strength, stations should aim for a passband signal that's 10 dB below the beacon's. AO-40 has been operating without the benefit of the LEILA system, which can compensate for stations that are too strong in the uplink.

Haighton expressed appreciation for the "very hard work" of Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, AMSAT-DL President Guelzow and the worldwide support group of command stations and technical advisors "for providing us with a great satellite."

Check the AMSAT-DL Web site for the latest information, <http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm>.

==>ARRL AGAIN PETITIONS FCC FOR PRIMARY ALLOCATION AT 2300-2305 MHz

The ARRL has again asked the FCC to create a primary domestic Amateur Radio allocation at 2300-2305 MHz. Amateurs now are secondary there. The ARRL first asked the FCC in 1996 to upgrade the allocation there to primary, but the Commission never acted on the request.

"The segment 2300-2305 MHz is of extreme importance to the Amateur Service, especially for weak-signal communications and propagation research, including beacon operation, due to the low noise levels in that band," the ARRL said. The renewed petition was prompted by increasing demands on that portion of the spectrum due to development of new telecommunications technologies.

The Amateur Service has primary allocations in this part of the spectrum at 2390-2400 MHz and 2402-2417 MHz. The ARRL last year sought to have the segment 2400-2402 MHz elevated from secondary to primary, but the FCC has not acted on the request to date. The AO-40 satellite has been successfully using that band for downlink telemetry and transponder operation.

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In light of the FCC's stated policy to protect incumbent amateur operation at 2300-2305 MHz, upgrading the amateur allocation there "would constitute the highest and best use of the band at present," the ARRL asserted in its latest filing. "It would also be consistent with the protection requirements for government and NASA operations immediately below 2300 MHz and the [M]WCS operation above 2305 MHz." Amateur Radio weak-signal work is centered near 2304 MHz.

The ARRL also requested the FCC not to introduce any other users to the band. The FCC has not yet put the ARRL's petition on public notice.

==>CALIFORNIAN TURNS IN TICKET; FCC STILL WANTS EXPLANATION

A California ham has turned in his Technician license in the wake of an FCC inquiry into his involvement in alleged rules violations on a Los Angeles-area repeater. But the FCC has told Gregory S. Cook, ex-KC6USO, of Chico that he must still address the allegations of broadcasting, playing music, and one-way phone patching before he'll be allowed to get another license.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote Cook earlier this year, citing information that Cook had been party to the transmission of "a lengthy broadcast" in the late evening and early morning hours of February 1 and 2 over the W6NUT repeater in the Los Angeles area.

Hollingsworth also wrote Technician licensee Ted R. Sorensen III, KC6PQW, of Agoura Hills, citing information alleging that Sorensen had acted in concert with Cook, who was hooked in via phone patch while Sorensen facilitated the actual transmission. A similar transmission February 4-5 was said to have featured only Cook, again via phone patch to Sorensen's transmitter, Hollingsworth said.

Responding on March 10, Cook sent the FCC his ham ticket, which was due to expire May 7. Cook said he would agree to not renew his ticket and to stay off the air for a year if the FCC would consider the case closed.

Hollingsworth obliged him, but only to a point. In an April 18 letter, he said the FCC had accepted Cook's license for cancellation and that he could reapply in a year. But before that, Hollingsworth said, Cook would have to "respond satisfactorily" to the allegations outlined in the FCC's February 21 letter.

In a separate reply, Sorensen told Hollingsworth that he intends to cooperate fully and adhere to FCC rules. He suggested that a "fair punishment" would be suspension from the W6NUT repeater for a year. Sorensen also offered to provide information on other rulebreakers on the W6NUT repeater.

On February 20, Hollingsworth initiated a separate inquiry with the repeater's trustee, Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK. Hollingsworth told Tucker that the FCC had received complaints that control operators and the repeater licensee "fail to address long periods of jamming by users, broadcasting, music playing as well as a plethora of other violations."

In a lengthy reply, Tucker, said the repeater's owners had not monitored the alleged February episodes involving Cook and Sorenson.

"The policy of the W6NUT repeater is not to attempt to remove unruly operators from its use," she told the FCC, adding that "an extensive educational campaign" has been conducted to inform users of proper operation.

Tucker said the W6NUT owners have received "numerous complaints" about the repeater's operation. "The policy is to let them 'go in one ear and out the other'," she told the FCC.

==>ALINCO SHIFTS NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION, SERVICE TO OHIO FIRM

Amateur Radio manufacturer Alinco has closed its US branch in Torrance, California, and shifted its North American distribution to an Ohio firm. Alinco product distribution and customer service now are being handled by Atoc Amateur Distributing LLC in Covington, Ohio. The change was effective May 1.

A news release posted on the Alinco Web site says that Alinco will continue to be "a very committed, viable player in the Amateur Radio marketplace" and that all Alinco warranties "will remain in force and continue to be honored through their term." Alinco will exhibit at Dayton Hamvention next week and will sponsor the W8BI special event station in the outdoor exhibits area as it has in past years.

In addition to dealer distribution, the Atoc facility in Ohio is taking over customer support and out-of-warranty service of Alinco products and sales of Alinco parts. Parts sales have been temporarily suspended during the changeover, and service could be disrupted for a time as well.

The announcement said Alinco will concentrate on designing and manufacturing products from its Japan headquarters in Osaka and factory in Toyama.

For more information, visit the Alinco Web site, <http://www.alinco.com>, or contact Atoc Distributing LLC, 23 S High St, Covington, OH 45318; 937-473-2840.

==>ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEWS PRELIMINARY 5 MHz BAND PETITION

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The ARRL Executive Committee has reviewed a preliminary draft Petition for Rule Making seeking a new US ham band in the vicinity of 5 MHz. Experimental operation at 5 MHz under a license issued to the ARRL has been going on since 1999. Participants in the ARRL WA2XSY experimental operation have established that an allocation at 5 MHz could improve emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between 80 and 40 meters.

On a motion from Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, the EC agreed that the petition should seek a domestic secondary amateur allocation around 5 MHz with a bandwidth of 150 kHz. Executive Committee members will review the completed draft petition before it's filed with the FCC, possibly before the next ARRL Board meeting in July.

An amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz long has been an objective of the International Amateur Radio Union. The IARU's Administrative Council has approved a goal of "a narrow allocation, even on a shared basis in the vicinity of 5 MHz." Winning an allocation at 5 MHz--even on a domestic basis--could take several years. Securing an international allocation will be more difficult and take even longer. Consideration of an allocation at 5 MHz is not on the agenda for WRC-03 nor on the preliminary agenda for WRC-05/06.

A review of FCC-related issues dominated the May 5 Executive Committee session in Dallas. In other matters, the Executive Committee was told that an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making still is expected soon in response to the ARRL's petition, RM-9404, seeking Amateur Radio access to the low-frequency spectrum. Filed in late 1998, the ARRL petition asks the FCC to establish LF allocations in the vicinity of 136 kHz and between 160 and 190 kHz.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, also told the Committee that the ARRL's Application for Review that seeks to clarify the FCC's PRB-1 limited preemption policy with respect to amateur antennas is pending before the full Commission. The ARRL wants the full Commission to review--and reverse--an FCC staff decision declining to extend PRB-1 coverage to include CC&Rs--covenants, conditions and restrictions. The EC agreed to request an en banc presentation to the full FCC this fall, after new Commission appointees have been seated.

The Committee also was told that favorable FCC action is anticipated on a petition seeking to upgrade Amateur Radio's status from secondary to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz. The ARRL recently renewed a longstanding request that the FCC elevate Amateur Radio from secondary to primary at 2300 to 2305 MHz. The minutes of the ARRL Executive Committee meeting in Dallas are available on the ARRL Web site, http://www.arrl.org/announce/ec_minutes_466.html.

==>AO-40'S LEILA SOUNDS HER SIREN CALL

If you're planning to use the AO-40 satellite, watch out for LEILA! The satellite's ground controllers have turned on the LEILA system, which not too subtly discourages operators from putting too strong a signal into the satellite's uplink receiver.

AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, says LEILA was turned on for the first time May 12 after some very strong signals--louder than the middle beacon--showed up in the satellite's passband.

"Several people tried to get them to reduce power, but they apparently weren't listening," he said in a posting on the AMSAT-DL site. The situation soon led to "massive grumbling" on the passband, he said.

LEILA soon was set up on the UHF uplink and "it worked like a charm!" Guelzow concluded. If a too-strong station fails to lower power, LEILA notches out the offender's uplink and sends the siren signal to the downlink for about five seconds.

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, who's AMSAT's new awards manager, was on hand for LEILA's debut. He says LEILA can notch out five signals at a time. "So if there are a lot of offenders, you might have to wait to get stomped by LEILA," he said.

Guelzow said if all goes well, ground controllers probably will leave LEILA switched on continuously.

The success of LEILA was dimmed by the apparent failure of ground controllers to get the AO-40 X band (10 GHz) system to operate. Ground controllers haven't given up yet, however. Guelzow said Stacey Mills, W4SM, and Michael Fletcher, OH2AUE, tested the X-band transmitters, both solid state and traveling wave tube (TWT) over the weekend. "Unfortunately, the test was not successful," Guelzow said. Telemetry indicated the proper commands, but apparently no power was reaching any of the X-band modules. Another test will be run soon.

AO-40 ground controllers opened up the next-generation satellite's transponders May 5 for general amateur use on an experimental basis. Uplink frequencies (without taking Doppler into account) are 435.495-435.780 MHz and 1269.211-1269.496 MHz, and the downlink passband is 2401.210-2401.495 MHz. The transponders are inverting, so a downward change in uplink frequency will result in an upward frequency shift in the downlink.—thanks to AMSAT News Service and AMSAT-DL

==>ARRL ULTRA-WIDEBAND REPLY COMMENTS TARGET INTERFERENCE POTENTIAL

The ARRL says it's not reasonable to assume that the FCC's Part 15 rules can be applied to ultra-wideband (UWB) devices due to their unique transmission characteristics. The League drew that conclusion in responding to comments filed by

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others in reaction to five reports that address UWB's interference potential.

The FCC has proposed to deploy UWB devices on an unlicensed basis under its Part 15 rules. Last month, it requested comments on five reports. The ARRL commented on the reports April 25 and submitted its reply comments May 10.

The ARRL said tests conducted to date "reveal a significant potential for harmful interference to at least some licensed services, including GPS and the Amateur Service." In addition, the ARRL said, additional "more specific and targeted tests" must be conducted before the FCC can adopt appropriate rules for UWB devices.

The League called again on the FCC to take no action in the UWB proceeding, ET Docket 98-153, until it establishes specific rules, definitions and classes of UWB devices in a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Remarking on comments filed by UWB proponent Time Domain Corporation, the ARRL said it would be reasonable to conclude that if UWB devices bother GPS receivers, "there is at least the same degree of interference potential to amateur receivers."

The ARRL also commented on remarks filed by XtremeSpectrum Inc, which proposed a spectrum mask to offer 18 dB of protection below Section 15.209 levels. The ARRL said specifying a spectrum mask for UWB is "an absolute necessity," and it called XtremeSpectrum's proposals "a step in the right direction."

In past comments in the UWB proceeding, the League has agreed that UWB has potentially beneficial applications, but it says these should only be accommodated under the FCC's Part 15 rules "subject to appropriate interference avoidance regulations."

ARRL's comments in the UWB proceeding are available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-53/index.html>.

==>DAYTON HAMVENTION HOSTS BUOYANT CROWD

Rain on the opening day of the 50th Dayton Hamvention did not deter the crowd from having a good time. Show-priced bargains offered by some dealers enhanced the enjoyment, and the weather improved immensely on Saturday and Sunday.

General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said Hamvention officials believe that between 27,000 and 28,000 turned out for this year's show--nearly the same number as last year. Graver said he was happy to see a good crowd despite higher gasoline prices and Friday's rain.

Unlike past Hamventions, major manufacturers had comparatively little new to offer this year. Among the most

noticeable items were: The new Kenwood TH-F6A compact tri-band hand-held FM VHF transceiver with wideband receive including HF; Ten-Tec's long-awaited 6 and 2-meter all-mode transceiver, the Model 526 "6N2"--the Tennessee company's first factory-built VHF radio; Yaesu's MD-200 desk mike "for elite-class Amateur Radio operators;" and Alpha Power's Alpha 6/2 maximum legal power VHF amplifier--the first amp produced under the company's new management and ownership.

ARRL Advertising Manager John Bee, N1GNV, said he got "almost universally positive comments" from Dayton Hamvention 2001 exhibitors. "'They came to buy,' was a common refrain," he said. Bee called the number of new vendors at this year's show "an encouraging sign" for Amateur Radio.

During the ARRL Forum Saturday, Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "It's been great year for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Things are moving in the right direction on a number of fronts." ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, echoed Sumner's sentiments. Pointing to his career in sales, Haynie said Amateur Radio is "the best product that I have in my repertoire of things to sell." Haynie called upon those on hand to think about "the product" that is Amateur Radio and how they can share the fun with others.

"I'm asking you to talk to your neighbor, I'm asking you to talk to your brother, your sister, your city council, your mayor, your congressman, and tell 'em about your product, which is Amateur Radio," Haynie exhorted.

Haynie presented a plaque to Graver in recognition of the 50th Hamvention. Speaking on behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and the Hamvention Committee, Graver thanked the League for its efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio.

Saturday morning's AMSAT forum included a telephone visit with "space tourist" Dennis Tito, KG6FZX. Tito told the gathering that Amateur Radio provided a great boost to his recent visit to the International Space Station. "The opportunity to do a phone patch five days in a row was a very important part of my flight, and I looked forward to it every day," he said. A planned ham radio contact with the ISS crew from the Hamvention did not work out, however. In addition to handling the Tito interview, Roy Neal, K6DUE, of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, also chatted with astronaut Janice Voss, KC5BTK.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, not only was one of the Saturday banquet speakers but the highlight of the Sunday morning FCC forum. Playing to a packed house, Hollingsworth and FCC colleague Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, reviewed regulatory and enforcement issues confronting ham radio (see below, "FCC to Amateurs: Detailed Regulation 'Not in the Picture.'")

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Hollingsworth told the crowd that amateur enforcement complaints are way down. With tongue only somewhat in cheek, Hollingsworth said "California" topped his list of enforcement issues that keep him awake at night. "If it weren't for California, amateur enforcement would be a one-day-a-week job," he said, "and we wouldn't need most of the rules."

Hollingsworth also cited "stupidity" and unlicensed 10-meter operation as other factors that continue to provide grist for enforcement. He played taped excerpts of contentious on-air amateur discussions to demonstrate his point. "There was nothing illegal--nothing against our rules" on the tapes, he said. But, he continued, their content presents a poor image of the Amateur Service to anyone listening in--and that could include the media, decision makers and the general public.

Graver said there are no current plans for Hamvention to move from the venerable Hara Arena. Dayton Hamvention's contract to use Hara runs through 2003.

==>FCC TO AMATEURS: DETAILED REGULATION "NOT IN THE PICTURE"

The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation. Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs.

"I hope that those of you who are thinking about asking us to carve up a band by fiat will think again," he told the packed forum. "You really are asking us to tie your hands regarding your use of your spectrum."

Before the FCC initiates any rulemaking proceedings in the Amateur Service to change privileges, Cross said it wants to see proposals involving the implementation of "new and more modern communications technologies," such as digital. In addition, he said, any future proposal "must include all licensees, and it must include all bands," and--most important--the amateur community must reach a consensus on the topic.

Cross said the FCC does not want and cannot handle "multiple proceedings that address piecemeal changes in operating privileges" that affect only certain classes of licensees or certain bands. "You, collectively, need to reach

agreement on how you want to use your spectrum," he reiterated.

Cross said he expected the issue of restructuring operator privileges to come up "in a couple of years" at the outside. "Changes in operating privileges for the different classes of operator licenses are inevitable," he said.

==>ASTRONAUT THRILLS MISSOURI, WASHINGTON STUDENTS VIA AMATEUR RADIO

While he doesn't yet hold a ham ticket, astronaut Jim Voss has been making a lot of friends on Earth via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Voss on May 23 completed an on-air conversation with youngsters at the Moran Prairie Elementary School in Spokane, Washington. The previous week, Voss chatted with students at Parkway Central High School in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Youngsters at the Washington school asked questions ranging from bone density to exercising in space, radiation and solar flares.

"I think your brain does work a little bit differently up here," Voss said in response to a question from one Moran Prairie youngster. On the ISS, Voss said, "you're floating around, and your mind is having to do a lot of things that aren't natural to interpret the way you see things upside down." He said the crew members "have to be a little bit more careful up here." Voss told the pupils that he enjoys space walks and was looking forward to an excursion outside the ISS in a couple of weeks could prove more challenging than usual. Voss said he even enjoys microgravity in his free time. "Sometimes I do things with the zero gravity, floating around and doing flips and somersaults--it's like playing in space."

Voss told students at both schools that the astronauts are enjoying "quite a variety" of foods on the space station's menu. He also said he misses his family but told the Missouri students that he felt "lucky and blessed" to be aboard the ISS and that he enjoyed the inspiring view. "The earth is quite a gorgeous place, and we can't take pictures that are good enough to make it look as good as it really is," he told the Parkway Central students May 17.

The high schoolers also wanted to know about such issues as sleeping in space, what the crew does if someone gets sick, and what it takes to become an astronaut and ISS crew member. Both contacts were made directly, via 2 meters, and Voss used the NA1SS call sign for the QSOs.

Voss, astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, and Russian crew commander Yuri Usachev, RW3FU, are approximately halfway through their Expedition Two tour of duty aboard the ISS. They will return to Earth in July.

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==>KACHINA EXITS THE AMATEUR RADIO, HF MARKET

Kachina--which made a big splash at the 1997 Dayton Hamvention when it introduced its then-revolutionary 505DSP PC-controlled Amateur Radio transceiver--has quit the ham radio market. The Arizona manufacturer discontinued production and marketing of the 505DSP, its only ham product, and all other HF radio products and accessories, effective May 24.

Kachina Vice President Cameron Earnshaw blamed "the slowdown in Amateur Radio in general, and HF radio in particular" for the company's decision to exit the HF market. "Any radio selling for over \$1000 is a pretty hard sell these days," he said. The Kachina 505DSP, the first amateur transceiver designed solely for control via a personal computer, has retailed in the vicinity of \$2000.

"Unfortunately, the 505DSP was too expensive to produce," he told ARRL. "For that we have only ourselves to blame. Performance costs money, but you really limit your sales when you cross that \$1000-\$1200 mark."

Earnshaw said he does not know how the Japanese manufacturers continue to produce and market top-end Amateur Radio gear. He suggested they must be doing so "out of a labor of love, supporting the losses from other more-profitable ventures."

Earnshaw said Kachina will continue to provide service and spare parts for all Kachina HF radio products for the foreseeable future and will honor all factory warranties through their duration. Amateur Radio products remaining in Kachina's inventory were being discounted through Kachina's Web site, <http://kachina-az.com>.

Kachina Chief Engineer Doug Smith, KF6DX, said he's sad to see the product line come to an end. "Some might say that this is another blow to Amateur Radio, but I would say it is just an indicator of the need to adapt to changing conditions," he said. "The Amateur Radio Service should see several exciting developments in the coming years, including digital voice, high-speed digital modes, remote control and further improvements in so-called software-defined radios, to name a few."

Smith says he'll be moving on "to greener pastures," but will continue to edit QEX/Communications Quarterly for the ARRL.

==>KENTUCKY AMATEUR DIES INSTALLING ANTENNA

A Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service member died May 20 while installing a 2-meter antenna he'd just bought at the Dayton Hamvention. According to ARRL Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP,

Ronald L. Oller, KG4JVT, of Irvington, died when the groundplane antenna he was installing fell onto the overhead electrical service line to his house. He had been a ham for about eight months.

Dodson said Oller and a teenaged friend, John Betner, KG4LHQ, had purchased new 2-meter groundplanes at the Hamvention. The pair already had installed one of the units at Betner's home and were in the process of raising Oller's antenna when the incident occurred. Betner was not injured and summoned help for his friend.

Dodson said Oller had a history of heart trouble but said he did not know if that was a factor in his death.

Dodson described Oller as "one of the most enthusiastic hams I have ever met" and as "a generous individual who loved to be helpful in spite of his heart ailment." Earlier in the weekend, Oller had traveled to Dayton Hamvention on a chartered bus with other amateurs from Kentucky's Meade, Breckinridge, Jefferson and surrounding counties.

Oller got his license last October and became involved in public service and, as AAT4YQ/T, in the Military Affiliate Radio System. He also had "elmered" the 16-year-old Betner when he studied for his license.

"It can happen to any of us at any time," said Dodson, who advised caution when installing antennas. "It's too late to help Ron, but, please, let's not lose anyone else to such a terrible tragedy."

A memorial service for Ron Oller was set for May 27.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** Spectrum Protection bill attracts additional cosponsors:** ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, reports that the House and Senate versions of the Spectrum Protection Act are collecting cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. The House bill, HR 817, introduced by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida now has 18 cosponsors including Assistant Majority Whip Doc Hastings of Washington--part of the House Leadership. Other cosponsors include representatives John Baldacci of Maine, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Dan Burton of Indiana, John Conyers of Michigan, John Doolittle and Gary Miller of California, Virgil Goode of Virginia, Johnny Isakson of Georgia, William Jenkins of Tennessee, Walter Jones and Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, George Nethercutt of Washington, Ted Strickland and Patrick Tiberi of Ohio, Charles Stenholm of Texas, and Lee Terry of Nebraska. The Senate companion bill, S 549, introduced by Sen Michael Crapo of Idaho, currently has five cosponsors. These include senators Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, Susan Collins of Maine, Larry Craig of Idaho, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and Bob Smith of New Hampshire.

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*** Kid's Day is June 16:** Kid's Day is just around the corner. On June 16, 1800 to 2400 UTC, kids of all ages are invited to experience ham radio. Amateurs are encouraged to invite youngsters into their shack to enjoy the fun. Kid's Day began in 1994 with a one-hour program created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club in Boring, Oregon. The youngsters exchanged names and their favorite color. Forty kids participated. Last year, more than 1000 took part in the event, now sponsored by ARRL. All participants can download a personalized certificate. There's no limit on operating time. The suggested exchange is name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Kid's Day rules, frequencies and other information are on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html> and in the June issue of QST, p 48.

*** QSL card postage to jump a penny:** It will cost another penny to mail a QSL card (sans envelope) after July 1. The US Postal Service has announced that it's raising the postcard rate by \$0.01. First-class domestic postage in the US increased to 34 cents on January 7. The complete rate schedule is available on the USPS Web site, <http://www.usps.com/>.

*** Field Day satellite update:** The QST column "Amateur Satellites and Field Day 2001" (June QST, p 99) was not completely up-to-date concerning two amateur satellites. ARRL Technical Specialist Kevin Manzer, AC5DK, notes that the Russian RS-13 satellite was shut down in January, and RS-12 has been reactivated in Mode A, although Manzer notes that, most years, it is usually in Mode K or KA when late June rolls around. In Mode A, RS-12 uplinks at 145.910 to 145.950 MHz and downlinks from 29.410 to 29.450 MHz, CW/SSB. The beacon is at 29.408 MHz. The latest information on RS-12 and RS-13 can be found on the AC5DK RS-12/13 Satellite Operators page, <http://www.qsl.net/ac5dk/rs1213/rs1213.html>. --Kevin Manzer, AC5DK

*** "Wireless Giant of the Pacific" on the air again:** Former RCA coast station KPH, Point Reyes, California, will attempt to contact the Liberty ship SS Jeremiah O'Brien, KXCH, on Sunday, May 20, between 1730 and 2200 UTC. Initial contact on 500 kHz will shift to 426 kHz for KPH, and 425 kHz for KXCH. KPH may also transmit on 6477.5 kHz. KPH will broadcast commemorative messages and possibly a traffic list. The former KPH facilities are part of the Point Reyes National Seashore, which has a strong interest in the important role the station played in the history of radio communications. The Marine Radio Historical Society Web site <http://www.radiomarine.org> has more information. --Dick Dillman, W6AWO

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