
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

February 2001

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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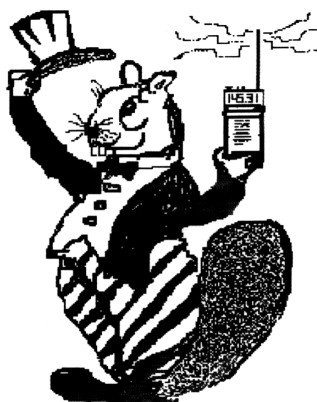
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KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
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Newsletter Editor

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

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 February 2001 meeting will be held on Thursday the 8th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. We'll look forward to seeing you.

REPEATER AUTOPATCH CODES TO CHANGE 2-1-01

Please note that on Thursday February 1st the 145.31 repeater autopatch access codes will be changed. Only 2001 members will be provided with these new codes. Additionally, all autodial slots for expired members will be cleared at this time. Please don't wait until the last moment to renew. As always autodial slots are available to all members on a first come first served basis. There is no additional fee for this service. If you would like an autodial slot be sure to see Tony KE3ED.

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday February 3rd, 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.

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.

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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

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO VISIT YOUNGSTOWN CLUB

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth will be the guest speaker at the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association's March Meeting. The Date is March 8, 2001, and the venue will be Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH. At this point in time, the details are being finalized as to the time and lecture hall that will be used at the university. Once the venue contract is signed, the details and directions will be posted on the MVARA web site (mvara.net). Admission will be free, although the university parking decks and lots do charge a parking fee.

Since Youngstown is within 1 to several driving hours of many hams in WPA, it may be a great opportunity for them to hear and meet Mr. Hollingsworth. I will post additional details to this reflector when they become available, hopefully within the next week or two.

73, and hope to see you there,
 Jerry, N8PY
 Treasurer, Mercer County Amateur Radio Club

As promised previously, here are the details of the upcoming Riley appearance in Youngstown, OH.

73, Jerry N8PY - Mercer County Amateur Radio Club

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association celebrates its 82nd Anniversary by presenting:

AN EVENING WITH RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH

Thursday, March 8, 2001 in Youngstown, Ohio

Meet FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH. He will speak about the FCC's latest enforcement actions and what lies ahead for the Amateur Service. He will also take your questions.

The program begins at 7:30 PM and will be held at McKay Auditorium of the new Beeghly School of Education on Rayen Avenue at Youngstown State University. Free admission. All amateurs invited.

For directions see below or visit our web page at: www.mvara.org. Talk in directions and parking information available at 146.745 beginning at 6:00 PM

Easy access from I-680. From I-680 South or North take EXIT 6B and follow the HUBBARD signs. Then take the exit marked 422 WEST WARREN which puts you on the Madison Expressway. Take FIFTH AVENUE exit. At the top of the ramp turn LEFT onto FIFTH AVENUE. At the FOURTH light (not counting the light at the top of the ramp) turn LEFT onto RAYEN AVENUE. Beeghly School of Education is on your LEFT, parking on the RIGHT. Call W8QLY on 146.745 for additional parking .

For Immediate release!

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Sally Jo Cripe, N3MYZ, as Assistant Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. Sally will serve as my chief assistant and be working closely with me in the various programs in the section. She is a member of the Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association. Sally shares my goals in promoting more activity in the section especially involving youth and a greater interaction between clubs.

Please welcome Sally to the field organization and stop at the ARRL table at upcoming hamfests and say hello. Sally can be reached at n3myz@arrl.net

73

John Rodgers N3MSE
W. Pa. Section Manager

TAPS

"Nancy L. Ross" wrote:

We have all heard the haunting melody of "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song?

If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, Virginia.

The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The

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boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, which we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well,
safely rest.
God is nigh.

Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.

I, too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you did either so I thought I'd pass it on.

==>AO-40 COULD BE LEAKING

AO-40 team member Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, says a small leak on AO-40 could account for the higher spin rate ground controllers have noticed since the satellite resumed telemetry

transmissions on Christmas Day. Guelzow called on the amateur community to be patient during the AO-40 recovery.

"The good thing is that AO-40 seems to be in a very stable condition, and there are no signs of further damage," Guelzow said this week in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board. "However, there is a sign of a small leak."

Ground controllers continue to look into the reason for the higher spin rate as well as into other items under investigation, Guelzow said, and the results will be reported when the AO-40 team reaches its final conclusions. He said the priority for now is to get AO-40 back to normal as soon as possible.

AO-40 went silent December 13 while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-newton propulsion system. Guelzow's posting did not indicate whether he thought that propulsion system fuel or some other substance was escaping through the suspected leak. A computer reset command Christmas Day brought the satellite back to life, but telemetry data suggest that AO-40 suffered some damage. Since Christmas, the AO-40 ground team has been analyzing telemetry sent via the 2.4 GHz beacon--the only transmitter now operating--to determine the status of AO-40's onboard systems.

Guelzow said that once the AO-40 team has a handle on the antenna situation it might attempt to get the 2-meter and possibly the 70-cm transmitters working. Until then, he said, AO-40 will continue to use the 2.4 GHz downlink. Guelzow said that because of the currently limited downlink capabilities, uploading of new commands and analyzing the results is taking somewhat longer than it would under normal circumstances.

The AO-40 team also is evaluating the satellite's magnetorquing attitude control system and wants to spin down the spacecraft and adjust AO-40's attitude for better sun and squint angles. In addition, ground controllers will be taking a close look at various other systems and experiments onboard, including the arcjet and the stabilization wheels.

"Once this is completed and we have a complete overview, then we can declare the spacecraft to work normally and perhaps think about re-defining the mission of AO-40, whatever it will be," Guelzow said. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, this week said critical decisions would be made over the next week or two "based on the results of the analysis and much discussion among the command team."--AMSAT-BB; AMSAT-DL

==>FCC COMPLETES W5YI-VEC SOUTH CAROLINA INQUIRY

The FCC has wrapped up its probe into alleged irregularities at three 1999 South Carolina Amateur Radio exam sessions. The FCC says it found "nothing improper" at an October 9,

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1999, W5YI-VEC test session in Iva, but it suggested the VEC could have avoided problems with forgeries at exam sessions in Clemson in July and August of 1999.

The FCC initiated an audit of the W5YI-VEC last year, and the VEC has cooperated in the probe. In December, the FCC asked W5YI-VEC to detail how it screens and accredits VEs and its procedures for verifying the results of W5YI-VEC test sessions.

In a letter to W5YI-VEC's Fred Maia, W5YI, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said the forgeries and a Clemson "sub-session" where two volunteer examiners are alleged to have fraudulently upgraded themselves "constitute an alarming failure of oversight and integrity in the Volunteer Examiner program at those sessions."

The "sub-session" followed a scheduled exam session on July 14, 1999, in Clemson. The FCC alleges that then-volunteer examiners William J. Browning, ex-AB4BB and AF4PJ, and James F. Chambers, KF4PWF--in Hollingsworth's words--"apparently awarded themselves upgrades to Extra class" at the ad hoc exam session at Browning's home by forging the signatures of other VEs.

The FCC also says someone forged the signature of VE Grady Robinson, AK4N, on applications for all 10 examinees at an August 26, 1999, session in Clemson. Hollingsworth said that Robinson "was not present at the session and was in no way at fault."

As a result of the Clemson inquiry, Browning forfeited his Amateur Radio license. Chambers has been called in for retesting and his role "is still under review," Hollingsworth said. Browning and Chambers handled all paperwork for both the regular exam sessions and the "sub-session" in Clemson.

"It would appear that these forgeries and the upgrading of the volunteer examiners at their own 'sub-session' could have been detected by merely attempting to verify the presence of the volunteer examiners whose names and call signs appeared on the examination session documents," Hollingsworth told the W5YI-VEC.

Hollingsworth said Maia has responded to the FCC's letter. When contacted, Maia offered no comment on the FCC's latest request for information about W5YI-VEC's examination procedures. In the past he has said his VEC screens volunteer examiner applicants as well as it can and carefully logs every exam session.

==>SECOND ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT A SUCCESS!

Students at the Armstrong Fundamental Elementary School in Hampton, Virginia, got to interview Space Station Alpha Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, via Amateur Radio on January 5. The contact was the second

successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS--school contact.

During the afternoon contact, about 10 students posed questions to Shepherd, who identified using the special NA1SS call sign. On the ground and using the Virginia Air and Space Center's KA4ZXW call sign, control operator Wally Carter, K4OGT, finally linked up with Shepherd about four minutes into the scheduled 10-minute pass. Signals were somewhat noisy but readable.

Students seemed fascinated with the effects of launch and space flight. Being launched from Earth into space felt like "someone standing on your chest," Shepherd told Mandy, the first questioner. But after about eight minutes or so, he said, you become weightless and can go anywhere you want. Shepherd told another questioner, who asked if he'd gotten dizzy or sick during launch that being weightless was "a very nice experience." He told another youngster that keeping food down in a zero-gravity environment was not a problem.

Students at Jan Sheldon Elementary School, Varysburg, New York, hope to complete their ARISS contact in the January 15-19 time frame, but all school QSO schedules are subject to change. For more information, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.--ARISS

==>"MOTHER OF ALL JAMMING STATIONS" CONTINUES TO PLAGUE 40 METERS

For some months now, regular users of the 40-meter band have been plagued from time to time by strong, very broad, frequency-hopping signals that somewhat resemble a slow-scan TV transmission. The signals, it turns out, originate from jamming stations in the Middle East.

"We know exactly what this is," said ARRL Monitoring System Coordinator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This is a very high-power Iraqi jammer of a very high-power Iranian shortwave broadcast station."

The loud buzzing signals have been heard on the 40-meter CW and phone bands and have even been "spotted" on packet. The jammers occupy about 10 kHz of spectrum.

Price says the shortwave broadcast station involved is The Voice of the People of Kurdistan, transmitted via The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran facility in Teheran. "The Iranian station has a daily transmission on 7100 kHz from the same facility, and Iraq has jammed that one also," he says.

Price explains that the Iranian station--which broadcasts anti-Saddam Hussein propaganda, hence the jamming--jumps frequencies several times each broadcast in order to avoid the jamming. Unfortunately for 40-meter users, the Iraqi transmissions follow. This results in a situation where it's hard to predict when the jammers might show up on a given frequency block or how long they'll stay.

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Price said that neither station is transmitting where it is supposed to be. "The Iranian and Iraqi telecommunications administrations have been advised of this," he said.

Price says that such "politically motivated" intruders typically don't disappear until the political situation changes. "The 'woodpecker' went away when the Cold War did," he said. "This one will probably not go away until Saddam Hussein does."

==>ROUND-THE-WORLD HAM-SAILOR REACHES SOUTH AFRICA

Round-the-world sailor David Clark, KB6TAM, has arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, aboard the sailing vessel Mollie Milar. Clark, who's trying to become the oldest person to sail solo around the world, has been using ham radio as a welcome link to the world he left behind and has been a daily check-in on the Maritime Net (14.313 MHz).

Clark's wife, Lynda, reports that the 76-year-old Clark and his sailing companion, Mickey, a west highland terrier, arrived just before Christmas and have been relaxing and getting acquainted. "Several repairs are needed, and David will be playing his clarinet for the people of Cape Town to earn monies to accomplish these repairs," Lynda Clark said in an e-mail posting over the holidays.

Clark plans to stay in Cape Town until mid-February. He and Mickey left Ft Lauderdale aboard his 44-foot steel-hulled sloop in December 1999. He hopes to celebrate the successful completion of his voyage at the Lauderdale Marine Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, before his 77th birthday on May 17.

Clark already has sailed around the world once--in 1987 to 1991--although not completely alone. A previous solo attempt failed in 1995 when he was dismasted in the Indian Ocean and lost his boat and everything he owned. Clark is financing his latest adventure out of his own pocket, using his Social Security income.

Detailed reports of Clark's adventures can be found on Clark's son David's Web pages, <http://www.captainclark.com/Pages/Updates.html>. --Lynda Clark

==>ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS IN TEXAS

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Irving, Texas, January 19 and 20. Among other agenda items, the Board was scheduled to review the League's position on Morse code as an international licensing requirement. It also hoped to come up with a method to solicit membership input on the possible "refarming" of the HF amateur spectrum in the wake of restructuring.

The meeting is the first of the new millennium and the first to be attended by new ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG. Isely topped the field in a three-way race last

November, outpolling the incumbent Director Ed Metzger, W9PRN, and a second challenger, Richard David Klatzco Jr, N9TQA.

The January meeting also will mark the return of former ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, as Hudson Division Vice Director. Mendelsohn ousted the incumbent Vice Director J.P. Kleinhaus, W2XX, in last fall's balloting. Mendelsohn also had served previously as Hudson Division Director and Vice Director.

The ARRL's Morse policy, formalized by Board resolution in 1993, supports keeping the International Radio Regulations provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. The Board may decide to reaffirm its Morse code policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of ARRL members has supported the policy.

The Board also planned to determine a way to solicit ARRL membership input on a possible repartitioning of the HF bands, now that restructuring has been in place since last April 15. As part of its original restructuring package, the League had proposed "refarming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. In its restructuring Order, the FCC declined to take any action on possible repartitioning until it's had a chance to gauge restructuring's effects.

==>HOLLINGSWORTH SAYS "RADIO RAGE" HAZARDOUS TO HAM RADIO

Entering his third year spearheading the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement effort, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says "radio rage" could become a bigger danger to the future of Amateur Radio than rulebreaking.

"It's the infighting and arguments and juvenile spats," Hollingsworth said this week. "That's going to come back to haunt us if we don't just grow up. It will do the service in, if the ham community doesn't put a stop to it."

Hollingsworth said that he's encouraged that the FCC's enforcement program has the support of "99.9%" of the amateur community and that the vast majority of hams follow the rules. But, he said that radio rage in the form of such things as on-air squabbles or frequency fights can degrade the bands just as quickly as outright rulebreaking. "The FCC can't do anything about that," he said. "It's up to the amateur community."

Hollingsworth said that while much radio rage technically is not illegal, it reflects poorly on Amateur Radio and can balloon into an enforcement issue. More important, he said, rude or intemperate on-air behavior might provide just the

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sort of ammunition that an entity seeking additional spectrum will use against Amateur Radio.

Hollingsworth predicted that the departure January 19 of FCC Chairman William Kennard (see "FCC CHAIRMAN WILLIAM KENNARD RESIGNS" below) and the changing of the guard the White House the next day will not alter the course of the current amateur enforcement effort. He said he sees nothing but positive changes ahead.

"I'm willing to bet my SX-115 that we won't miss a beat," he said, referring to one of his latest acquisitions of vintage ham gear, "as long as the amateur community lets it be known it still wants enforcement."

Hollingsworth said it was pressure from the ARRL and individual amateurs that prompted the resumption of amateur enforcement in 1998 during Kennard's tenure, "and it's the type of program that needs that continual pressure to keep it going," he added. Overall complaints are down, Hollingsworth said, "but no one can be complacent."

==>AO-40 REPORT SUGGESTS DAMAGE TO ANTENNA SYSTEMS

The latest information from the AO-40 recovery effort suggests that the satellite might have suffered antenna system damage when it went silent last December 13. The satellite stopped transmitting while ground controllers were testing the 400-newton propulsion system aboard AO-40.

Since the satellite's computer was reset and telemetry resumed December 25, the AO-40 ground team has been analyzing telemetry sent via the 2.4 GHz beacon--the only transmitter now operating.

AMSAT-DL Vice President and AO-40 team member Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, said this week that efforts to restart the 2-meter transmitter were unsuccessful. The satellite was sending telemetry via the 2-meter transmitter when it went quit transmitting last month. Guelzow said telemetry seemed to indicate that the VHF transmitter was working during the test, but no signal was heard. Additional tests are scheduled

Guelzow reiterated this week that while the 2-meter, 70 cm and 1.2 GHz receivers are working on the high-gain antennas, none of them will receive signals using the omnidirectional antennas. "Either the omni antennas are damaged or the cabling or the antenna relays," Guelzow concluded.

The satellite's 70-cm transmitter--problematic since launch--will be tested on both the high-gain and omnidirectional antennas once the spacecraft's spin rate has been reduced and AO-40's heat-dissipation mechanism--the so-called "heat pipes--start working again.

Guelzow said that AO-40's attitude control system is fully functional--something that would be critical to keeping the satellite in orbit on a long-term basis. Guelzow explained that because the sun angle is now about 60 degrees, the sun sensor's electronics are temporarily disabled. "Without sun and attitude information, no magnetorquing can be performed, thus no further attitude or spin change was done," he said. AO-40 team leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, is developing a software fix that does not rely on data from the sun sensor.

Guelzow expressed the hope that once the sun angle and antenna-pointing capabilities have been established, the ground crews will have a better chance to check out the status of the 2 meter and 70 cm transmitters through "better-controlled and suitable experiments." He indicated that AO-40's arcjet thrusters and the reaction wheels also will undergo testing as soon as possible.

Meinzer recently expressed confidence that, despite its problems, AO-40 will be functional in the future--although its mission likely will be different from the one planned prior to launch.

AMSAT-UK's Richard Limebear, G3RWL, has suggested that AO-40 could at least be used for "some kind of 400 baud PSK digital communication" via one of the onboard computers. Limebear said that if the IF matrix is functional, then, SSB or CW via a linear transponder would be possible. "If AO-40 reaches such a state, we will get as much or more than AO-10 and AO-13 offered, only on more state-of-the-art frequencies," he concluded.

==>HAMS RESPOND TO EL SALVADOR EARTHQUAKE

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, reports that health-and-welfare requests continued to flow in from El Salvador this week. SATERN is maintaining its routine daily net on 14.265 MHz at 1500 UTC but will continue to monitor the frequency at other times. McPherson says that if it becomes necessary, SATERN will run a formal net to handle traffic. The earthquake January 13 claimed upwards of 700 lives in El Salvador and Guatemala. Hundreds of aftershocks and landslides have compounded the disaster.

"Quent Nelson, WA4BZY, our coordinator for health-and-welfare continues to process these requests," McPherson said. "Contact has been made with Richard Webster, YS1/K9ULW, in El Salvador, who has been one of the primary amateurs assisting the endeavor." Relief traffic reportedly was being handled on 7090 kHz as necessary.

Health-and-welfare inquiries may be directed through the SATERN Web site, <http://www.qso.com/satern>.

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McPherson said the level of traffic in the wake of the earthquake disaster has not been overwhelming, "but each message is important to the requestor," he added.

At week's end, Nelson relayed information from Salvation Army International Disaster Services Coordinator Maj Mike Olsen, who heads an assessment team in El Salvador. Olsen reported that The Salvation Army is serving more than 18,000 hot meals per day, plus offering medical treatment to earthquake victims. Olsen reported that local telephone service is unreliable because of earthquake damage, but the local cellular network is operating.

McPherson expressed his appreciation to all amateurs who have been helping in the earthquake relief effort. "This kind of operation continues only through the great support of the Amateur Radio community and the dedication of folks driven to help those in need," he said. "Thanks to you all!"

Meanwhile, a team of 22 Turkish rescue personnel was dispatched to the disaster scene last week. Turkey was hit by a devastating earthquake in the summer of 1999, and Amateur Radio played a role in providing emergency communication in the aftermath. Heading up communications for the Turkish rescue team is Serdar Demirel, TA2NO. The team reportedly is equipped with an INMARSAT telephone and VHF and UHF amateur gear.

==>FCC CHAIRMAN WILLIAM KENNARD RESIGNS

FCC Chairman William E. Kennard stepped down from that post January 19. Kennard, a Democrat, said he was leaving the office with great pride in the FCC's accomplishments and with deep gratitude for having had an opportunity to serve the American public.

Kennard's resignation was expected, once the AOL-Time Warner mega-merger had received FCC approval. That happened January 11. It's been widely speculated that President George W. Bush will name Republican FCC commissioner Michael Powell--the son of Secretary of State--Designate Gen Colin Powell--to replace Kennard as FCC chairman.

The agency's first African-American chairman, Kennard presided over the FCC during a period when the FCC implemented legislation to bring competition to communications markets. During his three-year tenure, Kennard promoted competition and consumer choice, encouraged the rollout of broadband and digital technologies, expanded access to technology and streamlined and revamped the FCC, including creation of the Enforcement Bureau.

Kennard made bridging the Digital Divide a top priority. During his tenure, the FCC implemented the E-Rate program, which connected 95% of the nation's schools and more than one million classrooms to the Internet. Kennard also worked to expand access to all Americans.

"We must bring the benefits of the Digital Age to all Americans," said Kennard. "From the business districts to the barrios; from those with every advantage to those with disabilities; from the young to the old; from suburban enclaves to the rural heartland."

His achievements include establishing a Disabilities Rights Office at the FCC, bringing telephone service to over one million new low-income Native Americans on tribal lands, and creating the new Low-Power FM radio service for school, church, and community use.

For the next few months, Kennard will serve as a senior fellow of the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program in Washington, DC.--FCC news release and press reports

==>MIR'S EXECUTION DATE SET

According to news reports, two Russian space agencies have agreed that March 6 will be D-Day for the Mir space station--"Deorbiting Day," that is.

The Russian space station has had Amateur Radio gear aboard. Over the years, countless hams on Earth have spoken directly with the crew--which, at times, has included US astronauts--or have accessed Mir's packet messaging system. Pictures transmitted via an SSTV experiment installed aboard Mir a few years ago also delighted earthbound amateurs.

While the ham gear was installed in part to help boost crew morale, it became a vital communication link after a nearly disastrous fire broke out and--not long after--when the space station's hull was pierced in a collision with a cargo rocket.

The more than 130-ton spacecraft will be pushed out of Earth orbit using Progress rockets. According to the Russian Aviation and Space Agency--Rosaviasmos--and RKK Energia--Mir's operator--a Progress cargo ship with increased fuel capacity will be launched to Mir January 18. It will displace a Progress rocket already docked to Mir.

The second Progress--heavily loaded with fuel for the deorbiting missions--will dock January 22. In the event of docking problems, Russia is prepared to send up an emergency cosmonaut crew to complete the job.

Mir's attitude control system will be disabled. Then, on March 4 and 5, the Progress will fire its engines and brake the station's orbital velocity. On March 6, the Progress will deliver the killer blow, firing to decrease Mir's velocity to the point where it will drop out of orbit. What's left of the space station after it passes through Earth's atmosphere will plunge into the Pacific later that day. It's expected that the scuttling of Mir will generate a shower of debris that could reach Earth's surface.

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Over the years, Mir has become a fixture in orbit and the focal point of pride for the Russian space program. The initial module of the space station was launched February 20, 1986. Recently, the Russian government confirmed its intention to continue its cooperation with the US, Canada, ESA, and Japan in the development of the International Space Station.--Roy Neal, K6DUE, and AMSAT News Service, contributed information for this report

==>BILL INTRODUCED TO AMEND PRB-1 IN STATE OF WASHINGTON

Two State of Washington lawmakers have introduced a bill to amend sections of the Revised Code Of Washington to strengthen that state's PRB-1 law. Washington incorporated the federal preemption known as PRB-1 in 1994. The proposed amendment would specify that local governing bodies could not restrict antenna height to less than 70 feet without a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic reason.

Washington is one of 10 states that have adopted PRB-1 laws of their own. Only three states--Oregon, Virginia, and Wyoming--include minimum regulatory height limits.

Republicans Pam Roach and Dan Swecker introduced Senate Bill SB 5002 for a first reading on January 8 on behalf of ARRL member George B. Hutchison, W7KSJ, of Auburn. Hutchison has been promoting the PRB-1 amendment through an organization called "Hamtowerlaw" (<http://www.hamtowerlaw.com>). SB 5002 has been assigned to the Economic Development and Telecommunications Committee.

Washington's current PRB-1 law says any ordinances or regulations that localities adopt with respect to Amateur Radio antennas must "reasonably accommodate amateur communications" and "represent the minimal practicable regulation" to meet the local authority's legitimate purpose. Hutchison wants to add wording that would keep cities, counties or towns from restricting an Amateur Radio antenna's height to less than 70 feet, "unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic consideration."

For more information on PRB-1, visit the ARRL PRB-1 page, http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/index.html.

==>ARRL ROUND 2 EMERGENCY COMMS COURSE FILLS FAST

Once again, registration for the on-line Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) wrapped up within 24 hours of the opening announcement. The Round 2 classes are filled.

"With approximately 350 folks waiting to take the course, registration is first-come-first-served," said ARRL Certification Specialist Dan Miller, K3UFG. Miller explained

that in order to maintain a ratio of 15 students to each mentor, each class can hold only 45 students. "As more folks are added to our mentor list, more on-line classes can be offered," he said.

Miller said that after this week's classes, he anticipates a new class will begin approximately every four weeks. "Live" classes also could become a reality later this year. He suggested that those planning on taking the on-line course first check out the sample course offered on the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium Web site (<http://www.ctdlc.org/>), by logging in as a guest. "It's an excellent way to prepare for participation in the future," he said.

Advanced courses in emergency communications also will become available this year. These include Level II: NCS and Liaison Training and Level III: Emergency Communications Management/Administration Issues.

For more information on the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program, send your request to CCE@arrl.org. The Web address is: www.arrl.org/cce.

==>ARRL BOARD APPROVES DUES INCREASE, ALTERS MORSE POSITION

Meeting in Irving, Texas, January 19 and 20, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues from \$34 to \$39 annually for full members younger than 65, and from \$28 to \$34 for full members 65 and older. The dues hike goes into effect July 1, 2001. The last ARRL dues increase was in July 1997.

The dues increase resulted from a need to fund initiatives to expand the League's advocacy activities on behalf of Amateur Radio--including the defense of amateur spectrum--and to enhance ARRL Headquarters' abilities to serve members during a period of projected deficits. The Board okayed a \$1 greater increase for seniors in an effort to narrow the dues gap, as more and more ARRL members fall into the senior category.

At the same time, the Board approved the hiring of development and sales and marketing professionals on the Headquarters staff as part of an overall plan to augment revenues.

"The ARRL carries out a lot of activities that no longer can be fully funded by dues or publication sales revenues," ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained. While voluntary contributions towards Amateur Radio advocacy are helping greatly, "we need to professionalize these activities if we are going to sustain them," he said.

Sumner said putting more emphasis on voluntary contributions was "the only route to financial security" for the ARRL. Among ARRL programs that will rely heavily on

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voluntary contributions is "The Big Project" educational initiative proposed last year by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP.

The Board also revised its position on whether Morse code proficiency should continue to be an international licensing requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The Board approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" that the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. But the Board held the line on retaining a domestic Morse requirement, saying that each country should be allowed to determine for itself whether it wants to have a Morse requirement.

The Board declared that Morse code deserves continued support as "an important operating mode" as well as in terms of spectrum and "should be retained as a testing element in the US." The resolution also calls on ARRL Headquarters staff to "develop a program designed to promote the use of Morse."

The resolution supersedes all previous Board policy statements regarding Morse code and Article S25.

The Board also established a committee to solicit membership input to update the ARRL's position on refarming the HF Novice bands "in light of the 1999 FCC license restructuring Report and Order." The five-member panel will be named by President Haynie. It will report to the board in one year.

Attending their first ARRL Board meeting were new Rocky Mountain Vice Director Warren "Rev" Morton, WS7W, and new Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG. Returning as Hudson Division Vice Director was former ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML.

In other action, the Board:

- * called on the Volunteer Resources Committee to study the ARRL field organization and recommend possible changes. The yearlong study will be the first in the two decades.

- * adopted the ARRL's official legislative program during the 107th Congress, including a resolution urging Congressional support to clarify the FCC's limited preemption policy PRB-1 governing Amateur Radio antennas to incorporate private land-use preclusions such as deed restrictions and restrictive covenants.

- * named former Central Division Director Ed Metzger, W9PRN, an ARRL Honorary Vice President. Metzger served as Central Division Director from 1981 until this year and has 44 years of service as an ARRL elected official.

==>ARRL BOARD NAMES YEAR 2000 HUMANITARIAN, LEONARD AWARD WINNERS

The Hurricane Watch Net and net manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW, have been named to receive the 2000 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is dedicated to those amateurs who, through Amateur Radio, are devoted to promoting human welfare.

The Hurricane Watch Net (<http://www.hwn.org>) activates on 14.325 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall in the western Atlantic, the Caribbean or the eastern Pacific. Working with the operators of W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Hurricane Watch Net participants relay weather data from isolated islands, marine assets and other areas that are not part of the Center's routine communication network. This allows the Center's forecasters to more accurately prepare advisories and predict the movements and size of storms.

Since 1965, Amateur Radio participants on the HWN have provided critically needed hurricane information. In addition to real-time weather data reports—typically wind speed, wind direction and barometric pressure—the net relays damage reports that can aid forecasters in evaluating a storm's intensity.

The Net also relays important weather advisories and information back to the affected areas, broadcasting storm advisories to remote islands, mariners, and others. On many occasions, this information is only available via the Hurricane Watch Net.

Operators at W4EHW work with the HWN to provide hurricane weather communication for the Caribbean, the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic coastal states as well as emergency communications for the Center and local agencies.

The winner of the 2000 Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award is Marjorie Wertz, a staff writer for the Standard Observer, a twice-weekly insert in the daily Tribune-Review newspaper in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This award goes each year to a professional journalist—or group—for outstanding coverage of Amateur Radio in TV, radio, print or multimedia. The winner receives an engraved plaque and a check for \$500.

Wertz was cited for her entry, "There's more to this hobby than meets the eye," which appeared in the September 2, 2000, edition of the Standard Observer. "For the most part, they are almost invisible," Wertz's article begins. "But, in an emergency, this network of ordinary folks springs into action."

Her article focuses on how hams in her community are involved in both public service and recreational activities. It also touches on the requirements to get a ham ticket and mentions the role of the ARRL and the volunteer examination program.

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Wertz told ARRL that she got the idea to do the story after seeing the award program publicized in her newspaper. She consulted the ARRL Web site and located two hams in her area to interview for her feature.

Members of ARRL's Public Relations Committee judged the 13 nominations received.

A broadcast journalist, Bill Leonard died in 1994. He was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 1996.

==>WHITE HOUSE NAMES MICHAEL POWELL TO CHAIR FCC

As expected, President George W. Bush this week named Michael K. Powell to become FCC chairman. Powell, a Republican and an FCC member since 1997, is the son of Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell. Since Powell already sits on the FCC, the nomination is not subject to Senate confirmation.

"I am deeply honored and privileged to have received President Bush's designation to be Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," Powell said in a statement.

Powell succeeds William Kennard, who stepped down as the head of the FCC on January 19. A Democrat and a Clinton appointee, Kennard was the first African-American to serve as FCC chairman.

Earlier this month, Powell voted with the majority to approve the AOL-Time Warner mega-merger, which he called "unquestionably one of the most significant mergers in history" and said he was pleased to support it.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says Powell has a solid relationship with the Enforcement Bureau. "I'm delighted," Hollingsworth said of Powell's appointment. "He's a very sharp guy."

Powell came to the FCC from the Department of Justice, where he served as the chief of staff of the Antitrust Division. He has appointed FCC veteran and former Walt Disney Company vice president Marsha J. MacBride as the agency's Chief of Staff.

The other members of the FCC are Susan Ness, Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, and Gloria Tristani. Among names mentioned as possible Bush appointees to the FCC is that of Texas Public Utilities Commission Chairman Pat Wood.

==>EX-HAM GETS JAIL, PROBATION FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

Former amateur Richard Allen Burton this week was sentenced to three months in jail and one year's probation for

unlicensed operation of a radio transmitter. Burton also must undergo psychological treatment.

Burton was sentenced January 22. The FCC says he'd been operating without a license on repeaters in Southern California. Burton is scheduled to report to the US Marshal's office on February 26 to begin serving his jail term. He has been free on \$20,000 bond.

Formerly WB6JAC, Burton, lost his General ticket in 1981 as a result of unspecified violations. Since then, he's racked up a lengthy history of alleged unlicensed operation, most or all of it on amateur frequencies. He has served jail time and probation as a result of earlier convictions.

Burton was arrested last August 5 following his indictment by a federal grand jury in California. He faced six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934.

==>PRB-1 BILL INTRODUCED IN INDIANA

Indiana lawmakers will deal with an Amateur Radio antenna bill in the upcoming 112th General Assembly session. A bill has been introduced to incorporate the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into Indiana state law.

Senate Bill 331 would prohibit Indiana municipalities or counties from enacting ordinances, resolutions or orders that do not comply with PRB-1. The proposed law also seeks to prohibit localities from "restricting Amateur Radio antennas to less than 75 feet above ground level. It would not prohibit communities from taking action to "protect or preserve a historic or an architectural district."

In general, the PRB-1 FCC policy requires that local regulations involving the placement, screening or height of antennas based on health, safety or aesthetic considerations "must be crafted to reasonably accommodate amateur communications" and that such local regulations "represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose."

Senators Rose Ann Antich and Marvin D. Riegsecker are cosponsors of the proposed legislation. ARRL member Jerry Suhrheinrich, WD9EDE (wd9ede@arrl.net), has been promoting the bill from within the amateur community.

Ten states have incorporated the essence of PRB-1 into their laws. So far, only three states--Oregon, Virginia, and Wyoming--include minimum regulatory height limits in their Amateur Radio antenna laws based on PRB-1. A PRB-1 bill recently introduced in the State of Washington seeks a 70 foot minimum (see Hearing set for Washington PRB-1 expansion bill, below).

==>RECIPROCAL LICENSING INFORMATION IS ON THE WEB

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US amateurs planning to vacation in a foreign country this year will find it easier to obtain permission to operate there. Amateur Radio operation from several countries is now a reasonable goal--even for short trips.

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration—or CEPT--Amateur Radio licensing system requires that you carry only three documents. You'll need a copy of FCC Public Notice DA 99-2344 (available at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/cept-ral.pdf>), proof of US citizenship, and your FCC-issued Amateur Radio license.

The CEPT instant reciprocal privileges apply only for travel by US hams to those European countries that recognize US participation in the CEPT protocols. As a reciprocal system, hams from CEPT-participating European nations have similar privileges while touring the US and Canada. For a list of countries that recognize US participation in the CEPT reciprocal system, visit the CEPT countries page on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/cept-list.html>.

The International Amateur Radio Permit is another special licensing arrangement. It applies to certain countries in the Americas, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Peru, US, Uruguay, and Venezuela, who are signatories of the CITEL Amateur Convention. US amateurs may use the IARP to operate only in those countries. An IARP is not a license, but it certifies the existence of a license. The CITEL Convention provides that IARPs may be issued by a country's government or by its International Amateur Radio Union member-society, and the ARRL is the sponsoring society in the US.

To obtain an IARP or for more information on operating from a CEPT or CITEL (IARP) country, visit the ARRL International Operating page, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/>.

Obtaining a license to operate in a country that is neither a CEPT nor a CITEL Amateur Convention signatory or participant requires more paperwork and some advance planning. Delays of a month or longer are common. Licensing and operating requirements for all other countries are available on the "Operating Permit Information by Country" page on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/recipe-country.html>.

Another source for reciprocal licensing information is the "Information on licensing abroad for radio amateurs" Web site of Veikko "Veke" Komppa, OH2MCN, <http://www.qsl.net/oh2mcn/license.htm>. OH2MCN and the ARRL share information to assure that both sites are as accurate as possible and that the information is suitable for their respective audiences.

==>IN BRIEF:

* **Correction:** A news item "New section managers take office January 1" that ran in The ARRL Letter, Vol 19, No 50, and on ARRLWeb, contained incorrect information about the South Carolina section manager election. Incumbent South Carolina Section Manager Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, was elected in November 2000 with opposition from two challengers.--Rosalie White, K1STO

* **ARRL DXCC Desk announces new 17-Meter Award:** The ARRL DXCC Desk now is accepting applications for its new 17-Meter Single Band DXCC Award. The 17-Meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered, and 17-meter credits also will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition for 2001. To determine prior credits on 17 meters, contact DXCC for an update to help avoid duplicates and additional costs. Copies of DXCC records are available (in Adobe PDF format) by contacting the DXCC Desk at dxcc@arrl.org (if requesting via US mail, include \$1.50 for postage or an SASE with \$1.50 in postage). For more information, contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org.

* **New Oscar numbers assigned:** SaudiSat 1A and 1B are now officially OSCAR 41, or SO-41, and OSCAR 42, or SO-42. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has delegated to past president Bill Tynan, W3XO, the task of assigning OSCAR numbers. In a letter to Turki Al Saud, director of Space Research at the King Abdullaziz City for Science and Technology—the sponsoring agency--Tynan congratulated all involved with the two spacecraft. "I am sure that the world's Amateur Radio community will very much appreciate having SO-41 and SO-42 available for use," he said. SaudiSat 1A and 1B were launched September 26, 2000, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, aboard a converted Soviet ballistic missile. Both satellites are in the commissioning stage, with initial housekeeping tasks under way. Each satellite will operate as a 9600-baud digital store-and-forward system as well as an analog FM (bent-pipe) repeater.--AMSAT News Service

* **Hams, REACT members fill communication gap:** Amateur Radio and REACT radio operators provided emergency communication service to the Schenectady, New York, area after the Verizon telephone office was flooded December 28, 2000, by a water main break. Telephone service was disrupted to 60,000 customers in Schenectady, Saratoga, Fulton, and Montgomery counties in upstate eastern New York. A state of emergency was declared. ARES Schenectady County Emergency Coordinator George Chapek, N2AIG, reports that Amateur Radio operators from Schenectady ARES/RACES staffed the Schenectady Emergency Operations Center. The Schenectady County Emergency Communications Net was called up on a local repeater and remained in continuous operation for about eight hours. In addition to staffing the EOC station, Amateur Radio and REACT operators also deployed mobile stations to 14 strategic locations in Schenectady, displaying signs indicating that they had the capability to relay emergency calls for the public. Communications were carried out on amateur VHF

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and UHF bands plus GMRS and 11-meter CB. More than 75 hams and REACT operators volunteered time and equipment to the effort, some of them traveling from surrounding counties to help.--George Chapek, N2AIG

* **Gracey to grace LDG:** Amateur Radio industry veteran Everett L. Gracey, WA6CBA, of Reno, Nevada, has joined LDG Electronics Inc of St Leonard, Maryland, as its worldwide Amateur Radio dealer sales representative. LDG Electronics makes automatic antenna tuners, digital wattmeters and other amateur products that are available through the dealer network. Gracey has a long career in the Amateur Radio business. In addition to being the author of several books (including My 20 Years of RV Adventures), Gracey co-founded Mirage Communications in 1979 and co-founded RF Concepts in 1986.--LDG news release

* **RTTY by WF1B now a free program:** Just in time for the ARRL RTTY Roundup January 5-7, (see the 2001 ARRL RTTY Round-Up Rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rty.html> or December QST, page 111) Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B, has changed the way his RTTY contest software is distributed. From now on, RTTY by WF1B will be available free via the Internet. Users will pay a fee for support, however. WF1B is making the program's source code available and is soliciting suggested changes from programmers. For details, visit the RTTY by WF1B Web page, <http://www.wf1b.com/>.

* **FCC levies fine for illegal amplifier sales:** The FCC has fined Stephen Fowler, doing business as Exports R US in Pineville, Louisiana, \$7000 for marketing an unauthorized external radio frequency power amplifier. The FCC's New Orleans field office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability last September against Fowler d/b/a/ Exports R Us; the FCC says Fowler has not responded. The forfeiture is due within 30 days of the Forfeiture Order, adopted December 28, 2000.

* **W2MTA ends tenure as NTS Eastern Area Staff chair:** Bill Thompson, W2MTA, has announced that he will not seek another term as chairman of the National Traffic System Eastern Area Staff. An ARRL Life Member, Thompson has served in that position since 1989. Thompson says he plans to continue as an NTS Official, managing operations related to the Second and Thirteenth Regions of the National Traffic System (Atlantic Region Net). Nominations for Eastern Area Staff chair for the next two years go to Steve Ewald, WV1X, sewald@arrl.org at ARRL Headquarters.

* **Outgoing QSL Service tops 1999 stats:** ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that in 2000 the bureau shipped 1,868,895 QSL cards to various QSL Bureaus around the world. This is 15,025 more cards than during 1999.

* **FCC changes e-mail address for auction site complaints:** The FCC has requested that complaints about the sale of

possibly illegal equipment on eBay, Yahoo and other auction or sales site be sent to fccinfo@fcc.gov.

*** Ham net summons help for stroke victim:** Jay Leonard, WB4DCP, of Clyde, North Carolina, is grateful for his Amateur Radio friends. Leonard is paralyzed except for some use of his hands, and his wife Joann helps him with routine tasks. On January 14, Jay Leonard was enjoying a roundtable on 75 meters along with hams from several states when his wife suffered an apparent stroke. Not having access to a telephone, he issued an urgent call to those on frequency to contact his daughter, who lives some eight miles away. Dave Baker, AF4NB, in Mt Sterling, Kentucky, immediately fielded the request, and Leonard's daughter, Renee, alerted 911 and headed for her parents' house. Joann Leonard subsequently was hospitalized. ARRL Assistant Kentucky Section Manager Tom Lykins, K4LID, says he's been advised by Jay Leonard that his wife suffered paralysis on her left side and will be in treatment for some time. Jay Leonard's daughter and brother will be helping him out in the meantime.--thanks to Tom Lykins, K4LID, and Dave Smith, W8YZ

*** DXCC Honor Roll submittals due:** Submittals for the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll are due March 31, 2001. For more information, contact ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, bmoore@arrl.org.

*** FCC announces new address to overnight fees:** There's a new address to submit fees via overnight courier to the FCC's fiscal agent, Mellon Bank. The bank has moved its Global Cash Management headquarters to a new Client Service Center, where all of the FCC's fee-related applications are processed. Only Mellon Bank's street address will change. The FCC says the following address should be used for all overnight deliveries: Federal Communications Commission, c/o Mellon Bank, Mellon Client Service Center, 500 Ross St--Room 670, Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001. The FCC lockbox address to receive routine vanity fees has not changed. Applicants may submit FCC Form 605, FCC Form 159 (Fee Remittance form) and the required application fee to the FCC Bank Contractor address at: FCC Wireless Bureau Applications, POB 358130, Pittsburgh PA 15251-5130.--FCC

*** First US direction-finding championships set for summer:** ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, has announced the first US National Championships of Radio Direction Finding this summer. The Albuquerque Transmitter Hunters, part of the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club, will host the event July 31 through August 4 in Albuquerque New Mexico. The championships are open to all ages at any level of foxhunting experience. Main events on 2 and 80 meters will feature five fox transmitters to be found in accordance with standard rules of the International Amateur Radio Union. Lodging, meals, and ARDF training will be available. For additional event information, visit the 2001 USA ARDF Championship Web site, <http://www.egroups.com/files/abqardf/web/index.html>.

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For general information on ARDF, visit Moell's "Homing In" Web site, <http://members.aol.com/homingin/>.

*** RSGB president gets new on-air identity:** RSGB President Don Beattie has changed his call sign from G3OZF to G3BJ. He recently learned that a deceased relative had held the pre-World War II call sign, so he applied to the RA to take it as his own. He commented that G3BJ is a much better call sign to send on CW than G3OZF was!--RSGB

*** Next ARISS school awaits a date with KD5GSL:** Students at the George West Elementary School in George West, Texas, will be the next in line to speak via Amateur Radio with Space Station Alpha Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL. The contact is being arranged under the auspices of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--program. The contact will be during the week of January 29, but a specific date and time have not been set. Successful ARISS contacts have been completed so far with schools in Illinois, Virginia, and New York. A contact with a school in Canada is being arranged. For more information on ARISS, visit <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/> --ARISS

*** Hearing set for Washington PRB-1 expansion bill:** Proposed Senate Bill 5002 that would set a 70-foot minimum regulatory height for Amateur Radio antennas in the State of Washington is set for January 29, 8:30 AM, in Senate Hearing Room 2, Chertberg Bldg, Olympia, Washington (on the Capitol campus). The proposed amendment would specify that local governing bodies could not restrict antenna height to less than 70 feet without a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic reason. *** S21YV is QRV from Bangladesh:** ARRL member John Core, KX7YT, is on the air until February 1 as S21YV from Dhaka, Bangladesh, 20 meters only, SSB, PSK31, MFSK16, and possibly CW and RTTY, looking stateside 0100-0200 and 1500-1700 UTC. He's been alternating days on 14.195 MHz SSB and 14.071 MHz on PSK31. QSL via KX7YT. Core says he will apply for an extension of operating authority and hopes to be back in Bangladesh in April as well. (For information on other current DX operations, see the ARRL DX Bulletin page, <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/dx/>. You can sign up to receive the ARRL DX Bulletin via e-mail each week by logging into the Web site and visiting the Member Data page at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html> --Ed)

*** Belgium to join the 5 WPM fold:** The Belgian Minister of Telecommunications has signed a new decree on Amateur Radio that, among other things, reduces the Morse code requirement for HF access to 5 WPM. The decree will go into effect after official publication, which is expected to take a few weeks.--Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

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