
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

July 2002

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

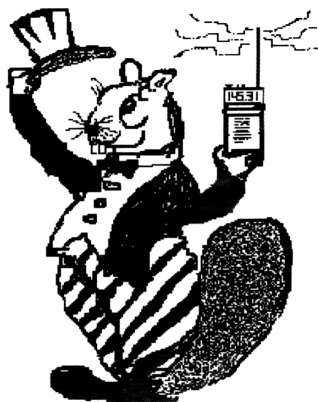
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

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 & TFC NET...6:00 PM DAILY...3.983
PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM...3.610
E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255
EAN NET.....2:30 PM DAILY..7.243
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...9:00 PM WED...28.370
WPA TRAFFIC.....8:00 PM DAILY..146.88
QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03

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

www.qsl.net/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.

Inside This Issue

1 Club News

2

3

4

5 And More...

CLUB MEETING

The July B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th at 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Center, 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. Guest speaker will be John Rogers N3MSE. As you probably know John is the ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there.

B.V.A.R.A ANNUAL CORN ROAST

Mark your calendars for Thursday August 15th and plan on dining with us at Shelter 11 in Brady's Run Park at our annual corn roast. This will be some of the best corn and companionship you will enjoy all year. Bring a covered dish and come hungry. We will also have an abbreviated Club meeting that night following dinner.

RADIO EQUIPMENT FROM ESTATE OF KB3LS

With the recent passing of Joe Kroen KB3LS, his equipment was kindly donated to the B.V.A.R.A. This equipment will be offered, to club members first, for sale. Any remaining gear will be sold at hamfests with all proceeds to benefit the B.V.A.R.A. Following is a complete list of Joe's equipment. The equipment was first offered at our field day operation at Brady's Run Park. Although some equipment may have already been sold Wes Morar may be contacted at 724-375-0155 regarding any remaining gear. Also purchases and inquiries can be made at our July Club meeting.

Icom IC 260A 2m all mode
Yaesu FT 227RB VHF FM Transceiver
Kenwood TS 700SP 2m all mode
Kenwood 830 5 Transceiver + desk mic
Radio Shack H'IX-242 2m Mobile Rig
Heathkit accessory power supply
Dentron HF-ACS power supply for speaker
Vista Regulated power supply
2m mounting bracket
Kenwood TH 205 AT Hand held
Radio Shack 3 amp power supply
Ameco Pre-Amp PT-2
Autek Res. QF-1A SSBICW/AM Filter
B&W Low pass Filter Model 425
Shertech SB 5001-1 VHS Tape Rewinder
MFJ 1000W dummy load
Kenwood 5P70 Speaker
Computemp Clock
Unadilla I Reyco Low pass Filter
CDE Rotator Beam Control
Antenna Switch
Palomar SWR Meter M-827
Kenwood Mic
Shure Desk Mic --
Mounting Brackets

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Icom IC-HM 10 Hand Mic
Kenwood MC-50 Desk Mic
Hy Gain Rotator Control
2m Antenna
MFJ 2m Tuner
Swan SWR Meter
GE Hand Mic
GSC 12 volt Power Supply
Ear Phones
Alliance Tenna Rotator Control
Archer Tenna Rotator Control
Kenwood TH 215A /205 AT Transformer
RF concepts rfc 2-117 2m Fm I SSb 170w ampi preamp
2 Boxes of Code Tapes

There remains a 40 Foot Tower, which needs to be taken down and a 2 Meter Antenna on the house roof.

FIELD DAY WRAP UP

Our Club President Debbie KB3EAQ wants to express her deepest thanks to all who attended and helped in any way with this year's Field Day operation. Three stations were staffed and many contacts were made with the help of all the operators who were able to attend. Debbie explains that the operation went "surprisingly smooth". Talk of next year was already overheard. Stay tuned.

==>OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY INTERFERENCE CASE RESOLVED

In what FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth called "a textbook example" of FCC-ARRL cooperation, a case of strange interference involving a power company and an AM broadcast station has been substantially resolved. As a result of their follow-up investigation, six Cincinnati-area amateurs were awarded the ARRL Certificate of Merit.

In January, the FCC wrote Cincinnati AM radio station WLW and Cinergy Corp--the electric utility serving the region--to help resolve the unusual and longstanding interference situation that was affecting local amateurs. Apparently spurious signals associated with WLW transmissions had been monitored over a wide area and frequency range and were severely affecting some amateur bands.

The investigation focused on utility towers carrying 345-kV lines in the vicinity of the WLW broadcast tower. Jay Adrick, K8CJY--a member of the amateur team involved in tracking down the problem and one of those honored--explained at the Dayton ARRL Forum earlier this month that the primary problem seemed to stem from so-called static lines on the towers, which do not carry electrical power. The static lines, he pointed out, were not sufficiently RF-bonded to the tower structure. "They're actually loose-fitted," he said. "At 60 Hz, it's a reasonable ground." But at RF, it acted as a non-linear

junction, and the static wires acted as a huge antenna. The result was something that sounded a bit like a spark gap modulated by WLW's audio on several amateur bands.

Success did not come easily, and mop-up operations continue. Hollingsworth called the situation "a history-making RF interference case" that generated more investigative analysis than any other case in his years with the FCC.

Ohio ARRL Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, said the local amateurs brought the matter to the FCC's attention after working with WLW and Cinergy for almost two years to pin down the cause of the spurious signals.

Honored with certificates at the ARRL Forum in Dayton in addition to Adrick were team leader Bob Reiff, WA8ULW; Ted Homan, WB8WFG; Herb Nichols, W3EOA; Geoff Mendenhall, W8GNM; and Paul Jellison, WD8KMX. Jellison is regional engineering manager of Clear Channel Communications which owns WLW. Also honored were non-amateurs Jeff Antoni and Kelly McMahan, both of Cinergy Corporation.

The certificates were signed by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director George Race, WB8BGY, and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who assisted in the efforts to resolve the interference situation. The amateurs were cited for "creating an example of longtime and continuing corporate-amateur radio cooperation in an interference abatement of high power RF signals."

Though some interference remains, Phillips said, the local amateurs and both corporations discovered many possible sources of trouble and have established a working procedure for clearing them up.

"Saying the interference is all cleared up would be foolhardy given the complex nature of the engineering involved," said Phillips, who recommended the awards, "but the two words that describe this historic work would be 'patience works.'"

Under FCC Part 15 and Part 73 rules, incidental noise radiated by power company equipment or spurious emissions from a broadcast transmitter must be corrected if they cause harmful interference to radio communications.

==>NEW MEXICO AMATEURS CONFRONT ANOTHER WILDFIRE EMERGENCY

Amateur Radio operators In New Mexico once again found themselves on fire-related duty during May. On May 23, an incident command post was set up in Española in response to a so-called "sleeping fire"—a lightning-caused fire that smolders before bursting into flame—near the village of Truchas in north-central New Mexico. Over the Memorial Day weekend, more than 250 residents were evacuated from their homes in Truchas and the nearby village of Cordoba.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

"Some residents were bused back into the area May 24 and given five minutes each to collect any medications and other important items they left behind and a chance to retrieve pets and livestock," said New Mexico Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Kauffman, W5YEJ.

Rio Arriba County Emergency Communications Manager Lonie Scott, AH2AZ, activated amateur communications support. Amateurs were dispatched to Red Cross shelters set up at two elementary schools in Chimayo, and The Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club's W5PDO provided support. By late on May 24, the wind had shifted, and the fire was burning away from Truchas. Residents were able to return home starting at 9 AM the next day. Kauffman said the incident command post and the shelters closed later that day after all evacuees had returned home.

While the amateur turnout was not an official Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) activation, Kauffman said that Los Alamos County District Emergency Coordinator Bill Boedeker, NM5BB, and Santa Fe County DEC Alden Oyer, AG5S, did monitor the residents' return and remained available to provide additional resources if needed. "We're working on establishing an ARES group in Rio Arriba county but the amateur population is somewhat sparse so we'll continue to support that county from adjacent counties even when they get organized," he explained.

Kauffman said the fire was still burning as of May 29 in the Pecos Wilderness of the Santa Fe National Forest, but was not considered a threat to any homes or structures. Reports indicate the fire is nearly two-thirds contained and has burned more than 12,000 acres. As tinder-dry conditions persist in New Mexico, amateurs there have continued to be involved in efforts to deal with a number of other smaller fires.

==>MAY A BUSY MONTH FOR MISSOURI ARES TEAMS

Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams in Missouri were active during May in response to widespread flooding and other weather emergencies, including at least one tornado. Gov Bob Holden declared a statewide state of emergency on May 16.

"We've really had quite an active spring storm season following the terrible winter ice storm in Northwest Missouri," said Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator Patrick Boyle, K0JPB.

Carroll County Emergency Coordinator Dennis Lightfoot, KC0IUD, reported that after more than five inches of rain fell in a short period of time on May 8, flooding became "a major problem" in his area as a local creek overflowed its banks. At one point, Lightfoot said, he and John Goedeke, KC0KGN, rescued a woman and her two children from rapidly rising floodwater that threatened to get into their home.

"We didn't give it a second thought," Lightfoot said, explaining that he and Goedeke waded into the cold, swiftly moving water. "We didn't have much time to wait on anybody, because the water was eventually going to get in the house." Lightfoot said he and Goedeke carried the youngsters, ages 2 and 4, and assisted their mother to safety.

"It was just a big, big mess," Lightfoot said, adding flood damage was widespread. "But everything is recovering well."

ARES members Charles Haygood, KC0KGI, and Jack Vantrump, N0SAX, also activated in Carroll County. Lightfoot thanked Lafayette County EC Andy Irvine, AA0IY, for relaying weather information to SKYWARN on VHF.

Citing reports from his Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and District Ecs (DECs), Boyle said ARES was put on standby in the Missouri Bootheel area to watch the Mississippi River levees and to report any attempts to break them to relieve pressure on other areas.

South of St Louis along the Mississippi, the Jefferson County ARES team <<http://listen.to/jeffcoares>> reports both flooding and a small tornado--F0 on the Fujita scale--during May. According to Jefferson County EC Bob Lucas, N0XEV, and AEC Jon Stanley, KB0WVK, the ARES team also participated in SKYWARN nets during both emergencies and stood by to provide communication.

Elsewhere, Texas County EC Richard Wood, KB0MPO, was on the scene of the Willow Springs tornado a few minutes after it demolished the Highway Patrol's 360-foot tower and damaged some homes. Wood verified the damage for the National Weather Service Springfield SKYWARN Net and offered to help with communications.

In the central Missouri counties of Phelps and Pulaski in early May, low-lying areas in and around Waynesville were evacuated and a flood warning issued. Missouri ARES District I EC (and Pulaski County EC) Gene Bess, KC0IUO, alerted ARES teams in the two counties to provide communications for an American Red Cross shelter set up in St Robert. The ARES team remained in touch with the regional SKYWARN net in Springfield to report severe weather and flooding as it occurred.

Most evacuees decided to stay with relatives or friends on higher ground, and the shelter closed the following day. ARES remained on standby, however, in case of additional flooding.

Phelps County EC Joe Council, K0OG, and his ARES team worked with a group in flood cleanup and recovery efforts south of Rolla. "The cleanup effort was quite successful and was an excellent experience for us all," Council said. "Most importantly, we helped several families in the neighborhood in their time of distress and need."

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has included 19 Missouri counties on its list of weather-damaged regions, including damage resulting from tornadoes in late April.

==>A WIN IN KINDERHOOK: ARRL, PRB-1 CREDITED IN ANTENNA BATTLE

A New York amateur is crediting the limited federal preemption PRB-1 and ARRL with helping him win approval for an antenna support structure on his property. Fred Fitte, WA2MMX, spent the better part of a year trying to gain the necessary approvals from the Town of Kinderhook. He finally got a building permit earlier this month.

"It's been a really ugly battle for about eight months," Fitte said. "I can't say enough good things about the League."

The Town of Kinderhook would not allow a ham radio antenna support structure in excess of 35 feet without a variance. "PRB-1 is what saved my bacon," said Fitte, who finally won approval of his request to erect a 50-foot tower on a 3-1 vote of the town's zoning board of appeals. PRB-1, which is spelled out in the FCC Amateur Service rules under §97.15(b), requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication. Fitte said that by the time he had presented his case, "it was real clear that the zoning board of appeals knew what they had to do."

Fitte singled out ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF—who attended every hearing--and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI—who attended several--for special mention. A required trip to the town's planning board for a "site review" was routine and uneventful, he said.

Fitte called Fallon "a crusader in the effort to keep ham radio active and moving forward," and said he became an ARRL Life Member because of his efforts. He also credited his legal counsel, Al Millus, WB2EQR, and Dr George Wilner, K2ONP, head of the Hematology Department at Albany Medical Center, whose expert testimony addressed concerns about possible RF exposure.

Fitte said the zoning board "acknowledged that PRB-1 was a major factor in the decision" and that if his application had been considered based solely on a request for a variance, it would not have been granted.

Despite its earlier opposition, Fitte said, the ZBA eventually came to conclude that his application did not significantly alter the character of the neighborhood, did not affect property values and did not have a negative environmental impact. In addition, he said, the board agreed that no negative health impact based on RF exposure was proven. More pertinent, however, was a conclusion that a 35-foot structure would not be conducive to effective communications and that 50 feet--his request--was the bare minimum. Fitte said the

ZBA also accepted Hare's assertions before the board that 75 feet was the accepted height for optimum communications.

The zoning board's approval did not come without some restrictions, however. Fitte's tower was approved for the left side of the house. Fitte had hoped to erect it on the right side of the structure, nearest to his ham shack. The ZBA okayed a total height of 75 feet--50 feet of tower and 25 feet of antenna, an outcome he called "a pleasant surprise." He also agreed to install an anti-climbing device and to remove the structure when he moved. He also must provide proof of license renewal every 10 years.

With a building permit now in hand, Fitte says he intends to get his town's zoning code changed to provide an exemption for Amateur Radio antenna support structures. But that will have to wait for a tower-raising party, he said.

==>CC&R BILL "THE RIGHT AND FAIR THING," SPONSOR SAYS

The sponsor of a bill aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs in erecting antennas--says he introduced the measure because "it's the right and fair thing to do." Freshman Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" on May 14. The measure--H.R. 4720--would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

H.R. 4720 has been assigned to the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Israel, whose father, Howard, is K2JCC, told amateurs in his home district recently that he's already hearing from Commerce Committee members who have been contacted by their Amateur Radio constituents regarding H.R. 4720. His remarks May 29 during a special meeting of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club in Long Island, New York, marked his first public effort to drum up support for the measure within the amateur community. Members of other Long Island clubs also were on hand for Israel's visit.

Israel says the FCC currently does not apply the PRB-1 limited federal preemption policy consistently, a situation he called "patently unfair" to those living in developments, where they face antenna restrictions or even outright prohibitions. H.R. 4720, Israel explained, would require entities imposing private land-use restrictions--such as homeowners' associations--to enter into good faith negotiations with amateurs in an effort to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication--just as they do now with public land-use regulators."

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

"In America, we are fair and consistent," Israel said.

Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--the only Amateur Radio operator in Congress--and Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) have signed on as original cosponsors of H.R. 4720. Since its introduction, the bill also has attracted two additional cosponsors--Rep J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ) and Rep Patrick Tiberi (R-OH).

The measure, which ARRL assisted in drafting, contains a single sentence: "For purposes of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation relating to station antenna structures in the Amateur Radio Service (47 CFR 97.15), any private land use rules applicable to such structures shall be treated as a state or local regulation and shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as a state or local regulation."

The ARRL encourages its members to contact their congressional representatives and urge them to sign on as cosponsors and to support H.R. 4720. Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page <<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>> for information on how to contact your representative.

The League requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, H.R. 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

==>FCC CITES "ENFORCEMENT ISSUES" IN SHORT-TERM LICENSE GRANT

The FCC has okayed a Pennsylvania amateur's application to upgrade to Extra class, but due to "previous enforcement issues," the FCC granted only a two-year license term. The normal license term is 10 years.

The FCC acted April 9 in the case of Sam W. Jacobs, K3SAM, of Latrobe. Terms of the arrangement were spelled out in a May 20 letter to Jacobs from FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth. The "issues" in question related to Jacobs' July 2000 application for a club station license in which there were "discrepancies in your listing of officers," Hollingsworth said.

In 2000, the FCC first set aside then dismissed the club station license grant of KB3FGX for the "J and D Club" in the wake of complaints that the club's real purpose "was to harass other amateur operators," Hollingsworth wrote at the time. In addition, three amateurs whom Jacobs had listed on his application as club officials claimed not to be affiliated with the J and D club or to have resigned from the club.

Hollingsworth told ARRL this week that Jacobs agreed to the short-term sanction. If Jacobs keeps a clean record for the next couple of years, he'll be able to renew his ticket routinely for a 10-year term in 2004. If any violations of the FCC's rules occur, Hollingsworth warned, Jacobs' renewal application could be designated for hearing.

The club license application was not the only enforcement issue to involve Jacobs. In January 2000, the FCC sent a Warning Notice to Jacobs to advise him that broadcasting is not allowed on the Amateur Radio service. The FCC cited information that the licensee "apparently" had appropriated a 40-meter frequency--7.262 MHz--before the start of the "PLC Net" and was engaged in "broadcasting, talking to no one in particular, making non-serious CQ calls, and filibustering the frequency in order to hold it for the start of net operations."

Hollingsworth advised the licensee at the time that such activities are "not only against the amateur rules, but constitute poor amateur practice and will jeopardize your Amateur Radio license."

Hollingsworth also applied the short-term renewal sanction in the case of a California amateur--Peter M. Figueroa, N6IWH, of Berkeley. In April, the FCC sent Figueroa a Warning Notice because his license had expired but he was continuing to operate. Figueroa told the FCC he'd neglected to file a renewal application because of the illness of an out-of-state family member and had since filed for renewal. Hollingsworth said the FCC accepted his explanation, but he noted that Figueroa had operated on at least 31 occasions after expiration of his license.

"In view of that, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has granted your application for renewal of N6IWH for a two-year period," Hollingsworth wrote May 21. "If there are no violations of Commission rules during this two year period, you may routinely renew your license."

==>FCC MODIFIES PART 15 RULES TO FACILITATE HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS SERVICES

The FCC has amended its rules to promote the introduction of new digital transmission technologies for high-speed wireless communications. The action came May 16 in a Second Report & Order in ET Docket 99-231, Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Spread Spectrum Devices.

"These actions will foster the development of new products and increase consumer choice," the FCC said in a Public Notice.

Specifically, the Commission has modified Part 15 of its rules to permit new digital transmission technologies to operate in the 902-928 MHz, 2400-2483.5 MHz and 5725-5850 MHz bands under the current rules for spread spectrum systems. All three segments incorporate Amateur Radio allocations,

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

but the changes are not expected to affect amateur operations in those bands.

"The bottom line is that the new rules do not change the permitted power levels of spread-spectrum devices," explained ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFL. "They just allow them to use higher data rates in the same bandwidth limitations they had under the old rules."

The Commission said it had determined that because new digital modulation technologies have spectrum characteristics similar to direct-sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) systems, they can operate under the same rules as DSSS devices in the three bands "without posing additional risk of interference." The decision removes a rule that limits systems in these bands to only DSSS and frequency-hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) technology.

Part 15 rules now permit DSSS and FHSS systems to operate on an unlicensed basis. FCC rules offer no protection to unlicensed Part 15 devices from Amateur Radio operations that might interfere, and Part 15 devices must not cause interference to licensed operations.

In August 2000, in a First Report & Order, the FCC amended its rules to allow FHSS systems in the 2.4 GHz band to use wider hopping channels. The FCC says the most recent changes also provide flexibility in the design and operation of FHSS systems in the 2.4 GHz band and eliminate the 10 dB processing gain requirement for DSSS systems--something that ARRL had opposed.

In comments in the proceeding, the League had expressed concern that eliminating the processing gain requirement would reduce Part 15 receivers' immunity to interference from narrowband amateur signals. The FCC disagreed, however, concluding that manufacturers have market-driven incentives to design products that can withstand interference from other radio frequency devices. Likewise, the FCC said, amateur receivers should see no increase in narrowband interference.

Additional actions taken by the FCC will permit the use of as few as 15 hopping channels for FHSS in the 2.4 GHz band. These systems will be able to use channel bandwidths of up to 5 MHz, but they must reduce their output power to 125 mW if fewer than 75 hopping channels are used.

"This action will allow new FHSS systems to better avoid interference than today's systems by enabling them to avoid occupied channels," the FCC said.

The Second Report & Order in ET Docket 99-231 is available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2002/db_0530/FCC-02-151A1.doc>.

==>NEW TRIAL DATE SET IN FLORIDA INTERFERENCE, UNLICENSED OPERATION CASE

June 10, has been set as the newest federal trial date in the case of a Florida man arrested two years ago for interfering with Amateur Radio operations and for transmitting without a license. William Flippo, of Jupiter, faces four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference to a licensed service.

Whether the trial actually will commence remains in question, however. The case was to have gone to trial more than a year ago but was twice postponed after Flippo argued successfully that serious health problems would prevent him from participating. According to a source familiar with the case, Flippo failed to persuade a US magistrate this week that he was incapable of standing trial, and the trial date was set.

Flippo, 59, was taken into custody by federal authorities in July 2000. He remains free on bond. As a condition of his release, Flippo has been prohibited from making any radio transmissions and from contacting any witnesses in the case. Criminal charges going to trial this month cover violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. Each count carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The case will be heard in US District Court in West Palm Beach.

Flippo 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 gave Flippo 30 days to pay and referred the matter to the US Attorney after he failed to do so and the interference complaints continued.

A year ago in state court, Flippo was found guilty of criminal mischief in a case related to his radio activities. Palm Beach County Judge Charles Burton sentenced Flippo--known in CB circles as "Rabbit Ears"--to one year's probation and ordered him to dispose of any radio equipment in his possession. That case stemmed from a charge that Flippo had rammed his vehicle into the car of a local amateur who was assisting an FCC agent in tracking down the malicious interference attributed to Flippo.

Personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office followed up on complaints from amateurs that Flippo had regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters. Commission personnel visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999, and the FCC reports it was able to track offending signals to Flippo's residence.

==>QPC RELEASES TECHNICIAN SYLLABUS, INVITES CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

The Question Pool Committee of the National Committee of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the newest Technician (Element 2) syllabus into the public domain. The syllabus will be used to develop the new

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

question pool for Technician examinations that become effective July 1, 2003.

The QPC is encouraging all amateurs to submit candidate questions by September 15. Candidate questions should be e-mailed to qpc@arrl.org.

All questions must be no more than 210 characters (including spaces and punctuation) in length. All answers and distracters must be no more than 140 characters (including spaces and punctuation) in length. Those submitting questions should identify the syllabus area (eg, T4B) and the correct answer. If the question is rule-based, identify the specific Part 97 citation. For technical questions, a reference is highly recommended.

Examples of the question format may be found in any license manual. The new syllabus has been posted on the Amateur Exam Question Pools Web page [<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pool.html>](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pool.html).

==>WHITE HOUSE GREETES AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

President George W. Bush has sent his greetings to all Amateur Radio operators, acknowledging their role in emergency communications and in generating international goodwill. The White House letter came as hams in the US marked Amateur Radio Week June 17-23 and got ready to participate in ARRL Field Day--an emergency preparedness exercise.

"I salute amateur radio operators for your work on behalf of public safety officials," the President said. "I also commend your interest in communicating with persons in other parts of the world and learning about other cultures and countries. Your involvement builds understanding and goodwill around the globe."

For the first time, Field Day will be open to participation by amateurs throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

The President's letter acknowledged ham radio's "important role in emergency communications, assisting law enforcement personnel and other emergency services as they carry out their responsibilities."

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his delight at the presidential communication. "I'm extremely pleased that the president has decided to recognize the accomplishments of Amateur Radio operators throughout America," he said. "Amateur Radio is a real asset to America, and even more so after September 11."

President Bush said First Lady Laura Bush "joins me in sending our best wishes."

Governors in several states have issued proclamations designating Amateur Radio Week or Amateur Radio Month.

==>FLORIDA MAN CONVICTED OF DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, UNLICENSED OPERATION

A Florida CBer accused of jamming Amateur Radio operations and transmitting without a license was convicted in federal court June 19 on eight misdemeanor counts. Willam Flippo of Jupiter was found guilty of four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. The jury deliberated about 30 minutes.

Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley noted that, while the charges were misdemeanors, it was important that the amateur airwaves be free of interference in the event of an emergency. He ordered that Flippo, 60, remain in custody and undergo a psychiatric evaluation prior to sentencing.

The prosecutor in the case, Neil Karabdil, credited members of the Amateur Radio community with bringing Flippo to justice. The list included 1999 ARRL International Humanitarian Award winner Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, who helped the FCC gather evidence in the case; Bert Morschi, AG4BV; Palm Beach County Emergency Coordinator Dave Messinger, N4QPM; and Chuck Mulligan, N4SDW.

"This is a very good day for Amateur Radio, and a very good day for justice," Petzolt said following the trial. "Let the word go out that we will not tolerate this sort of thing on our frequencies, and you will be caught." Petzolt cited local amateurs and the efforts of the FCC, including Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth "and everyone else who kept the faith," for helping to bring the case to a successful conclusion.

"Never give up and never surrender," Petzolt advised those facing similar malicious interference situations. "If you do, they win."

According to Petzolt, who testified in the trial, Flippo primarily had targeted the Jupiter Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.

Known as "Rabbit Ears" within the CB community, Flippo was arrested by federal authorities in July 2000. He 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.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

The six-and-a-half-day trial was anything but routine. A day after attempting to fire his court-appointed attorney, Robert Adler—who countered that Flippo was trying to undermine his own trial--Flippo, then still free on \$100,000 bond, drove himself to the hospital June 13 claiming he'd suffered a stroke. He was released the following day. Hurley recessed the trial but took the unusual step of revoking Flippo's bond June 17 after a physician told the judge that medical tests determined that Flippo had not had a stroke.

Hurley said he was concerned that Flippo might not return to court for his sentencing hearing and ordered him returned to jail. Flippo reportedly hung his head after the jury returned a guilty verdict on the second count. He had no comment for a reporter as he was led back to jail.

Sentencing could take place in about a month. According to the FCC, Flippo faces a maximum penalty of eight years in prison—one year on each count. He also could be fined up to \$80,000.

==>ARRL, UNITED TECHNOLOGIES ANNOUNCE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE

A generous donation from United Technologies Corporation will help to boost the emergency communication expertise of Connecticut's Amateur Radio volunteers. A \$33,000 grant from UTC will provide ARRL Emergency Communications Course Level I training for 250 Connecticut amateurs, and the ARRL-UTC initiative could be expanded nationwide. The joint initiative was announced June 18 during a press conference at ARRL Headquarters.

"This joint partnership is sure to make a difference in communities across the state and act as a model for other states to showcase the important role Amateur Radio operators play during times of emergency," said UTC Contribution and Communication Services Director Jacqueline Strayer.

The partnership is the first of its kind for both organizations.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner told the gathering that ARRL was very fortunate to receive the grant to benefit Connecticut's 8000 amateurs. "We're confident that a significant number will be interested in taking UTC's challenge to complete the course and put their skills to the test, if and when called upon," he said.

Approximately 1000 Amateur Radio operators across the US have completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I course. The on-line instruction, offered as part of ARRL's Certification and Continuing Education Program, is made possible through the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC). The introductory Level I course is designed to raise awareness and provide additional knowledge and tools for emergency communications volunteers.

During the press conference, guest of honor Connecticut Lt Gov Jodi Rell thanked both ARRL and UTC for pairing up to provide the training opportunity for the state's radio amateurs. "Having hundreds, if not thousands, of Amateur Radio operators trained for emergency communications can only enhance our communications skills and our progress here," she said. "Frankly, I hope that we never need your expertise."

Connecticut Emergency Management Director John Wiltse said partnerships like the one between UTC and ARRL are important to the activities he oversees. "Government cannot do it all," he said. "This is how preparedness happens, by forming this partnership and moving forward." The UTC-ARRL initiative emphasizes "how essential communication is to emergency preparedness," he said.

In addition to area amateurs, others on hand for the announcement included ARRL New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC; and Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Ritterbusch, KD1YV. Doane said she was "thrilled" about the UTC grant and welcomed the opportunity for Connecticut amateurs to obtain emergency communications training. "Communicating is an art," she said. "It's not just speaking into a microphone."

Based in Hartford, Connecticut, United Technologies Corp provides high-tech products and services to the building systems and aerospace industries worldwide through its Otis Elevator, Carrier Corp, UTC Fuel Cells, Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky Aircraft and Hamilton Sundstrand companies.

==>ROCKET BOYS--AND GIRL--SET THEIR SIGHTS ON SPACE

If all goes as planned, a group of Amateur Radio operators and amateur rocket enthusiasts is poised to make aerospace history this summer by putting the first amateur rocket into space. The Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) is hoping the suborbital vehicle will carry its Amateur Radio payloads to an altitude of more than 60 nautical miles.

"Amateur Radio is central to the whole flight," said Eric Knight, KB1EHE, of Unionville, Connecticut--one of the hams involved. He explained that the rocket's Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), amateur TV and packet telemetry gear will enable the team to document its success.

"Space" is defined as 50 nautical miles. The team is aiming to attain an altitude of 62 nautical miles with its rocket--the Primera Spaceshot 2002.

(Primera Technology is a primary sponsor for the project and is helping with support and materials, Knight says.)

Other Connecticut amateurs involved include Rod Lane, N1FNE--whose garage and basement workshop have been largely given over to rocket construction and integration--and Don Skinner, N1HWR. Assisting in the project for the past

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

three years has been high school senior Julia Cohn, KB1IGU. Licensed since April, Cohn has been involved in constructing and programming some of the sequencing electronics that will go aboard the vehicle. Her electronics instructor and mentor at West Hartford's Hall High School is Chet Bacon, KA1ILH. Other students in Bacon's electronics classes also have contributed to the project.

In all, Knight says, 16 "key people"--including spouses--have immersed themselves in the rocket project. Among them is a real rocket scientist, Jerry Larson, an "almost ham" and an engineer with Lockheed Martin in Colorado. The team has built the vehicle itself, right down to the solid-rocket propellant grain.

Overseeing the CSXT effort is Project Director Ky Michaelson of Minnesota, a semi-retired stuntman and veteran hobby rocket enthusiast who holds dozens of rocket speed records. "It was his inspiration that led to the project," Knight said. He's also the project's primary personal financier. Michaelson serves as president of the National Experimental Rocketry Association.

To say that the project has become nearly all-consuming would be an understatement. "We're passionate about it," Knight said, estimating that the team members--whom he describes as "people with a love of rocketry"--easily have spent hundreds of hours apiece over the course of the five-year mission. At this point, they've been working almost around-the-clock, he said.

Funding for the project has come from team members' pockets. Knight estimates the costs to date are approaching \$100,000. Machining for the nose cone alone cost on the order of \$5000. "A lot of our vacation money goes into this," Knight said. "We've convinced our wives that the desert is a good place to spend a couple of weeks."

Knight says the rocket was to have flown last September 26, "but then September 11 happened." The team lost its Federal Aviation Administration authorization to launch; it was only reinstated this spring. The team also has made the necessary FCC notifications.

Once at the launch site, the rocket will undergo a full day of testing followed by a full day of launch simulation exercises. If everything is a go, the big launch would take place the following day. The team is not releasing the launch date or location because of limitations on the number of visitors allowed at the US government-owned site. Once the vehicle attains maximum altitude, it will be split into two pieces, and parachutes will deploy to carry them back to Earth. "It will come back, one way or the other," Knight said.

There used to be a \$250,000 prize to put the first amateur rocket into space, but it expired in 2000. "There's no prize or reward whatsoever," Knight said, "only the historic recognition of being the first amateurs to build and launch a

rocket into space." More information on the rocket project is on Knight's "Spaceshot 2001/Spaceshot 2002" Web site <<http://www.remarkable.com/rocket>>.--Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, assisted in the preparation and editing of this report

==>FCC INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW AMATEUR BAND PROPOSALS

Public comments on FCC proposals to create two new amateur bands and to upgrade an Amateur Service allocation at 2.4 GHz to primary are due July 29, and reply comments are due by August 12. In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC last month released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ET Docket 02-98) that proposed to create a new 5-MHz HF allocation and a new low-frequency band in the vicinity of 136 kHz in addition to elevating amateurs from secondary to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

The FCC adopted the NPRM May 2 on a unanimous vote. The NPRM was published June 14 in The Federal Register. A copy of the petition is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/>>.

Interested parties may file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. To view filed comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments;" to file a comment, click on "Submit a filing." In either case, enter "02-98" in the "Proceeding" field. More than 130 parties--most of them individual amateurs--already have filed comments.

If the proposals eventually are approved, amateurs would gain a new, secondary, domestic (US-only) HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.40 MHz and a new LF "sliver band" at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

The FCC has recommended permitting amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes. The FCC also has invited further comment on whether the band should be broken down into mode-specific subbands.

On 136 kHz, the FCC has proposed limiting output to 1 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP)--or 100 W PEP maximum transmitter output--and with a transmission bandwidth of only 100 Hz. The ARRL had asked for 2 W EIRP and a maximum transmitter power of 200 W PEP. The FCC has asked whether its proposed power limits are appropriate. The FCC proposed to limit access to the band to General and higher-class licensees.

==>WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2003 RESCHEDULED FOR GENEVA

ARRL has learned that World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, next June and July. The conference was set to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, but the Venezuelan National Commission of

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

Telecommunications (CONATEL) rescinded the invitation earlier this month, citing economic concerns. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is expected to issue a formal announcement regarding the new WRC-03 venue in the near future.

"The ITU staff has managed to arrange suitable meeting space in Geneva for the dates that were originally agreed," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will serve as administrative officer for the International Amateur Radio Union delegation to the conference. "It is quite an accomplishment for them to have achieved this on such short notice, and those of us who will be attending the conference appreciate the uncertainty being removed." Sumner said that while the new WRC-03 arrangements have not yet been formally ratified, planning for the global gathering will be able to go forward in the meantime.

Several issues of importance to radio amateurs are on the conference agenda, including harmonization of the 7-MHz amateur and broadcasting allocations. Other Amateur Radio-related issues on the WRC-03 agenda include the revision of Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations--the basic rules for the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. Among other issues, this includes the issue of whether to retain the treaty requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency for access to amateur bands below 30 MHz.

WRC-03 will take place in Geneva from June 9 until July 4, 2003.

==>AMATEUR RADIO FIRE RESPONSE SUPPORT CONTINUES IN COLORADO

Amateur Radio support continues in Colorado as firefighters attempt to gain the upper hand in against the Hayman Fire--the state's largest ever. ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, reports that the Pikes Peak, Douglas and Arapahoe Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams have been providing coverage in at least two shifts since June 9. They now are supporting Salvation Army canteens for fire responders as well as at the Salvation Army's Colorado Springs headquarters. Amateurs also have been filling communications gaps as needed.

"Phone service at one of the forward area fire stations in Westcreek has been intermittent," Ryan said, "and when service is out, Pikes Peak ARES provides operators to relay traffic between Westcreek and the Teller County Sheriff's office."

At week's end, Ryan said the more than 2500 firefighters were being aided by lower temperatures, higher humidity and some rain, although less favorable conditions were predicted. The fire has so far destroyed 79 homes and 413 other structures and prompted the evacuation of more than 8900 people. Some 700 residents were allowed back to their homes in Douglas and Jefferson counties June 20, however, as a shift

in wind and cooler temperatures removed the immediate threat.

While the Hayman Fire was nearly 50 percent contained, Ryan says strong winds earlier in the week blew smoke and ash to the southeast of the fire extending over Colorado Springs. The fire jumped containment lines in north central Teller County and southwestern Douglas County, and new evacuations were ordered in area along the fire's edge in Douglas County.

The Hayman Fire has scorched nearly 140,000 acres in the Pike National Forest.

==>ARRL TO OFFER SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS COURSE

The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program has announced its newest on-line course-Satellite Communications (EC-007). Registration for the new course opens Monday, June 24. This is the sixth course in a growing list of continuing education offerings from ARRL.

QST Editor and satellite enthusiast Steve Ford, WB8IMY, developed the curriculum. The course contains material from Ford's articles, as well as new material. Resources were also provided by AMSAT-NA. Ford has written many QST articles on amateur satellites and is the author of ARRL's HF Digital Handbook.

"Steve's extensive knowledge of satellites as well as other digital communications has proven invaluable. This is his second course for C-CE," said ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG.

The ARRL Satellite Course is intended for amateurs who have never operated satellites before. The course opens with a review of amateur satellite history. Students will move on to a study of satellite tracking, orbiting relay stations, FM repeater satellites and the International Space Station. It continues with lessons and exercises on FM satellites, the Fuji Sats, AMSAT-OSCAR 40 setup and operation. The final lessons cover store-and-forward digital satellites, APRS and future satellites.

Registration for the first on-line class opens Monday, June 24, at 4 PM EDT. There's a 50-seat class limit for July classes. As with most of the other ARRL on-line classes, students will have up to eight weeks to complete the course.

Tuition for Satellite Communications (EC-007) is \$65 for ARRL members and \$95 for nonmembers. More course information is available at the C-CE Course Listing Page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>>. Details about the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program are on the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>>.

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

==>IN BRIEF:

*** Steve Dimse, K4HG, wins EarthLink R&D grand prize:** EarthLink's Research and Development department has announced that Dr. Steve Dimse, K4HG, is the grand prize winner of its open standards-based Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) device application development contest. The competition was held to explore new and future vehicle telematics applications. Dimse won the overall, grand prize for his proposal to integrate the AVL device into the existing Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) worldwide tracking system, which he helped create. Dimse's proposal would extend the reach of the APRS by allowing it to be used by anyone with an AVL device and access to the Internet. "The far-reaching benefits of this type of service include anything from keeping up with your kids to tracking down a stolen car," said Dimse, an emergency room physician.

***ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration:** Registration opens Monday, June 3, for the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001), Monday, June 10, for the Level II course (EC-002), and Monday, June 17 for the Level III course (EC-003). Courses must be completed in order, starting with Level I. Registration for the Antenna Modeling course (EC-004) opens Monday, June 10. Registration for the HF Digital Course opens Monday, June 17. Registration on all dates begins at 4 PM Eastern Time. Beginning July 1, registration fees for all on-line courses will increase by \$5. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org.

*** OMIK golden jubilee celebration set:** OMIK Amateur Radio Association—the largest minority ham radio organization in the US--and OMIK Ladies Auxiliary will celebrate their golden jubilee (50th anniversary) July 17-20, 2002, in Dayton, Ohio. An ARRL-affiliated organization, OMIK was founded in 1952 by African-American Amateur Radio operators, many of whom had learned or honed their communications skills during World War II. Pronounced "Oh-Mike," the name OMIK stands for Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky, the core membership region in OMIK's early days. The 2002 convention will feature technical sessions on Amateur Radio topics by Clifford Peoples, KE8QR, and Wallace Wright, AD8N, plus amateur exam sessions, tours of the Dayton area and a program honoring past OMIK presidents. For more information contact convention chair Moody T. Law, WQ6I, wq6i@earthlink.net.

Material from The ARRL Letter may be republished or reproduced in whole or in part in any form without additional permission. Credit must be given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.