
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

September 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

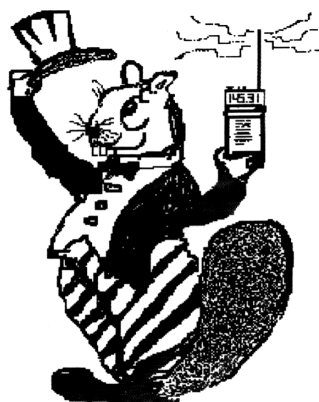
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Mehutcs
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

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.

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CLUB MEETING

The September club meeting will be held on Thursday the 12th, 7:30 pm at the Beaver County Emergency Operations Center located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver PA. Plans will be made for "Hams night out" and our participation in the annual PA QSO Party. Hope to see you there.

PA QSO PARTY

Preparations are now underway for our participation in the 2002 PA QSO Party. This event is widely anticipated across the state and our nation each year. The B.V.A.R.A. again plans on representing our county by operating from K3OIW's location in Independence Twp. (tentatively). The weekend of operation will be October 12-13. Stay tuned for more details.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Believe it or not it is time to start thinking about Club elections this fall. Nominations for officers will begin at the September Club meeting. If you have aspirations of becoming an officer or know of someone you'd like to nominate please contact a member of our nominating committee. This years committee consists of Wes N3ALS, Phyllis N3KUG & Al WA3GFM.

UPCOMING ARRL WPA & ATLANTIC DIVISION ELECTIONS

All ARRL members please note. There will be two very important elections coming up this fall. They are for the positions of Western Pennsylvania Section Manager and Atlantic Division Director. Presently the positions are held by John Rodgers N3MSE and Bernie Fuller N3EFN respectively. The B.V.A.R.A. stands firmly behind both of these individuals in their bid for re-election. John and Bernie have worked diligently throughout their tenure to promote amateur radio and we look forward to their leadership for another term. So when you receive your ballot from the ARRL be sure to cast your vote to re-elect John Rodgers N3MSE as Western Pennsylvania Section Manager and Bernie Fuller N3EFN as Atlantic Division Director.

==>"SECTION NEWS," CONTEST LINE SCORES MOVING FROM QST TO WEB

Starting next January, "Section News" and contest line score results will appear on the ARRL Web site rather than in QST. Meeting July 19-20 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors voted 9-6 to approve a resolution formally relocating "Section News" to the ARRL Web site. "Section News" has appeared in the League's official journal at least since 1919. The "Section News" Web sites--already in place--will provide the officials of each ARRL section "the capability

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of an up-to-date information resource that can be tailored to the needs of their section," the resolution said.

The space freed up by relocating "Section News" will allow more in-depth coverage of general news, public service activities and "how-to" articles. Members unable to use the Web can request their section's reports in hard-copy format.

The Board first considered the issue at its January meeting but postponed action until July to give members the opportunity to better understand the reasons for relocating "Section News," to discuss alternatives and to better understand and see the advantages of the expanded content available on the Web site.

Voting for the change were Directors Dick Isely, W9GIG (Central); Jay Bellows, K0QB (Dakota); Frank Fallon, N2FF (Hudson); Wade Walstrom, W0EJ (Midwest); Tom Frenaye, K1KI (New England); Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (Roanoke); Walt Stinson, W0CP (Rocky Mountain), Art Goddard, W6XD (Southwestern); and Coy Day, N5OK (West Gulf).

Directors Bernie Fuller, N3EFN (Atlantic); Rick Roderick, K5UR (Delta); George Race, WB8BGY (Great Lakes); Greg Milnes, W7OZ (Northwestern); Jim Maxwell, W6CF (Pacific); and Frank Butler, W4RH (Southeastern), voted against the change.

In a separate resolution approved by voice vote, the Board agreed that the ARRL Web site now provides a better medium to report the results of ARRL-sponsored contests. As a result, contest line scores no longer will appear in QST. The change does not affect ARRL Field Day results, which will continue to be published in the magazine. QST coverage of ARRL-sponsored contests will continue with expanded writeups, photos and soapbox submissions. QST also plans to carry more feature articles about contesting.

A contest Web site established earlier this year now includes, among other features, a searchable database of line scores for members and the ability to easily analyze individual and club scores. There's also an on-line Soapbox to post comments and photos immediately after a contest, as well as an expanded narrative for each event. The ARRL also now offers members the free Contest Rate Sheet newsletter <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet>>, which focuses specifically on contesting.

The minutes of the July 19-20 ARRL Board of Directors meeting have been posted on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0207/>>.

==>FCC TO GET TOUGH ON OFFENDING POWER COMPANIES

The FCC plans to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to fix problems causing interference with Amateur Radio and other licensed communications. Special Counsel for

Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth met recently at ARRL Headquarters with Ed Hare, W1RFI, and John Phillips, K2QAI, of the ARRL Lab staff to discuss various electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues. As a result of that session, changes will be made in the way ARRL and FCC cooperate on power-line cases.

"What we've done is to review all cases that the League has worked on where we had no cooperation," Hollingsworth said this week. "In at least three instances, the power company in question hasn't cooperated as it should have." Hollingsworth said these cases will "go to the next step," which likely will entail involving the appropriate FCC field office for additional investigation and appropriate enforcement. In the future, initial letters from the ARRL and the FCC will impose a shorter compliance window and will be more firmly worded. In addition, a follow-up letter from the FCC will be sent to utilities that fail to respond appropriately to the initial inquiry.

The routine FCC letter to a power company cites the requirement to rectify problems with their equipment "if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment." FCC Part 15 rules classify most power-line and related equipment as "incidental radiators." This means the utility equipment does not intentionally generate any radio-frequency energy but may create it as an incidental part of its intended operation. The FCC urges a utility to locate sources of any interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections "within a reasonable time."

Typical was a recent letter from the FCC's Consumer Information and Governmental Affairs Bureau to Commonwealth Edison of Chicago citing radio frequency interference complaints from five Illinois amateurs. According to the FCC, the amateurs had attempted without success to work through the utility's complaint resolution channels.

Utilities that appear unwilling to abide by Part 15 rules regulating unintentional radiation are in the minority, Hollingsworth said. By and large, utilities contacted by ARRL as a result of power-line noise complaints from amateurs have been extremely cooperative, and he had high praise for the League's role in resolving complaints in the early going. Only a handful of cases--perhaps a dozen in all--have ended up being forwarded by the ARRL to the FCC for action.

"The League's record is outstanding here," Hollingsworth said. Cases necessitating FCC follow-up action have been minimal, he said, and most of those stem from the utility's failure to understand its obligations under Part 15.

Over the past year, the League has worked with amateurs on behalf of the FCC to handle 72 complaints of suspected power-line interference. Hare, the ARRL Lab supervisor, says that the effort has had its successes, some cases may require more than an advisory letter from the FCC.

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"Having the FCC field offices investigate those cases where a power company is not willing or able to assume its responsibilities is a good next step," Hare said. "The League and the FCC both hope that continued cooperation will bring these cases to a satisfactory end without having to resort to drastic enforcement measures."

==>UK TO AUTHORIZE 5-MHZ EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION

Amateur Radio experimental operation on 5 MHz in the United Kingdom could begin as soon as early August. The Radio Society of Great Britain has announced that the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) and the UK's Ministry of Defence have granted permission to allocate five frequencies in the range 5250 kHz to 5450 kHz. The announcement opens up the possibility of the first Amateur Radio transatlantic contacts on 60 meters.

Earlier this year, the FCC, responding to an ARRL petition, proposed allocating 5250 to 5400 kHz to US amateurs on a secondary basis. ARRL-sponsored experimental operation under the call sign WA2XSX continues.

The RSGB said the purpose of what it's calling "The Fivemegs Experiment" is to carry out propagation and antenna investigations aimed at improving the understanding of near zenithal radiation or near-vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation. Frequencies to become available are 5260, 5280, 5290, 5400 and 5405 kHz. "These will be made available in the form of 3-kHz bandwidth channels by way of a Notice of Variation (NoV) to individual Amateur Radio licence holders," the RSGB announcement said. Applications will be accepted starting July 29.

According to the RSGB, NoVs will only be issued to Full Class-A license holders. As a "controlled experiment," UK amateurs authorized to operate on 5 MHz will be required to report their findings and results to the RSGB.

The Radiocommunications Agency is expected to issue the first NoVs on or around August 1, with experimental operation getting under way a day or two later. The RSGB anticipates that the experiment will run for up to four years, terminating around August 2006.

An application form for UK amateurs and further details are available via the RSGB RSGB Web site <<http://www.rsgb.org>> or via e-mail ar.dept@rsgb.org.uk.

An amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz has long been an objective of the International Amateur Radio Union. The IARU's Administrative Council has approved a long-term goal of "a narrow allocation, even on a shared basis in the vicinity of 5 MHz."

==>KB3GWY IS 2002 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

Josh Abramowicz, KB3GWY, of Reading, Pennsylvania, has been named the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) for 2002. The YHOTY Award is presented annually to a radio amateur age 18 or younger who has provided outstanding national or community service or improved the state of the art in communications through Amateur Radio. An Eagle Scout, Abramowicz, 17, was honored for promoting Amateur Radio to young people through his activities in the Boy Scouts of America <<http://www.bsa.scouting.org/>>.

"Amateur Radio and scouting have always had a close relationship, with many of today's most successful scientists, engineers and professionals beginning their careers as both Scouts and radio amateurs," said Award Administrator Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who edits and produces Newsline <<http://www.arnewsline.com>>, a weekly Amateur Radio news program. Nominating Abramowicz for the YHOTY award was ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, who's very active in the scouting program. Wolfgang became acquainted with Abramowicz at the National Scout Jamboree last summer.

A General licensee and an ARRL member, Abramowicz is a rising senior at Central Catholic High School in Reading. He credits both the Boy Scouts and his parents with getting him interested in ham radio. His father, Mark, is NT3V, and his mother, Suzanna, is NZ3G.

Not long after getting licensed, Abramowicz served on the K2BSA staff at the National Scout Jamboree in Virginia last summer and helped demonstrate ham radio to many of the 35,000 Scouts attending the event. He also helped to train some 400 Scouts who earned Radio Merit Badges at the gathering. Abramowicz later convinced the Frankford Radio Club to sponsor a Venture Crew--a scouting program for older youth. He then convinced the BSA Hawk Mountain Council leadership to use space in its new science center for a permanent Amateur Radio station.

The Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented to Abramowicz August 17 at the Huntsville Hamfest. Corporate underwriters for the award include Vertex Standard USA (Yaesu) and CQ Magazine.

==>MORE COSPONSORS SIGN ABOARD CC&R BILL HR 4720

Additional cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. The list of 18 members of Congress who have agreed to cosponsor the measure includes two amateurs. They are Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR.

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Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives. The House now is in recess until after Labor Day.

Arkansas Section Manager Bob Ideker, WB5VUH, who ran into Ross at the Little Rock airport while both were waiting for flights, claims at least some credit for getting the Arkansas Fourth District representative to sign onto the bill as a cosponsor. Ideker also has invited Ross--a Novice licensee and ARRL member--to visit some club meetings in his district.

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720--the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--on May 14. The measure 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.

In addition to Walden, Sessions and Ross, the list of HR 4720 cosponsors now includes Representatives JD Hayworth (R-AZ), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA), John Duncan Jr (R-TN), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Charles Stenholm (D-TX), David Price (D-NC), Bob Schaffer (R-CO), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Charles Taylor (R-NC), and Ralph Hall (D-TX).

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 ARRL 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, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

==>ARES TEAMS ON ALERT AS WEST COAST WILDFIRES THREATEN

West Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams were on alert at week's end to provide emergency communication as the Florence and Sour Biscuit wildfires in southwestern Oregon threatened to merge, creating a "mega fire." ARRL Oregon Section Manager Marshall Johnson, KK7CW, said local hams were helping to curb rumors regarding evacuations and supporting local public service agencies.

"ARES and served agencies are still assessing the resources necessary to keep homes from being destroyed and residents as safe as possible," he told ARRL. "Pray for us."

Johnson says resources in Oregon to fight more than a dozen fires are being stretched to the limit. "Municipal and Regional fire departments are sending mutual aid personnel to help fight the blazes," he said. According to Johnson, nearly one-half million acres have burned so far this summer, although August 1 was the first official day of fire season in Oregon.

Meanwhile, ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Len Gwinn, WA6KLK, said ARES teams from Crescent City and Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma counties in California were standing by to assist. Gwinn also was in contact with Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator Dave Thorne, K6SOJ, to arrange ARES mutual aid between the two ARRL sections.

"Everyone is still on standby to evacuate," Gwinn said August 1, adding that shelters in Crescent City, California, and Grants Pass, Oregon, were quiet for the moment. Residents in the Illinois Valley in Oregon's Josephine County have been warned to be ready to voluntarily evacuate on 30 minutes notice. Officials also have been encouraging voluntary relocations of the elderly, families with children and of those having medical conditions or needing special assistance.

At risk are the communities of Selma and Cave Junction and the surrounding areas. The Florence Fire has covered more than 145,000 acres, while the Sour Biscuit fire has claimed more than 35,000 acres. The two fires were within a couple of miles of each other on July 31 and only about 5 percent contained. Firefighters have been attempting to bulldoze a firebreak.

While ARES operation typically has been on VHF, Gwinn said the Crescent City and Grants Pass centers planned to test 40 and 80-meter midday conditions. "This is because if the linked repeaters between the cities go down for any reason, they will have to resort to HF to get over the hill between the cities," Gwinn explained. He said Family Radio Service (FRS) radios also were being used in areas near the centers also.

"These are major fires, and there is at least two and a half months of fire season remaining," outgoing ARRL Sacramento Valley SM Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, said in a message this week to members in his section. "Let's keep our preparedness high."

==>DC AREA TRAIN DERAILMENT TESTS RACES READINESS

Activated following a July 29 Washington, DC, area passenger train derailment, the Montgomery County, Maryland, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) team proved itself ready but—at least this time—not essential to the rescue and recovery. More than a dozen RACES members stood down after approximately three hours on duty.

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"All's well that ends well," said Montgomery County Deputy RACES Officer John Creel, WB3GXW. "We were ready, but it didn't happen." Creel said the group mostly passed "get ready" messages.

County officials called out the RACES team after 11 cars of an Amtrak train bound for the nation's capital from Chicago went off the tracks. There were dozens of injuries, some serious, but no deaths as a result of the mishap, which occurred in Kensington, Maryland, just north of Washington.

Montgomery County RACES Officer Howard Gorden, W3CQH, was at the scene of the crash, and RACES members staffed the Hospital Radio Net on the area's 146.955 repeater. Other operators were stationed at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center as well as at two local hospitals to handle possible traffic on mass casualties. Additional operators stood by for deployment to local shelters as well.

As it turned out, no shelters were needed, and hospitals were able to accommodate the injured without problems. Passengers not hospitalized were bussed to Washington's Union Station, which was their ultimate destination, Creel said.

==>NEW AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNAS TO BE INSTALLED ON ISS

The last two Amateur Radio antennas are scheduled to be installed this month on the International Space Station's Zvezda Service Module—the crew's living quarters. The specially designed flexible-tape antennas will support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) VHF and UHF operation and are similar to an antenna installed last January 14 by the Expedition 4 crew.

ARISS International Group Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says current plans call for Expedition 5 crew members to carry out space walks (called extra-vehicular activities or EVAs) August 16 and August 22. The two ARISS antennas could be installed during one or both of those EVAs. The all-ham Expedition 5 crew members are commander Valery Korzun, RZ3FK, cosmonaut Sergei Treschev, RZ3FU, and US astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD.

Bauer said ARISS was working with its Russian partners on EVA procedures. "Once these antennas are installed and some tests planned for September are completed in Russia, additional ISS ham radio equipment will be installed in the Service Module," he said.

ARISS initial ham station gear—a single-band Ericsson 5-W hand-held transceiver for 2 meters—is installed in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block (FGB) using an antenna initially installed to aid docking operations and EVAs. The new VHF-UHF antennas and a flexible-tape HF antenna also installed

January 25 are designed for and dedicated to ARISS operations. There is no HF gear aboard the ISS at this point.

Installation of the new antenna on Zvezda makes possible two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha. Bauer said the additional gear due to be installed in the Service Module is one of the 5-W 70-cm transceivers already aboard the ISS. The ARISS 2-meter transceiver now in use from the FGB will remain operational. "This will provide multiband operation," he said. Plans down the road call for installing HF gear at the ARISS station as well as higher power VHF and UHF equipment.

While the ARISS schedule of school contacts has been at a lull during the summer, Korzun has taken time to make some casual contacts. In addition, Bauer reported, Korzun logged nearly 140 ARRL Field Day contacts in June. He also connected a computer to the ARISS packet module and got the system running again after it was down for several weeks.

Bauer advised packet operators to stick with UNPROTO operations whenever possible and to use the Packet Mailbox System (PMS) only sparingly, if at all, for brief messages.

ARISS is an international project sponsored jointly by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT. A paper entitled "2001: an Amateur Radio Space Odyssey on the International Space Station," which details the development of ARISS and discusses the four new ARISS antennas, is available via the ARISS Web site <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>>.

==>NEW ISS HAM ANTENNA INSTALLATION RESCHEDULED

There's been another switch in plans to install the last two Amateur Radio antennas aboard the International Space Station. NASA and Russian officials announced this week that the second space walk by members of the Expedition 5 crew was rescheduled for Monday, August 26. It had been set to happen August 23.

Installation of the new Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas on the Service Module--the crew's living quarters--paves the way for two separate ham stations in space. At least in the short term, one station would be for VHF operation, the other for UHF--on 70 cm. The antennas to be installed are capable of handling both VHF and UHF. Similar flexible tape antennas for VHF-UHF and for HF were installed in January by the Expedition 4 crew.

NASA and Russian sources indicate the schedule shift was made to accommodate tasks that did not get done during the crew's first space walk on August 16. At least for now, the two Amateur Radio antennas are on the planned timeline for installation during the space walk or "EVA" (extra-vehicular activity).

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Expedition 5 Commander Valery Korzun, RZ3FZ, and Flight Engineer Sergei Treschev, RZ3FU, are slated to begin the six-hour spacewalk at 0500 UTC on August 26.

A scheduled ARISS QSO August 24 with Scout Jamboree station PI4RIS in The Netherlands by US Astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, was postponed. It's not known if the change in space walk schedules was a factor, however.

The two VHF-UHF flexible tape antennas--designated WA1 and WA2--will be installed along the perimeter of the aft end of the Zvezda Service Module, near the Soyuz docking port.

The August 26 space walk is scheduled to be covered live on NASA Television, which is available via cable in many areas. NASA Television also is available via the Web <<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv/ntvweb.html>>. The live NASA Television coverage will include commentary on the space walk, which is expected to last about six hours.

ARISS is an international project sponsored jointly by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT. A paper entitled "2001: an Amateur Radio Space Odyssey on the International Space Station," which details the development of ARISS and discusses the four new ARISS antennas, is available via the ARISS Web site <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>>.

==>ARRL MEMBERS DIG DEEPLY TO DEFEND FREQUENCIES

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, says ARRL members have been especially generous in supporting the ARRL Defense of Frequencies Fund.

"Since October 2001, the Defense of Frequencies Fund has generated nearly \$435,000 from more than 10,000 ARRL members," Hobart reported this week. "This vital annual giving campaign provides key revenue to support ARRL activities at Headquarters, in Washington and internationally."

Hobart pointed out that administrative overhead is low--83 cents of every dollar raised goes directly for the defense of frequencies. But, while members are responding more generously than ever to calls for support, expenses for advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio continue to far outstrip revenues, she said. "In fact, ARRL spends more than \$1 million a year on efforts to defend the Amateur Radio spectrum, represent the service on regulatory and technical issues and participate in critical international conferences like World Radio Communication Conference 2003," she said. "The success of the 2002 campaign raised only about one-third of the funds needed to directly cover ARRL's advocacy efforts."

Hobart estimated that if every ARRL member contributed just \$8 a year to the Defense of Frequencies Fund, "we could fully fund ARRL's work to protect Amateur Radio spectrum." To

donate to any ARRL fund or to find out more about how to support the future of Amateur Radio, visit the secure donation page on the ARRL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/basic/>>.

==>FCC AUDIT CONTINUES INTO W5YI-VEC CALIFORNIA TEST SESSION

The FCC audit of a W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio test session in California is continuing. So far, the probe into a September 1, 2001, examination session in Yucaipa has led to the suspension of seven volunteer examiners and the cancellation of five Amateur Radio licenses. The FCC also is looking into other test sessions conducted by the same VE team.

The W5YI-VEC's Larry Pollock, NB5X, said possible irregularities surfaced earlier this year in the form of an e-mail and a telephone call concerning two candidates at VE sessions in Yucaipa. "One of the reports was that they had purchased a license in California," Pollock said. "The other was that the individual in question could not copy code, and that if he had passed the exam, he had done so fraudulently."

After considerable investigation on his own, Pollock said he saw "enough questionable things" that he felt retesting was in order "and that's what we proposed to Riley," he said, referring to FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth.

Pollock identified the VEs as team leader Carl A. Alford, WB6RUF; Irene L. Alford, KM6GT; Renato P. Songco, N6UAN; Ana Luz V. Saycon, W6LUZ; Khanly V. Saycon II, KQ6OP; Mharloun V. Saycon, KQ6OR; and Khanly F. Saycon Jr, KS6X. All were suspended as VEs last January 3, pending the outcome of the FCC inquiry. Pollock said all had been VEs for more than two years. Hollingsworth said the FCC would continue to investigate other examinations administered by the VEs involved in the September 1, 2001, session in Yucaipa.

In July, Hollingsworth announced that five W5YI-VEC exam candidates—four from the September 1 Yucaipa session—had not appeared for retesting as requested and had been stripped of their Amateur Radio licenses. Pollock said the four September 1 candidates were current licensees seeking upgrades that included the Element 1 5 WPM Morse code examination. All had passed Element 1 during the original test session with perfect copy.

Cancelled by the FCC for failing to appear for retesting were Camito E. Lopez, KG6GJG, of Los Angeles, a Technician licensee seeking HF privileges; Marcial S. Rivas, KG6HCP, of Salem, Oregon, who had upgraded to General; Manuel M. Vega, KG6GSP, of Anaheim, California, who had upgraded to General; and Marcelino G. Llanes, KG6HBR, of Oxnard, California, who had upgraded to General.

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"They were no shows for the re-exam, and if they had actually done as well in the original code test as it appeared, they should have had no problem passing it," Pollock said this week. He added that there was no reason to believe there were any irregularities involved in the written examination elements administered at Yucaipa.

Also failing to reappear for retesting and cancelled by the FCC in mid-July was Eddie C. Bartolome, N6YAG, of Los Angeles. Bartolome, an Extra-class licensee, had been an examination candidate at earlier VE sessions conducted by the now-suspended W5YI-VEC team. According to Hollingsworth, Bartolome was alleged to have told another complainant that he could get him an amateur license for \$100.

Hollingsworth praised the W5YI VEC for acting promptly in the case. "W5YI-VEC really did their homework on this one," he said, "picking up on some comments and complaints on Internet newsgroups about the exam session and, doing a little further research, found some good reasons to refer the matter to us. We really appreciate the vigilance of the W5YI VEC in this case."

==>HAM-LED TEAM ATTEMPTING TRANSATLANTIC MODEL AIRPLANE FLIGHT

A team of model airplane enthusiasts led by Maynard Hill, W3FQF, is attempting a record-breaking crossing of the Atlantic by a model aircraft. A model plane dubbed "The Spirit of Butts Farm" was launched August 20 and was on its way to Ireland. Monitoring the flight, TAM-3, the third in a series, from Newfoundland, Canada, Hill's team reports the plane was last heard from August 21 at 0428 UTC. "We are still uncertain what happened," said a terse announcement on the team's Web site.

The Transatlantic Model Aircraft--or TAM--project is Hill's brainchild as the president of the Society for Technical Aeromodel Research. Hill and his design team have spent four years on the ambitious project. The TAM aircraft are hand-launched and guided to an altitude of 1500 feet by radio remote control. Upon reaching that altitude, a sophisticated GPS-based autopilot system takes over. The aircraft sends periodic position reports to the flight team, and these are posted on the TAM Web site <<http://tam.planet21.com/index.html>>.

The first two TAMs failed soon after launch. The last position report for TAM-3 indicated that it had completed better than one-fourth of its journey before contact with the airplane was lost. TAM-4 will be the final attempt--at least for now.

A successful flight would mark the first transatlantic crossing by a true model airplane--an aircraft weighing 11 pounds or less with an engine with no more than 10 cc displacement, as specified by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) <<http://www.fai.org/>>. It would also set a new world record

for straight-line distance by a radio-controlled, piston-powered model airplane.

More information on this historic effort is available on the TAM Web site <<http://tam.plannet21.com/index.html>>. An article on the flight appeared in the on-line edition of National Geographic <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/08/0805_020805_transatlantic.html>

==>PENDING CITEL RESOLUTION IS A STEP TOWARD GLOBAL HAM TICKET

Ham radio has moved another step closer to an internationally recognized license. Delegates to the Third Regular Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) this month approved a resolution that would extend reciprocal recognition of the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) Convention to member states of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

The resolution includes as a goal "to promote the development of a global Radio Amateur Permit working with other regional organizations within the framework of the International Telecommunication Union."

ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended the CITEL Assembly August 12-16 in Washington, DC, as a member of the US delegation. "In an ideal world, we'll one day have an international Amateur Radio permit that's like an international driver's license—good around the world," Siverling said. He conceded that CITEL-CEPT reciprocity will not benefit US amateurs, however. Only licensees elsewhere in the Americas would be affected, since US licensees already enjoy automatic or nearly automatic reciprocal licensing in many countries throughout Europe and the Americas.

Since the resolution requires modification of an existing agreement, the next step is approval by the Organization of American States General Assembly, which meets next June, Siverling explained.

The resolution builds on existing CITEL and CEPT arrangements. A CITEL convention already provides for temporary amateur station operations in one member state by individuals holding an IARP and licensed by another member state "without further review." A similar CEPT mutual-recognition arrangement in many European signatory countries--Recommendation T/R 61-01--makes possible operation by amateurs from CEPT countries during short visits to other CEPT member countries or to non-CEPT participating countries--including the US--without having to obtain a temporary license.

Among other things, the CITEL proposal, called Resolution 32, would encourage CITEL member states to adhere to the IARP convention. It further calls upon those member states to

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approve the draft protocol to the IARP convention to extend to CEPT license holders from countries that have implemented CEPT Recommendation T/R61-01 the same privileges IARP holders enjoy.

International Amateur Radio Union <<http://www.iaru.org>> Region 2 President Pedro Seideman, YV5BPG, represented the IARU at the CITEL assembly.

==>INCUMBENT SECTION MANAGER RE-ELECTED IN PUERTO RICO

ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Victor Madera, KP4PQ, has been re-elected for another two-year term. He defeated challenger William T. Genter, KP3O, 173 to 48. Ballots were counted August 20 at ARRL Headquarters.

Madera has served as Puerto Rico Section Manager since January 2000. He was first appointed to fill the term of a previous SM who resigned and was the only nominee to run for SM for the October 2000 to October 2002 term. He joins seven other incumbent ARRL section managers who did not face opposition and will continue in their present positions when new terms in the current SM election cycle begin on October 1.

Other incumbent SMs returning for new terms were Betsey Doane, K1EIC, Connecticut; John Cline, K7BDS, Idaho; Randy "Max" Wendel, KM0D, Minnesota; Kent Olson, KA0LDG, North Dakota; Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio; John Ellis, NP2B, Virgin Islands; and Scott Bauer, W2LC, Western New York.

Two newcomers also will join the ranks of ARRL SMs on October 1. Sherri Brower, W4STB, of Vero Beach, will succeed Phyllisan West, KA4FZI as SM of Southern Florida. Brower, who's served as the section's Public Information Coordinator, was this year's ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award winner. In South Dakota, Richard Beebe, N0PV, of Sioux Falls, will take over for outgoing SM Roland Cory, W0YMB. West and Cory did not seek new terms.

==>ARRL 2002 BILL LEONARD, W2SKE, PROFESSIONAL MEDIA AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

The ARRL is accepting nominations for the annual Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award--a tribute to the late CBS President Bill Leonard, W2SKE. The award will go to a professional journalist whose outstanding coverage in TV, radio, print or multimedia best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of Amateur Radio. The deadline for entries is December 27, 2002.

Nominations will be judged by the League's Public Relations Committee, and that panel's recommendation will go before

the ARRL Board of Directors at its January 2003 meeting. The winner receives a plaque and a cash award of \$500.

Leonard was an avid Amateur Radio operator and was most active on the air during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1958, Leonard's contribution to Sports Illustrated, "The Battle of the Hams," covered the "sport" of DX contesting. To this day, the article remains one of the best Amateur Radio feature stories ever published. Bill Leonard was inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1996.

For more information about the award or to obtain a nomination form and official rules for entry, contact Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, jhagy@arrl.org; 860-594-0328.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** Certification and Continuing Education course registration:** Registration for the Satellite Communications (EC-007) course remains open through the July 27-28 weekend. Registration for the Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001) opens Monday, August 5. All registrations open at 4 PM Eastern Time. ARRL Emergency Communications courses must be completed in order, starting with Level I. 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 Program Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org.

*** ARRL 2001 Annual Report copies being mailed:** Demand has been brisk for copies of the ARRL 2001 Annual Report, and requests now are being honored. While ARRL invites requests via e-mail, these will not be routinely acknowledged. Requests should include your full name, call sign and mailing address. Copies will be sent as soon as possible. ARRL members can obtain a free copy of the ARRL 2001 Annual Report with a request to Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, jhagy@arrl.org; 860-594-0328. The Annual Report also is available for viewing via the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/nannualreport/01ar.pdf>>.

*** Minnesota teenage ham wins IEEE Presidents' Scholarship:** Eighteen-year-old James J. Jefferson, KB0THN, of Winona, Minnesota, has won the \$10,000 IEEE Presidents' Scholarship. For his winning project, "Automatic packet reporting system (APRS): Building a large-scale geospatial database," Jefferson collected and cataloged the entire APRS Internet stream into a relational database. A ham since 1995 and an ARRL member, Jefferson said it struck him that "something useful could come from all this data, if it could be collected and analyzed." For the purposes of the project, he concentrated on the Los Angeles freeway system. The data are reported in a variety of ways, so Jefferson had to write a program to translate the data into a common format. He also

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developed software to analyze the position data and wrote another program to search digital maps for the distance to the nearest road, in order to offer options to people stuck in traffic. The project involved writing some 10,000 lines of code, and Jefferson worked completely on his own. His software collects more than 600,000 data points a day. A friend helped him locate space for a series of computers he linked together called a Beowulf cluster to work the data. The rest of the work he does in his basement. Jefferson (who prefers to use his middle name instead of his legal surname, Jarvis) plans to continue with his project, investigating the use of neural networks to detect road anomalies such as traffic jams. For relaxation Jefferson tends a weather station he built with a friend near his home and enjoys hiking and biking. He plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall and major in computer sciences.

*** SATERN volunteer honored for WTC, Flight 587 assistance:** Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, was among the 17 recipients of the Mayor's Volunteer Service Award, presented June 26 by the office of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in recognition of Schneller's outstanding volunteer service to the City. Schneller was honored for his efforts as part of SATERN following the World Trade Center attack in New York City and during the rescue and recovery operation two months later that followed the crash of Flight 587 in Belle Harbor, New York. The SATERN liaison for the Greater New York City area, Schneller coordinates, supervises, schedules and trains individual Amateur Radio operators for SATERN membership. Schneller was cited for his outstanding leadership skills, excellent judgment and expertise in emergency communications.

*** Review under way of unlicensed 2.4 GHz systems:** The AMSAT-NA Board of Directors is reviewing the large number of unlicensed systems active in the 2.4-GHz band. These systems are being used for high-speed digital communications. Although these systems are not licensed, they are permitted to operate under FCC Part 15 rules with low power (100 mW or 1 W spread spectrum). AMSAT-NA and ARRL plan to develop a joint strategy regarding S band, as both organizations anticipate that interference may become a problem area as similar Part 15 unlicensed equipment proliferates. Two amateur satellites, UO-11 and AO-40, now operate transmitters in the 2.4-GHz band, and both OSCAR-Echo and OSCAR-Eagle—two AMSAT-NA satellite projects now under development—will have S-band transmitters. In addition, various ATV systems and other amateur communication systems operate in the vicinity of 2.4 GHz. The FCC has proposed making amateurs primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz. AMSAT-NA seeks reports from amateurs who have experienced interference with 2.4-GHz reception of AO-40 from a Part 15 device. Send details to ve3frh@amsat.org.--AMSAT News Service

*** ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program update:** Attention Connecticut Amateurs! Don't miss the opportunity to take one of the United Technology Corporation-funded seats in the ARRL Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-001). Two class sections are now open. Register for classes starting either August 5 or September 2 by visiting the secure ARRL Course Registration Page <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce>> and clicking on the blue hypertext link "Register" next to the class section you prefer. As ARRL implements nationwide emergency communications training funded by the recently announced \$181,900 Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant, please be patient. No new Level I on-line classes will be offered in August except to Connecticut amateurs. There is no waiting list for the federally funded emergency communications training. Updates will be posted as soon as crucial details are worked out and information become available. All other ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses will remain open for registration as normally scheduled. 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 Program Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org.

*** New Sacramento Valley SM announced:** ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, has appointed Jettie Hill, W6RFF, of Roseville, California, to succeed Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, as ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Manager. Boyd is moving out of the section. The appointment of Hill, who had previously served for more than 10 years as Sacramento Valley SM, was effective August 1. Boyd was appointed in 2000 to replace Hill, who has continued to serve the section as Affiliated Club Coordinator and as an Official Relay Station. Hill previously served as Santa Clara Valley Section Communications Manager from 1978 until 1982 and as ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director in 1982 and 1983.

*** ARRL Technical Relations Office continues busy schedule:** Members of the ARRL Technical Relations Office staff have attended numerous meetings in preparation for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, studies related to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) and the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL—Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones). ARRL Technical Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended meetings in Fortaleza, Brazil, where he chaired the CITEL group developing input to Chapter 5 of the CPM Report (containing Amateur Radio and other items). ARRL Technical Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, worked with ITT Industries on simulation of amateur systems and synthetic aperture radars (SARs). Initial results showed that some sharing may be possible between Amateur Radio and SARs, but not with the higher power SARs. The Technical Relations Office

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continues to study the characteristics of proposed radio local area networks (RLANs) and their interaction with amateur systems in the vicinity of 5.8 GHz. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, was in Geneva, Switzerland, for two weeks as a member of the US delegation to the ITU Special Committee on Regulatory and Procedural Matters related to WRC-03.

*** KD5MDT in for KC5FVF on next ISS mission:** Astronaut Don Pettit, KD5MDT, has been named to replace Don Thomas, KC5FVF, as a member of the Expedition 6 International Space Station crew. Pettit had been training as backup flight engineer for the increment six team. NASA said the reassignment resulted from a medical issue that affects Thomas' long-duration space flight qualifications. "The demanding nature of long-term space flight requires a conservative approach to crew health issues, especially this early in the program," said Astronaut Office Chief Charlie Precourt, KB5YSQ. Thomas--a SAREX veteran who's flown on four space shuttle flights and logged more than 1040 hours in space--has been training for his ISS assignment for more than three years. Pettit will join Expedition 6 Commander Kenneth Bowersox, KD5JBP, and Russian cosmonaut Nikolai Budarin, RV3DB. A chemical engineer who holds a PhD, Pettit served as a staff scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico before joining the astronaut corps. Pettit, Bowersox and Budarin all are experienced Amateur Radio operators. This will mark the third all-ham crew aboard the ISS.

*** Michael "Father Mike" Mullen, WB2GQW, SK:** The Rev Michael "Father Mike" Mullen, WB2GQW, of Jamaica, New York, died June 13 after a lengthy illness. He was 87. The long-time president of St John's University Radio Club, Father Mike most often was heard on the air using the club's call sign, WA2KUX. For many years, he also served as the editor of the International Missionary Radio Association (IMRA) newsletter. "His tireless dedication to the charter of IMRA, providing communications to missionaries, made him stand out as one of the true moral forces in the world and in Amateur Radio," said ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Father Mike discovered Amateur Radio during a 1966 trip to Panama and obtained his license in 1968. He joined IMRA that same year and served nine terms as its president. During his tenure, he was instrumental in developing an emergency preparedness plan to help The Salvation Army, Church World Service and Catholic Relief Service to help expedite the flow of information about local conditions during emergencies--primarily focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean. He also raised funds to supply generators to IMRA members in Latin America. In recognition of his efforts, Father Mike was named the winner of the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award in 1986 and the ARRL International Humanitarian Award in 1988. A service was held June 18.

*** Robert E. Baird, W9NN, SK:** Bob Baird, W9NN, of Plover, Wisconsin, died August 1. He was 96. Baird was one

of the longest-licensed amateurs in the US, having been a ham for more than eight decades. "Bob was an icon, and he will be missed by many in Wisconsin and around the world," said ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG. Baird remained active on the air until shortly before his death and was often heard on 40-meter CW. He reportedly died peacefully in his sleep with his niece, Betty Johnson, WD9AUC, at his side. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Baird was first licensed as a youngster in 1920 as 8BTI. He was engineering supervisor for WGN radio in Chicago, retiring after 36 years of service. Baird was a founder and charter member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and he's on the QCWA Honor Roll. In addition, Baird founded the W9DXCC gathering. He also was a member of the ARRL, the Old Old Timers' Club, the First-class CW Operators Club, the Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and the Rib Mountain Repeater Association. A QCWA memorial scholarship fund will be established. Donations payable to "QCWA Scholarship Fund" may be sent in care of Betty Johnson, 4820 Love Creek Ave, Plover, WI 54467-9526.

*** Mobile Ham Radio Museum to visit New England Division, AWA conventions:** QST "Old Radio" editor John Dilks, K2TQN, says he plans to have his Mobile Ham Radio Museum at this year's ARRL New England Division Convention <<http://www.boxboro.org>>, August 23-25, in Boxboro, Massachusetts, and at the Antique Wireless Association annual conference <<http://www.antiquewireless.org/2002conf.htm>> August 28-31 in Rochester, New York. Dilks says the museum-in-an-RV features some new exhibits for its fourth anniversary, including a scanning disk TV receiver that dates back to around 1932, a Hallicrafters S-1 receiver, the first model the company produced, and a 1927 tuned-grid, tuned-plate (TGTP) transmitter featured on the cover of the January 2002 issue of QST and discussed in that month's "Old Radio" column. For more information about Dilks' museum on wheels, visit the Mobile Ham Radio Museum Web site <<http://www.eht.com/oldradio/museum>>.-- The Old Timer's Bulletin/AWA

*** Certification and Continuing Education course registration:** Registration for the Level III Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-003) and HF Digital Communications (EC-005) courses remains open through the weekend of August 24-25. Registration for the Satellite Communications course (EC-007) opens Monday, August 26. All registrations open at 4 PM Eastern Time. ARRL Emergency Communications courses must be completed in order, starting with Level I. Watch the ARRL Web for updates on the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant training. 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 Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org.

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*** ARRL welcomes new development associate:** Debra Johnson of Glastonbury, Connecticut, joined the ARRL staff August 19 as a development associate in the office of Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Johnson came to ARRL from Connecticut Public Broadcasting, where she was executive assistant to the president/CEO and to the chief financial officer and handled some project management work. Johnson cited her past working relationship with Hobart--also previously employed at CPB--as a factor that attracted her to ARRL. "I know how dynamic she is," she said. "She was willing to offer me an opportunity to contribute and to learn." In her new role, Johnson will support Hobart's efforts in building the League's development program. A graduate of Princeton University, Johnson holds a degree in philosophy and religion and has completed some graduate-level classes in counseling and social work. "I look forward to working in a new department where I can contribute to shaping the future of ARRL's development efforts," she said. "This is an incredible opportunity."

*** FCC chairman launches FCC University:** FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell is encouraging Commission employees to go back to school so they can keep up with current technology and trends. In a standing room-only ceremony on August 15 for agency staff, Powell launched the FCC University. According to the announcement, the FCC University was created to ensure that FCC staff possess the cutting-edge knowledge and skills to respond to the challenges of the communications field in the 21st century. "For the Commission to function effectively and carry out its current and future mission, it must build a first-class operation that is fluent in the language of new and emerging technologies, in economics and market analysis, and in the legal framework governing Commission activities," Powell said. "The FCC University is an exciting initiative that will enable us to achieve that objective." Powell called for a major training and development initiative at the FCC as part of his larger FCC reform efforts since becoming chairman in 2001. The Office of Managing Director will oversee the continuing professional development effort. Employees can choose from a vast range of courses on generally applicable subjects as well as sections specifically geared to meet the educational needs of engineers, economists and lawyers. Courses are available in several ways, including on-site through FCC staff and guest lecturers and off-site through universities, professional associations and vendors/providers as well as through self-directed or distance-learning programs. "When we first conceived this idea last year, I wanted the FCC University to be the very best employee development program that anyone can find in the United States government," Powell said. "As we launch it today, I'm confident that it is."-- FCC news release

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