
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

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May 2003

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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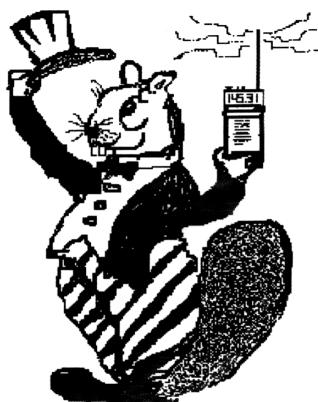
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THE NET LIST

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 May B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held Thursday the 8th at 7:30 PM. This month we will have John Rodgers N3MSE as guest speaker. As you well know John is the ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. This will be an excellent opportunity to ask any League related issues you may have in addition to hearing an excellent presentation by John. See you there.

TERRORIST ALERTNESS DEMONSTRATION

The Ellwood City ARA has invited the Beaver Valley ARA to attend a demonstration presented by the Ellwood City Police and Fire Departments. Topic is Terrorist Alertness and will be held on Sunday May 9, 2003 at the Wellness Center in Ellwood City. If you are interested in attending or have any questions please contact Debbie KB3EAQ on the 145.31 W3SGJ machine or at 724-758-4074.

TEE SHIRT AND HAT ORDERS

All those who have ordered hats or tee shirts from Phyllis N3KUG should be aware that your tee shirt or hat will be available at the May club meeting. Please have the money for your order at that time so Phyllis is not "out of pocket". Thank you.

FIELD DAY RAPIDLY APPROACHES

Before we know it Field Day weekend will be upon us again. Friday June 27th we will kick off the weekend with setting up stations and stringing antennas before our covered dish dinner. The number of stations and equipment need still needs to be addressed. However we still have two more meetings to complete this planning. Lets make this the best year yet.

HAMS NIGHT OUT

This month we are planning to hold our "Ham's Night Out" at the Kings Chinese Buffet in Chippewa, across from the Kmart plaza. So plan on dining out with us at 5:00 PM on Saturday May 9th. Bring your appetite!

ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager:

John V. Rodgers, N3MSE

n3mse@arrl.org

Well Spring is finally upon us and with it many opportunities for severe weather. I encourage each of you to contact your local emergency coordinator to determine if there is a Skywarn training class being offered in your area. I attended a class last year with the BVARA club in which Rich Kane of

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the National Weather Service was the instructor. This class was highly informative and provided a good foundation for individuals to become Skywarn observers. I also would like to remind everyone that with the assistance of several grants individuals may take the Emergency communications classes the ARRL is offering and upon successful completion be reimbursed the cost of the class. These classes are normally \$45 for members and the member will get that money back when completed. This is actually more than the cost of membership in the ARRL and also shows support for the league. If you know someone that does not belong to the ARRL encourage them to join. For those of you participating in the various courses and need assistance with any aspect contact your emergency coordinator for help and if you do not get a response then contact either myself at n3mse@arrl.org or Section Emergency Coordinator Rich Beaver at shay@verizon.net for assistance. Rich also has a need for individuals in several counties that would be interested in the position of emergency coordinator for the county. If you are interested in any of these functions contact Rich for additional information.

On April 26 I will be attending the Atlantic Division cabinet meeting with Director Fuller, Vice Director Edgar and the other section managers of our division. This is an opportunity we take each year to discuss ways in which we can better serve the members we represent in our individual sections. Any member here in Western Pennsylvania that has an area of concern they would like to see addressed at the meeting is asked to contact me no later than April 24. On Monday April 28 the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena and myself will be attending a VOAD meeting with PEMA in Harrisburg. Eric and I represent the amateur radio services of the ARRL in Pennsylvania. If there is any item in that venue you would like to have answered please let me know.

In just two short months field day will once again be upon us. Many clubs will be planning their activities in the next few weeks. I will once again make an effort to visit with several clubs during the field day operations so please contact me with an invitation and directions if you would like me to try to stop by during the weekend. Also remember that you receive bonus points for sending a piece of formal traffic to me with appropriate information. Check the rules for the content of the message. The traffic can best be sent with the WPA Phone and Traffic net, our section net, on 3983 Hz every evening at 6 P.M. local time. They will accept the messages for me if I am not on the net. Also remember to order early your field day pins and shirts as they always sell out and this years are very attractive.

I also have available some dates for speaking at club events. This year once again I plan on attending every hamfest in the section. I have several club speaking engagements on my calendar and will try to fill all requests. Education Assistant section manager Bruce Watson, AA3LX, has been preparing several PowerPoint presentations on various subjects for club talks. These can be made available by one of us to present at a

club meeting. We can also provide a copy to others for use. Currently there are programs available for traffic handling, the scout radio merit badge, qsling and a few others. Anyone with topics of interest for consideration is asked to contact me directly.

Join us nightly at 6 PM on the section Western Pennsylvania Phone and Traffic net at 3983 Hz. Help us to provide the service to the people of our communities. If you are interested in any field organization positions please get in touch with me and I will forward your request to the proper section level leader. Any problem questions or concerns can be sent to me for assistance and I will again get with the proper leader to attempt to resolve. 73 - John Rodgers N3MSE W. Pa. Section Manager n3mse@arrl.org

==>HAM RADIO "CC&R BILL" REINTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

Another Congressional attempt is under way to provide relief to amateurs prevented by private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) from installing outdoor antennas. Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) has again introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" into the current session of Congress. The measure, designated HR 1478, would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

In remarks introducing HR 1478, Israel said passage of his bill not only would assist Amateur Radio operators but society as a whole. "Organized Amateur Radio operators--or "hams"--regularly provide emergency communication when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster," Israel pointed out. The growth of developed communities has put a growing number of hams under an "array of inconsistent regulations," he said, that make it harder and harder--or altogether impossible--to erect the necessary antennas.

"Not allowing hams the equipment they need could restrict communication to the local community in similar situations in the future." Israel said his bill "seeks to ensure the continued viability of Amateur Radio through consistent application of federal regulations."

The one-sentence measure is identical to the text of the CC&R bill that was introduced in the last Congress: "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."

HR 1478 has bipartisan support. Leading the list of 13 initial cosponsors for the measure are Reps Greg Walden,

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WB7OCE, (R-OR) and Mike Ross, WD5DVR, (D-AR)--believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in Congress. Joining them are representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Marion Berry (D-AR), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Ralph Hall (D-TX), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Michael McNulty (D-NY), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Charles Taylor (R-NC) and Patrick Tiberi (R-OH).

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was happy to see the bill back before Congress. "Of course I am very pleased that Rep Israel has reintroduced the bill," Haynie said. "The League can do the mechanics, but it is now up to our members to write their elected representative and urge support and ask that they cosponsor and support the bill." Haynie noted that the League has recently ramped up its efforts to educate members of Congress about Amateur Radio, but he said lawmakers respond best to individual members.

HR 1478 has been assigned to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Information about the bill and a sample letter to use when contacting your representative are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>>.

==>COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR COSPONSORS SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

The chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee, Montana Republican Conrad Burns, has signed on as a cosponsor of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, Senate Bill 537. The commitment by Burns, the expected architect of the Senate's spectrum management legislation, indicates that the measure--an ARRL initiative on its third attempt in Congress--now has his attention. Burns' cosponsorship also could convince others to follow suit.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis filed the House version of the bill, HR 713, on February 12, while Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version, S 537, on March 6.

The legislation would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. Bilirakis and Crapo, both Republicans, have twice before sponsored similar legislation at the League's recommendation.

The bills point out Amateur Radio's volunteer role in providing emergency communication "before, during, and after floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires, earthquakes, blizzards, train accidents, chemical spills, and other disasters." They also note that FCC actions "have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

A Billings, Montana, amateur with a professional and personal relationship with Burns--ARRL member Terry Whiteside, W7WWW--was instrumental in calling the senator's attention to the measure. A transportation attorney, Whiteside called the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act "a natural" for inclusion in spectrum management and reform legislation expected to come out of this session of Congress.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has encouraged League members to urge their senators and representatives and to cosponsor the bills. Cosponsorship lends support to legislation while it's in committee. The House bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet; the Senate bill will be considered by the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. "Letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed," Haynie says. So far, there are three Senate and 15 House cosponsors.

A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>. The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

==>PETTIT, BOWERSOX SHARE ARISS SCHOOL QSO DUTIES

US astronauts Don Pettit, KD5MDT, and Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, handled separate Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school QSOs March 26. In the morning (UTC), Pettit answered 20 questions put to him by students at Japan's Higashi Kaneko Junior High School. Later that day, Bowersox, the Expedition 6 crew commander, did the same for the Selnica Primary School in Slovenia, where the control operator asked the questions. The second contact marked the first ARISS QSO involving a school in Slovenia.

"During the course of our mission, we will celebrate two birthdays in space," Pettit informed one of the students in Japan who had asked if the crew had planned any parties in space. "We have already celebrated the birthday of our commander, and in April, we will be celebrating my birthday." Actually, Bowersox turned 46 last November 14, just before the crew launched on its journey to the ISS. Pettit will be 48 on April 20. Pettit told the students that he was just 12 when he decided to become an astronaut.

Pettit said he would be able to see Japan from space but there are no windows in the Service Module, where the NA1SS ham gear is located. Pettit said he spends his free time mostly doing science projects and catching up on his notes on his computer.

The aurora borealis--the northern lights--is quite a sight when viewed from space, Pettit said. "The northern aurora is most beautiful!" he exclaimed. "It reminds me of a glowing cloud in the sky. I can't think of any other natural event that is more

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beautiful than aurora." Seventeen students participated in the contact from 8N1ISS.

Students at the Selnica Primary School in Slovenia enjoyed listening in on an evening space chat with Bowersox during which they could also see the spacecraft passing overhead. The ARISS QSO was a public event, with a local Boy Scout club station, S59TTT, set up in a camping trailer in the schoolyard. Scoutmaster Ivan Dobnik, S51DI, doubled as control operator and quizmaster.

Bowersox said the most beautiful views from space are during the nighttime portion of the space stations's orbit-- when the crew can see the stars--and at times of sunrise and sunset. Bowersox--who's known by his nickname "Sox" within the Astronaut Corps--said he sleeps very well in microgravity. "It's almost like having the perfect bed," he declared. He also was asked if any of the other astronauts snore. "I sleep so well, I've never heard never heard anyone snore here," he said.

Bowersox said he really enjoyed the food aboard the ISS, but with such a beautiful view out the window, "the food doesn't matter so much." The crew is growing some bean plants and some herbs as part of its scientific research, he explained in reply to another query.

Questions regarding personal hygiene have become more common. The contact with Slovenia included one about shaving in space. "The actual process of shaving doesn't feel that great," Bowersox said, adding that it's good to have a clean face. He also told those gathered in Slovenia that he expects construction of the remainder of the ISS to continue, although he noted that NASA is re-evaluating those plans at present.

Some 130 schoolchildren, parents, teachers, the city mayor and several radio amateurs turned out for the occasion.

ARISS is an international program with support from ARRL, NASA and AMSAT.

==>NASA NAMES EXPEDITION 7 CREW FOR ISS

As expected, NASA has named veteran Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and veteran NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, as the International Space Station's Expedition 7 primary crew. Malenchenko, 41--who will be the crew commander--and Lu, 39, will be the first two-person ISS crew increment and the first primary crew to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. Plans call for an April 26 launch from Kazakhstan.

Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR--originally set to be the third person on the new crew--and NASA astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, are the back-up crew members for Expedition 7. All four have been training in Russia.

Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis STS-114 mission, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, will return to Earth aboard a Soyuz craft in May. They have been in space since November 23. NASA's shuttle fleet remains on the ground as the space agency continues to investigate the February 1 Columbia tragedy that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

The fresh crew will remain in space until October, when a new crew will be sent up. NASA has said that until the space shuttle returns to flight-ready status pending the outcome of the Columbia accident investigation, Russian Soyuz vehicles will handle ISS crew rotations.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, has said that despite the reduction in crew size, NASA has told the ARISS team that it may continue to schedule one or two ARISS school group contacts per week. ARISS school contacts typically go on hiatus during a crew changeover, however. The grounding of the shuttle fleet also means that plans to transport new ham gear to the ISS will have to be put on hold.

==>ARRL KICKS OFF WRC-03 SPECTRUM DEFENSE CAMPAIGN ON WEB

As preparations for this summer's World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) head into the home stretch, ARRL this week launched a special WRC-03 campaign <<http://www.arrl.org/defense>> to help generate the funds needed to continue the defense of Amateur Radio spectrum. Issues that affect amateurs, such as the Amateur Radio/International Broadcasting overlap on 40 meters and the desire of commercial interests to expand their slices of spectrum are on the table and will be decided.

"While much of what happens at international conferences may seem very far away to the average ham, the decisions made at WRC-03 will have a dramatic impact on every ham in the country," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "The totality of these issues is huge for Amateur Radio."

Hobart said Amateur Radio needs to present "its best face and voice" to the various parties and interests that gather for WRC-03 in Geneva. The new WRC-03 campaign, which is aimed at making that possible, takes a twofold tack. "We are reaching out to ARRL members by mail and on the Web to contribute before May 30," she explained. The secure Web site features a detailed letter <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/index.html>> from ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"A contribution toward a healthy future for ham radio is just a click or two away," Hobart noted. Contributors also may mail in donations by check, if they wish.

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Hobart points out that over the last several years, the "relentless efforts of ARRL in Washington, DC, and at international conferences" have led to the fund's depletion on the eve of the most important international radio conference in a decade. She stated that Amateur Radio must have strength and resolve when ARRL and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <<http://www.iaru.org/>> representatives go to the conference.

"It is only through the continuing efforts of all hams--ARRL members and non-members alike--that a successful defense and promotion of Amateur Radio can take place in the face of commercial and governmental parties, which have very deep pockets," Hobart said.

In his letter, Sumner notes that close to 2000 delegates from nearly every country in the world will take part in the conference. In addition to the pressing problem of the overlap at 40 meters, international broadcasters are claiming they need additional spectrum in the 4 to 10 MHz range—the top end of 75 meters could be affected.

Sumner adds that satellite-borne radar systems and the so-called "Little LEO" satellites are also on the WRC-03 agenda, and decisions on these issues could affect amateur spectrum. In addition, broadband wireless devices, third-party traffic and the extent to which amateur licensing standards will be recognized in the international regulations also will be discussed and adjudicated.

WRC-03 takes place in Geneva June 9 through July 4.

==>FCC OPENS RECEIVER INTERFERENCE IMMUNITY INQUIRY

The FCC wants to know how it can incorporate receiver interference immunity specifications within its overall spectrum policy. In a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket 03-65, released March 24, the FCC seeks public comments on possible methods and means of improving receiver performance. The Commission suggests that these could include incentives, guidelines or regulatory requirements—or a combination of all three.

"From a technical standpoint, a radio receiver's susceptibility to interference is largely dependent on the interference immunity of the device, particularly with regard to its rejection of undesired radio frequency (RF) energy and signals," the FCC said in its introduction to the NOI. While expressing its reluctance "to implement a new regulatory regime" of mandatory receiver standards, the Commission said it believes incorporating receiver performance specifications could "promote more efficient utilization of the spectrum and create opportunities for new and additional use of radio communications."

The FCC said the NOI builds upon the recent work of its Spectrum Policy Task Force, which looked at ways to

improve overall radio spectrum management. The ARRL commented on the Task Force report and plans to comment in the receiver interference immunity NOI as well.

While the NOI does not specifically address interference from Amateur Radio transmitters to consumer TV and radio receivers, the FCC does seek information describing the interference immunity characteristics of "receivers used in the various radio services." With respect to broadcast sets, the FCC suggests in its NOI that set manufacturers have been doing a pretty good job all along.

The FCC seeks comments on "the desirability of developing minimum interference immunity performance specifications for broadcast receivers." But it added that the Commission has no plans to reverse its "longstanding practice of allowing the market to determine the performance of broadcast receivers, with the Commission stepping in only where obvious deficiencies appear" that could disrupt reception.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said he'd prefer that the Commission "rely on market incentives and voluntary industry programs to establish receiver immunity guidelines."

The FCC Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-65 is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-54A6.doc>. Although it has not formally been posted for the filing of comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the system is accepting comments. The formal comment period concludes 75 days from publication of the NOI in the Federal Register, which has not yet happened. The FCC does not post such dockets for electronic comments until publication occurs.

==>"SPACE IS BEAUTIFUL!" BOWERSOX TELLS UK YOUNGSTERS VIA HAM RADIO

Youngsters from Rushey Mead Secondary School in the United Kingdom gathered at the National Space Centre in Leicester April 4 for a quick ham radio chat with Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP. The contact was arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Students participating from the comprehensive secondary school ranged in age from 11 to 16. The school also has its own Amateur Radio Club. John Heath, G7HIA, operated the National Space Centre's GB2NSC club station for the occasion.

"Space is beautiful," Bowersox rhapsodized in response to one youngster's question. "It's black with the stars dotting everywhere. It's gorgeous." The Expedition 6 crew commander said the space station occupants don't have TV to watch for entertainment. "We look out the window at the earth," he said. When the crew members tire of that, there are CDs and books aboard.

Bowersox noted that he has wanted to be an astronaut since he was seven years old and trained five years for his current

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mission. Answering an oft-asked question about how the crew keeps clean in space, Bowersox explained that the astronauts and cosmonauts use towels moistened with soap and water to wash themselves.

In all, 12 youngsters put questions to Bowersox during the direct ARISS contact that ran under five minutes compared to the usual 10 minutes, although the ISS remained in nominal range for the full period. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, speculated that the problem may have been a result of having to arrange the contact on short notice and not having optimal Earth-station antennas in place.

Howard Long, G6LVB, offers audio and video recordings of the event and additional photos on his Web site <<http://www.g6lvb.com/issmedia.htm>>.

The crew's next Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact is scheduled for April 14 with Lounsberry Hollow Middle School in New Jersey.

ARISS is an international project with support from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.--some information from Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

==>FCC WARNS AMATEURS: UNLICENSED OPERATION COULD COST YOUR HAM TICKET

The FCC has let a trio of Idaho amateurs know that unlicensed operation outside Amateur Radio frequencies could lead to revocation of their ham tickets. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth recently wrote three Boise amateurs, citing allegations that they had transmitted without a license on several 11-meter frequencies.

"Information before the Commission indicates that you have transmitted without a license on 26.350, 27.420 and 27.700 MHz using SSB and SSTV," Hollingsworth said. He pointed out that, in addition to revocation proceedings, fines for unlicensed operation normally range from \$7500 to \$10,000. Letters went out March 17 to Dave Every, KD7QAS; John F. Hail, KD7QAW; and Tom M. Sjoberg, KD7RCS. Every holds a General ticket, while Hail and Sjoberg are Technician licensees. Hollingsworth says he understands that the unlicensed operations have ceased. The three frequencies involved are below and above the Citizens Band.

An Ohio ham, Dave K. Childers, N8QGI, also heard from Hollingsworth March 18 in a case involving alleged obscene or indecent transmissions last December on 27.115 MHz--CB channel 13. Hollingsworth did not raise the issue of unlicensed operation in that case, but he did spell out the FCC's position on the transmission of obscene or indecent words or language. He also requested Childers, a Technician licensee, to respond to the complaint within 20 days and indicated that a tape recording would be made available to him upon request.

Although the alleged Idaho and Ohio operations occurred on 11 meters, Hollingsworth said he contacted the four individuals only because it was determined that they were FCC Amateur Radio Service licensees. Complaints in the Idaho cases came from the amateur community, Hollingsworth indicated.

The FCC also sent a Warning Notice March 24 to Anthony L. Basile, N3HFB, of Pennsylvania, citing "monitoring information" indicating that the licensee has been deliberately interfering with three 2-meter repeater systems in his area. Hollingsworth warned of fines and revocation proceedings and said that until the matter is resolved, the FCC would not routinely renew Basile's Advanced class license, which expires in September. A similar Warning Notice went out March 18 to Tech Plus licensee Erin J. Rourke, N0KCN, of North Dakota, alleging deliberate interference to a 2-meter repeater in the Fargo area.

In another enforcement case, Hollingsworth has notified Drew B. Feldman of Los Angeles that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau had set aside his Amateur Radio license KG6PFC. "That action is based upon complaints about the operation of your station," Hollingsworth wrote March 18. In May 2000, the FCC canceled Feldman's Tech Plus ticket, N3KSO, after he failed to appear as requested for re-examination. Feldman subsequently retested for the Technician license and was issued KG6PFC on February 20. Following the complaints, the FCC canceled the grant a month later.

==>ARRL, NASA SPOTLIGHT ARISS AT SCIENCE TEACHERS' GATHERING

Student-to-astronaut communication via the ARISS program got a boost recently from ARRL Education and Technology Project Coordinator Jerry Hill, KH6HU, during the National Science Teachers Association national conference. Hill helped to staff the NASA booth during the gathering March 27-30 in Philadelphia.

"My function at the conference was to sign up teachers for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, plus represent the ARRL and talk up ham radio," Hill explained. "We signed up about 200 teachers and got them on the list. It can take over a year to get a contact date, but it's well worth it."

Accompanying Hill at the Philadelphia Convention Center was ARRL Education and Technology Program <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/> teacher Jim Kuhl, N2STK. Kuhl is a "Big Project" pilot program teacher at Central Square Middle School in New York. "Jim was a big help," Hill said. "He's made an ARISS contact before and had Amateur Radio right in his classroom. Having him there lent tremendous credibility to the program."

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During the NSTA gathering, more than 14,000 secondary school instructors had a chance to learn about ARISS <http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/arissfaq.html>, an international project with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA. Among other benefits, ARISS provides an opportunity for students to talk directly with crew members of the International Space Station (ISS)--a unique educational experience. ARISS also is responsible for the Amateur Radio equipment at NA1SS, the first permanent ham radio station in space onboard the ISS.

Hill said teachers he spoke with were very enthusiastic about the ARISS program, especially once they realized that direct contact with the ISS was a real possibility. "They get pretty excited at that point," he said. "It just blows their minds."

==>IRAQI AMATEUR OPERATION REPORTED

The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> this week reported that Jim Dunkerton, KT4CK, of Tennessee, has been active from the Middle East on 15 meters SSB. On April 6, he was giving his location as somewhere in the desert of the Middle East, but the following day, he was identifying as YI/KT4CK and saying he was in the desert of Southern Iraq. The Daily DX says that John Shelton, K1XN, has confirmed that Dunkerton is--or has been--with the 101st Airborne, reported by CNN this week as being near Karbala in Central Iraq.

Several stations have reported working or hearing YI/KT4CK between 1400 and 1600 UTC. SV1GRH spotted YI/KT4CK at 1438 UTC on April 7 on 21.312.5 MHz and noted that he was looking for US stations but, The Daily DX quoted SV1GRH as saying that YI/KT4CK was not getting many replies.

Meanwhile, The Daily DX says Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, now is in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation. He has been in Turkey, very close to the Turkish/Iraqi border, for the last month and awaits his next UN World Food Program assignment--which could be inside war-torn Iraq.

==>HAM-ASTRONAUTS COMPLETE 6.5-HOUR SPACEWALK

US astronauts Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, and Don Pettit, KD5MDT, this week completed the second and final spacewalk of their International Space Station duty tour. Cosmonaut and Flight engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, assisted from inside the ISS during the "extra-vehicular activity" or EVA on April 8.

NASA said the two Expedition 6 crew members were taking advantage of the final days of a three-person presence on the ISS before a new, two-person crew takes over. The Expedition 7 crew of cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and veteran NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, is set to inhabit the ISS starting next month.

During the spacewalk, which ran just under 6-1/2 hours, NASA says that Bowersox, the Expedition 6 commander, and Pettit, the NASA ISS science officer, "continued the external outfitting of the station and rerouted power cables to two of the station's control moment gyros (CMGs)." The CMGs provide orientation control for the ISS from the US segment. One CMG failed almost a year ago, and the cable reconfiguration to the remaining CMGs will prevent both from being disabled in the unlikely event a power failure occurs.

NASA said the work included "a number of get-ahead tasks for future ISS assembly." The grounding of the shuttle fleet is expected to affect the ISS construction schedule. The EVA this week was the second for each American, who managed separate and joint tasks.

Among other work during their EVA, Bowersox and Pettit finally deployed--with some difficulty and the use of a hammer--a balky light stanchion on the S1 truss that failed to unfurl during their previous spacewalk in January. They installed a light on the stanchion to illuminate the truss during future EVAs. With all of their scheduled tasks completed, Bowersox and Pettit still had time left over to retrieve some tools for future spacewalks from external locations before returning to the ISS.

NASA reports that Malenchenko and Lu completed final mission preparations before traveling to the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan from their training base in Star City, Russia. Once in Kazakhstan, they'll inspect the Soyuz TMA-2 vehicle that will carry them into space April 26 to begin a six-month ISS mission. It will mark the first time a primary ISS crew has been transported to the space station using the Russian transporter.

Russian flight controllers were scheduled to fire the engines on a Progress 10 cargo ship now docked to the ISS to raise the station's orbit by 2.6 kilometers (1.6 miles).

==>"ENHANCED SSB" BANDWIDTHS "EXTREMELY INCONSIDERATE," FCC SAYS

The FCC has sent advisory notices to four enthusiasts of what's become known as "enhanced SSB"--the practice of engineering transmitted single-sideband audio to approach broadcast quality. Letters went out earlier this month to amateurs in Illinois, Florida and New Jersey who are aficionados of enhanced SSB, also known as "upper wideband" and "lower wideband."

"The Commission has received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Paul Christensen, W9AC, John Anning, NU9N, Anthony Latin, W4NSG, and Sareno Salerno, W2ONV, on April 3. Hollingsworth said complaints to the FCC alleged that the bandwidths of the stations'

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enhanced SSB emissions were "wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"Wideband overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators," Hollingsworth said. Such transmissions may violate FCC rules and may be at odds with what Hollingsworth described as "the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

Occupying more bandwidth than necessary in a heavily used amateur band, Hollingsworth wrote, not only could generate ill will among operators but lead to petitions asking the FCC to establish bandwidth limits for amateur emissions. At present, the FCC imposes no specific bandwidth limits on various amateur modes.

Hollingsworth cited §97.307(a) of the Amateur Service rules that requires the signal of an amateur station not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." Some amateurs have complained that enhanced SSB signals can take up 8 kHz or more of spectrum, cause splatter and unnecessarily interfere with other stations.

"The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the Broadcast Service," Hollingsworth said, "and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound." Hollingsworth suggested the enhanced SSBers operate when the bands are less busy or on bands that are not heavily used.

The many complaints the FCC has been getting--20 or so per week--leads to the conclusion that the stations' enhanced SSB operation is having "a negative impact" on the Amateur Service, Hollingsworth said. He requested that the four amateurs "fully review the rules" and make sure their stations conform to them.

==>"SOX" BLASTS THROUGH 30 QUESTIONS FROM NEW JERSEY STUDENTS VIA HAM RADIO

International Space Station Expedition 6 Crew Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, deftly managed 30 questions put to him this week during a 10-minute Amateur Radio contact with 15 New Jersey students. The number of questions answered could be a record for a school group contact. The April 14 QSO with youngsters at Lounsberry Hollow Middle School <<http://www.vtsd.com/lhms/>> in Vernon was arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Bowersox--who's known as "Sox" within NASA's Astronaut Corps--answered the obviously well-rehearsed students' questions as quickly as they asked them.

Questions ranged from the usual, "What is your favorite space food?" to the more arcane, "What did you learn from your favorite experiment?" Another asked, "Do you have a telescope or binoculars on the ISS?" while a third asked how carbon dioxide was removed from the air inside the ISS.

Control operator John Santillo, N2HMM, reports that teachers at the northwestern New Jersey school were ecstatic about the smooth and speedy banter between Bowersox and the students. Reporters from a New York City TV station (WNBC-TV, channel 4), a local cable channel and two newspapers covered the event.

ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

In related news, a Russian Soyuz vehicle will transport a new two-person crew--Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, to the International Space Station April 25. Bowersox and his Expedition 6 crewmates, Don Pettit, KD5MDT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, are scheduled to leave the ISS aboard the Soyuz transporter in early May.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe told a congressional panel this week that the nation's shuttle fleet could return to flight before the end of the year. The space agency head thinks the independent investigation board looking into the shuttle Columbia disaster is just weeks away from recommending hardware and procedural improvements necessary to make the remaining three space shuttles safe to fly.--Gene Chapline, K5YFL/ARISS; AMSAT News Service; NASA

==>"BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE" POSES HF INTERFERENCE THREAT

The FCC soon will invite public comment on the concept of using existing electrical power lines to deliver Internet and broadband service to homes and offices. The Commission initiated a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket 03-104 when it met April 23. What the FCC calls "Broadband over Power Line" (BPL) is a form of carrier-current technology typically known as power line communication (PLC). Whatever its name, the technology is raising serious interference concerns within the Amateur Radio community, since BPL would apply high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid. One aspect of the NOI is to gather information on potential interference effects on authorized spectrum users.

"Entire communities will be affected, so every amateur in that community could have part of the radiating system 'next door' on the power wiring on his or her street," cautioned ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. Hare chairs the PLC Work Group of the IEEE C63 Accredited Standards Committee on Electromagnetic Compatibility <<http://c63.ieee.org/>>.

The complete NOI has not yet been released, and until that happens, the FCC will not formally accept comments in the

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proceeding. The ARRL will be among those expected to submit detailed comments in ET 03-104.

So-called "access BPL" would use medium-voltage (1 kV to 40 kV) power lines to deliver Internet and broadband applications. Hare says access BPL is likely to be a more significant interference source than in-building PLC technology "because overhead electrical wiring is a much better antenna than the electrical wiring within a building."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, editorialized on the subject of PLC in "It Seems to Us . . ." in the October issue of 2002 QST. "Is it possible to do power line communications without causing interference to over-the-air communications?" Sumner asked. "Count us among the skeptics. What may be a fine transmission line at 60 Hz looks more like an antenna at HF." Hare said his own computer analyses of interference potential from access BPL/PLC suggest "a significant increase in noise levels" from deployed systems.

The FCC appears enthusiastic about BPL, however, saying it has the potential to "provide consumers with the freedom to access broadband services from any room in the house without adding or paying for additional connections." The Commission also touted BPL as "a competitive alternative to digital subscriber line and cable modem services."

New digital power line designs use multiple carriers spread over a wide frequency range--from 2 MHz up to 80 MHz--and capable of high data rates--up to 20 MB/s, the FCC said.

In addition to viewpoints on interference potential, the FCC also has requested comments on the current state of high-speed BPL technology, test results from BPL experimental sites, appropriate measurement procedure for testing emission characteristics for all types of carrier-current systems, changes that may be needed in Part 15 technical rules, and the equipment approval process to foster the development of BPL.

Tests of BPL are under way in several states, including Alabama, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Hare says ARRL Lab personnel will visit some of the test cities this spring to take field measurements to quantify the potential for interference to Amateur Radio operations.

BPL/PLC technology already has been deployed in some European countries, and amateurs there have complained about interference. Japan--responding in part to concerns expressed by its amateur community--decided last year not to adopt the technology because of its interference potential.

==>HAMS ABOUND ON UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM'S IRAQ "FAST INTERVENTION TEAM"

Several radio amateurs—including some of the world's top operators—are among United Nations World Food Program (WFP) "Fast Intervention Team" (FITTEST) personnel already in Iraq or poised nearby and expected to be inside the war-ravaged country very soon. FITTEST is responsible for building technical infrastructure to ensure WFP can move relief food supplies rapidly and safely. Any ham radio operations would be secondary to the WFP's efforts in Iraq, however.

Peter Casier, ON6TT—who's expected in Baghdad as early as next week—says the WFP will have a critical role in the post-conflict era in Iraq "where 60 percent of the population is dependent on external food aid." In ham radio circles, Casier may be better-known as a top contender and one of the operators of Afghanistan's YA5T after the US-led military action there in 2001.

Other YA5T alumni expected to soon be in Iraq as part of the WFP effort include Robert Kasca, S53R—the last UN international staff person evacuated from Iraq before the conflict—Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, and Mats Persson, SM7PKK. Casier and Demeuleneere paired up at World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) events in 2000 and 2002. Kasca was director of competition for WRTC 2000. Casier says he, Kasca and Dane Novarlic, S57CQ, were on the air from Iraq until just before the war broke out.

Casier reports that Diya Sayah, YI1DZ—one of the primary operators at the Baghdad Radio Club's YI1BGD and the WFP's Baghdad telecommunications officer—is safe and well in Iraq.

FITTEST also has a mandate to install or build basic technical networks, Casier said, including such systems as VHF repeaters, satellite communications and HF fixed and mobile stations. The team also will set up radio rooms, rework administrative procedures, and assign call signs for all UN humanitarian-aid workers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—other international aid organizations.

Others ready to go include Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, who's in Turkey. Until last November Giorgadze had operated from North Korea as P5/4L4FN while on a WFP assignment in Pyongyang. Patrick Pointu, F5ORF, and Mark Tell, VK4KMT, among several other FITTEST team members who are radio amateurs.

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> reported this week that Willie Mohny, YI/KV4EB, has been operating daily on 15 meters at or around 21.270 MHz, moving to 20 meters—perhaps around 14.255.

==>TWO-HAM CREW SET TO FLY TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Space veterans Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, were

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scheduled to head into space this weekend to assume the reins of the International Space Station (ISS) as its Expedition 7 crew. Crew commander Malenchenko, 41, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Lu, 39, will be the first two-person ISS crew increment and the first primary crew to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. Their Soyuz TMA-2 vehicle is scheduled to launch April 26, at approximately 0354 UTC from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They'll arrive aboard the ISS April 28. The two crews will spend six days together on the ISS.

Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis STS-114 mission, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, will return to Earth aboard the Soyuz TMA-1 craft that's now attached to the space station. They're scheduled to land on May 3 in Kazakhstan. Bowersox, Budarin and Pettit have been in space since November 23.

NASA says that with the arrival of the Expedition 7 crew just days away, the Expedition 6 crew has been preparing for "handover" activities this week. On April 23, the crew conducted a motion control system test in the Soyuz TMA-1 that Expedition 6 crew will use to return to Earth.

Malenchenko and Lu will remain in space until October. NASA has said that until the space shuttle returns to flight-ready status pending the outcome of the Columbia accident investigation, Russian Soyuz vehicles will handle ISS crew rotations. NASA Chief Sean O'Keefe said this week, however, that he expects the shuttle fleet to be space-ready by year's end. NASA continues to investigate the February 1 shuttle Columbia tragedy that claimed the lives of seven astronauts, three of them Amateur Radio licensees.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says NASA has okayed a schedule of one or two ARISS school group contacts per week, despite the reduction in crew size. The grounding of the shuttle fleet could put a crimp in plans to deliver new ham radio gear to the ISS this year, however.

==>FCC ALLEGES MICHIGAN HAM ENGAGED IN DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, THREATS

The FCC alleges that a Michigan ham engaged in deliberate interference and broadcasting and threatened other amateurs, and it's sending Michael Guernsey Sr, ND8V, of Parchment a tape recording to back up those assertions. Since late 1998, Guernsey has been the recipient of seven letters from FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, including two warning notices. In 2000, the FCC threatened to designate Guernsey's license for a revocation and suspension hearing. Guernsey subsequently agreed to a nine-month suspension of his HF privileges in 2001.

"The operation of your station over the last several years raises questions about your qualifications to remain a Commission licensee," Hollingsworth wrote Guernsey on April 7. The latest flap primarily involves complaints from other amateurs of deliberate interference on 20 meters. The recorded transmissions were made on March 26, 2003.

In his letter, Hollingsworth noted that some of the interference apparently sprang from on-the-air personal disputes or from what Guernsey perceived as deliberate interference to his transmissions. Even so, Hollingsworth said, Guernsey has apparently ignored the Commission's written and verbal warnings to not retaliate with similar behavior. Hollingsworth advised Guernsey that the alleged deliberate retaliatory threats and transmissions on top of other QSOs are contrary to FCC rules "and indicate that the numerous warnings to date have little, if any, effect in regarding to bringing your operation into compliance with Commission rules."

Hollingsworth requested that Guernsey review the tape recording and respond in writing and in detail within 20 days. He said the FCC will use the information Guernsey submits to decide whether to designate Guernsey's license for a suspension and revocation proceeding or to lift voice privileges from Guernsey's license for the remainder of his license term, which ends in 2012.

In a related letter, Hollingsworth issued similar words of caution to George Zardecki, N9VTB, of Chicago, with whom, he says, Guernsey has squabbled on the air. While Hollingsworth indicated that he would review and take action regarding Zardecki's deliberate interference complaints, he advised Zardecki that "in several instances, your own conduct was as bad or worse than the party about whom you complained." He cautioned Zardecki against retaliatory interference, slander and name calling.

==>DXCC TO ACCEPT IRAQ PORTABLE OPERATIONS APPROVED BY COMMANDING OFFICERS

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been

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active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN--now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall--will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

==>IN BRIEF:

* **STORY Sudan operation is QRT:** The STORY Sudan DXpedition shut down this week, a bit earlier than expected, after logging more than 49,000 QSOs. Pilot station, Bernd Koch, DF3CB, says the last QSO was March 31 at 1745 UTC, a bit earlier than expected. "The last news and logs were sent from an Internet cafe in Khartoum," he said. DF3CB has prepared an online QSL request form for those seeking STORY cards via the bureau. It's available on the STORY Sudan DXpedition Web site <<http://www.df3cb.com/stOry>>, which includes more information and photos. STORY was active in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest over the March 29-30 weekend. Demand for STORY was heavy. Most-wanted lists put Sudan in the top 20.--some information from The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>>

* **Baghdad ham club station dismantled prior to bombing:** The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> relays information from Diya Sayah, YI1DZ--one of the primary operators at the Baghdad Radio Club YI1BGD station in Baghdad. Sayah reported just prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq that he had dismantled the YI1BGD station equipment and stored it in a safe place--if there can be such a location in the besieged capital city at this point. The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, says he doubts there will be any activity in the near future from YI1BGD "much less any other YI stations." The YI1BGD club station went on the air in the 1970s. The Iraqi Association for Radio Amateurs (IARA) remains an International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society. Its president is Adnan M. Aswad, YI1DX.

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