
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

December 2002

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

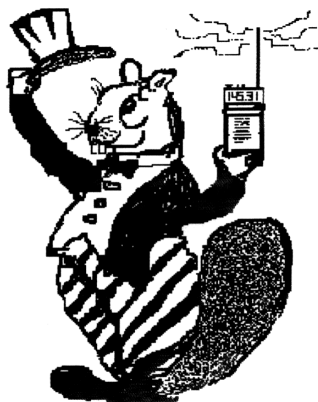
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petrucci/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petrucci

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ....Debbie Reid



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 December Club meeting will be held during our annual Christmas Party.

B.V.A.R.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plan on joining us for the annual Club Christmas Party, to be held at Hoss's Restaurant located on Beaver Grade Road in Moon Twp. Day and time are Thursday December 12th at 7:00 PM. Debbie KB3EAQ assures us there will be plenty of surprises and hopes for a good turn out. Among the surprises will be the presentation of the B.V.A.R.A.'s "Ham of the Year Award".

CONGRATULATIONS

The B.V.A.R.A. wishes its sincerest congratulations to Bernie Fuller N3EFN and John Rodgers N3MSE on their recent re-election as Atlantic Division Director and WPA Section Manager respectively.

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday December 7th, 2002 at the Community College of Beaver County's Aviation Science building located at 125 Cessna Drive, (Chippewa Twp.) Beaver Falls, PA.

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

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

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

All classes of amateur radio license tests will be administered. CW tests will **NO LONGER** be multiple choice.

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

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

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

WIRES II UPDATE

As mentioned in the previous issue of "The QRM", and at our last Club meeting, the W3SGJ repeater has been selected by Vertex-Standard/Yaesu as a recipient of its new WIRES II repeater/internet linking package. Plans to install on the 145.31 machine are progressing. Most of the hardware, computer, etc..., are ready or near ready to go. The internet connection is an obstacle we are addressing at this time. It is our hope to have this matter resolved shortly.

A section will be added to the Club Web Page in the near future with updates and listings of other repeaters joining the family of registered machines.

2003 DUES NOW DUE

Please be advised that Club dues are now due. You will find an application on the back of this news letter or on our web page. Please use this application when sending in your dues to aid our Treasurer in keeping his records straight. Thank you.

FOR SALE

KENWOOD TS930S HF TRANSCEIVER with automatic antenna tuner, quad conversion IF, 150 watts output, & operators manual. Excellent condition. \$775.00

Contact Walt Witten - 724-728-2975 - x415@attbi.com

==>NEW CC&R BILL COSPONSORS CONTINUE TO STEP FORWARD

Despite the fact that action on the CC&R bill, HR 4720, is highly unlikely as the current session of Congress winds down, additional cosponsors continue to register their support for the measure. The latest--representatives Todd Platts (R-PA), Larry Combest (R-TX), Duke Cunningham (R-CA), and Mary Bono (R-CA)--raise the total cosponsor count to 34.

The recent spurt in cosponsors may have resulted from an eleventh-hour initiative in late September, when the bill's sponsor, Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), and the only two amateurs in the US House of Representatives—Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR) and Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--appealed by letter to their colleagues who had not already done so to agree to cosponsor the measure.

HR 4720 is aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. No more votes will occur until a post-election "lame duck" session that begins November 12 to complete several appropriations, homeland security and other high-profile bills. Another lame duck session in December also is possible.

With further progress on the bill unlikely this year, the effort to secure a congressional solution to the CC&R issue will start all over again after the new Congress convenes in January. The current list of HR 4720 cosponsors and more information are available on the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page of the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720>>.

==>NTIA STUDY IS BAD NEWS FOR SAVI 425-435 MHz PROPOSALS

A National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) study supports the ARRL's position that the FCC would be making a mistake to permit SAVI Technology to deploy RF identification (RFID) tag devices at 433 MHz at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices. RFID tags are used for tracking shipments and packages, among other applications.

"NTIA has grave concerns about the Commission's proposal to amend its Part 15 rules to permit the operation of RFID tags in the band 425-435 MHz at increased power levels and increased duty factor (or activity factor) and data transmission by remote control devices," wrote Fredrick R. Wentland, the NTIA's acting associate administrator in the Office of Spectrum Management. "Given the likelihood of interference to critical government radars, NTIA is unable to support the Commission's proposal."

The NTIA filed initial comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 01-278, last March but requested additional time to document an NTIA staff study with respect to field strength limits for RFID tags in the band.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the NTIA staff study bears out what the League has been saying all along. "RFID tags represent a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers," Sumner said, adding that use of the 425-435 MHz band would be incompatible with ongoing requirements of incumbent services--military and amateur. "We trust that the FCC will now terminate this portion of the proceeding and that the RFID proponents will focus their attention on other, more appropriate parts of the radio spectrum."

That's exactly what the NTIA advised. It recommended that the FCC "explore other bands that might be able to accommodate the technology without causing unacceptable interference to critical incumbent users." Among the

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suggestions was 450 to 470 MHz, which provides nearly the same propagation characteristics as the band SAVI picked. The NTIA also noted that 902 to 928 MHz--an amateur allocation--or 2400 to 2483.5 MHz--which includes part of an amateur microwave allocation--might accommodate the proposed RFID tags as spread spectrum devices.

Accompanying Wentland's letter was a six-page NTIA technical analysis. The study asserts that the FCC's proposal to permit increased duty cycles and field strengths for the 425-435 MHz RFID emitters "would result in received power levels in excess of the required interference-to-noise ratio" that could adversely affect "critical government radar systems."

SAVI this week filed its own detailed study that rebuts the NTIA's position. SAVI suggested it would be willing to have the FCC limit the available band for "advanced RFID" products to 433 to 435 MHz, lower the peak-to-average ratio to 14 dB, strengthen the definition of RFID products to add language forbidding voice transmissions and limit use of RFIDs to "commercial or industrial locations."

More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the ARRL's position that the proposed rules are flawed and should not be adopted. A copy of the NTIA letter and study and SAVI's rebuttal study in ET Docket 01-278 are available via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System page <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Click on "Search for Filed Comments" and enter "01-278" in the "Proceeding" field.

==>PHILLY YOUNGSTERS MEET ASTRONAUT PEGGY WHITSON VIA HAM RADIO

US Astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, told students in Philadelphia that she thinks it's possible there's life on other planets somewhere in the universe. Using NAISS aboard the International Space Station October 22, Whitson answered several questions from youngsters attending Spruce Hill Christian School. The contact was arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project.

"Actually, I think with the thousands and thousands of universes that we can see," Whitson said, "and knowing that there are even thousands and thousand more that we can't, I think that on all those planets somewhere there probably is going to be life somewhere else--maybe not exactly like ours, but I imagine there's going to be some kind of life."

Whitson said one of the most "fun" things she does aboard the ISS is look out the window. "Seeing the earth from this vantage point of over 200 miles above the earth is really impressive. It's really a beautiful place that we live on, and I think we take it for granted sometimes, when we live there." She said she also enjoys exercise--a necessity for long-term spaceflight. "We obviously aren't exposed to the effects of

gravity, so we have to work very hard to maintain our physical fitness," she said.

Life in microgravity leads to demineralization of bones, Whitson explained. When the Expedition 5 crew returns to Earth next month, she said, it will take months before their bones return to normal. The crew likely will recover much more quickly from the other aftereffects of several months in space, she added, such as the dizziness or lightheadedness experienced by some returning astronauts.

The ARISS QSO got off to an uncertain start when Whitson and ground control operator Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Hawaii, apparently got on different frequencies. Initially, Rocheleau was able to copy NA1SS, but Whitson did not hear WH6PN. Once things got under way for real, the contact lasted a little more than seven minutes.

Remote audio between the school and the ISS via WH6PN in Hawaii was handled through a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit. Whitson, who is related to the wife of the school's principal, Seth Cohen, asked ARISS to arrange the Spruce Hill contact as a "crew pick." ARISS is an international project with US participation by NASA, ARRL and AMSAT.

==>TEXAS AMATEURS VOLUNTEER AS TORNADO STRIKES CORPUS CHRISTI

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers activated October 24 as a tornado struck Corpus Christi, Texas. One person died after a wall at the library of Del Mar College collapsed. The twister also caused perhaps two dozen other injuries as well as considerable property damage. ARRL South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, said the Texas Department of Public Safety was unable to get helicopters in to rescue stranded people due to the storm's turbulence. Gov Rick Perry declared a state of disaster for Corpus Christi and Nueces County.

The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Texas Men's Baptist Kitchen were among the responding organizations. According to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, feeding and shelter operations continue in the impacted areas.

SKYWARN volunteers and South Texas Amateur Repeater Club weather station N5CCW were activated in advance of the severe weather that hit Corpus Christi. ARRL South Texas District Emergency Coordinator Robert Lobaugh, W5JYJ, said rainwater runoff depth ranged from 18 inches to several feet, depending upon the location. He reported downed power lines and roads blocked by debris and water. ARES teams and individual amateurs assisted as needed, Taylor said.

The tornado swept through about three miles from the shop of Mark Mireles, AD5CA. "It was impressive," Mireles said of the tornado damage. "People here are not used to that type of thing." Mireles said the Corpus Christi emergency operations

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center was activated, and amateurs staffed the radio room from noon until 10 PM October 25 and from 8 AM until shortly before noon October 26. Anticipated severe weather from Hurricane Kenna failed to materialize, so emergency volunteers were able to stand down.

"We have been well-received by all the city officials, from the city manager to the police chief," Mireles said, "and I almost have the EMS director talked into becoming a ham." Amateurs made use of a networked repeater system to facilitate communication.

The Corpus Christi tornado was the most severe weather problem for the Lone Star State in a week that had included heavy rains and flooding elsewhere. According to Lobaugh, San Patricio County, some 30 miles north of Corpus Christi, suffered storm damage October 23. Roads were closed due to high water, and utility poles were downed. Power has since been restored, he said. Taylor said wet weather earlier in the week caused some residents in Seguin and Gonzales near the Guadalupe River to be evacuated. "The people in New Braunfels along the same river had to leave while they were in process of rebuilding from storm damage earlier this year," he added.

By the end of the week, the remnants of Hurricane Kenna exacerbated the situation in some areas after the storm dumped additional precipitation that led to more flooding in Pearland and possibly elsewhere. Weather problems continued this week as tornado and thunderstorm watches were in effect for more than a dozen Texas counties. Taylor reports that another tornado October 29 in the Beaumont area caused one death by drowning and did some damage.

The Hurricane Watch Net conducted an abbreviated session October 25 to disseminate Hurricane Kenna advisories. The eastern Pacific storm, once a treacherous Category 5 hurricane, moved across Mexico toward southern Texas. Well-known Cuban amateur and International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Area C Emergency Coordinator Arnie Coro, CO2KK, said Cuban amateurs monitored the Mexican emergency net on 7065 kHz during the storm.

==>ARRL RESURRECTS FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST

The Frequency Measuring Test (FMT)--an ARRL staple for nearly 50 years--will return in early November. A FMT transmission will replace the W1AW SSB bulletin on November 7, 0245 UTC (Wednesday, November 6, in US time zones). The resurrected FMT will kick off a series of measuring tests.

"These tests will exercise the capabilities of hams to measure important operating parameters, improve their understanding of complex radios and give them a better mental picture of their transmitted signals," Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, said in an October 2002 QST article describing the art

and science of frequency measurement. "The goal is a more technically aware amateur confident of compliance with FCC regulations." Silver's article, "The ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests," appears on page 51 of the October issue.

Today's amateurs tend to take for granted the accuracy of their transceiver's frequency readout. But, as Silver notes in his article, relying simply on a transceiver's digital readouts could mean part of your signal is outside the band edge--in violation of FCC Part 97 rules. Transceiver or receiver readout accuracy "depends entirely on the quality of the receiver's master oscillator," he points out in QST.

Increasing technical quality of amateur gear was one of the primary reasons for the decline and fall of FMTs in 1980. In prior decades, however, thousands of amateurs took part in the FMTs, and participation was required of ARRL Official Observer and Official Relay System stations. The first FMT, held in October 1931, employed three transmitting stations--W1XP at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, W9XAN at Elgin Observatory in Illinois and W6XK at Don Lee Broadcasting System in Los Angeles--and drew more than 200 measurement reports.

"Winners demonstrated better than 99.99% accuracy, and more than half received certificates for better than 99.90% accuracy," Silver reported--not too shabby for the state of the art back then.

The 2002 FMT will begin at the appointed time--0245 UTC November 7 (9:45 PM EST November 6)--with a general Morse code "QST" from W1AW on four amateur frequencies. The test itself will consist of 20 seconds of carrier followed by a series of CW dits followed by a station ID. The test will last about five minutes and will conclude with a series of Vs and another station ID. The approximate frequencies are 3580, 7047, 14,048 and 21,068 kHz.

FMT 2002 participants should include time of reception, measured frequency and signal report, as well as their name, call sign and location. Participants are encouraged to submit reports on more than one of the frequencies. A Certificate of Participation will be available to all who send in reports. Those who come closest to the measured frequency will be listed in the test report and will receive special recognition.

Send FMT 2002 entries postmarked by December 6, 2002, to W1AW/FMT, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. More information and background on the 2002 FMT is available on the ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests - Supplement page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>>.

==>VANITY APPLICATION REMINDERS BEAR REPEATING

When applying for a vanity call sign, the application purpose on FCC Form 605 should always be "Modification" (MD). ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, advises that vanity

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applicants within their 90-day license renewal window should not attempt to do a "Renewal/Modification" (RM) when applying for a vanity call sign.

"I would recommend that you renew first," Jahnke said. "If vanity processing is delayed for some reason--as happened last fall and spring--your license could expire while awaiting processing, and your application would be dismissed."

The fee for a vanity call sign increased to \$14.50 in September. Jahnke says it is possible for vanity applicants to register a name, address or contact information (eg, e-mail or telephone number) change with the FCC while also applying for a vanity call sign, since both actions can be dealt with as a Modification. Note, however, that if you're only changing such data as name, address or contact information and not applying for a new call sign, you should check "Administrative Update" (AU) as the application purpose--and, yes, this is confusing.

By the way, unlike a vanity application, which requires a fee and goes to the FCC's fiscal agent in Pittsburgh, an Administrative Update application requires no fee and goes directly to the FCC in Gettysburg.

Amateur applications may be filed electronically via the FCC's ULS Web site <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> or on paper (using FCC Form 605). The FCC says that anyone filing any application with the FCC--whether for a vanity, license renewal, upgrade or modification--first must be registered with the Commission Registration System (CORES) and have obtained an FCC Registration Number (FRN).

For more information on vanity filing, visit the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Signs page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>> on the ARRL Web site.

==>TWO HAMS IN US HOUSE, HR 4720 SPONSOR, MOST COSPONSORS SURVIVE ELECTION

The only two Amateur Radio operators in the US House of Representatives as well as the sponsor and most cosponsors of the CC&R bill, HR 4720, were returned to office in this week's mid-term election. HR 4720 sponsor, Rep Steve Israel--a New York Democrat--beat back a challenge from Joseph Finley in that state's second congressional district. An original HR 4720 cosponsor, Texas Republican Rep Pete Sessions, of the 32nd congressional district, defeated Democratic challenger Pauline Dixon.

Elsewhere, Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE, an Oregon Republican, handily won re-election in a three-way race in that state's second congressional district. Also re-elected was Arkansas fourth-district Democrat, Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, who defeated Republican Jay Dickey for another

term. Walden and Ross are both HR 4720 cosponsors and the only hams in Congress.

Of the 34 HR 4720 cosponsors signed on to date, only three won't be back in January when the new Congress convenes. Although Rep Patsy Mink, the Hawaii Democrat died September 28, her name remained on the ballot, and she defeated Republican Bob McDermott. A special election will be held to fill the vacancy. Another cosponsor, Rep Bob Schaffer, a Colorado Republican, did not seek a new term, and a third, Maryland Republican Rep Constance Morella, was defeated for re-election by Democrat Christopher Van Hollen.

Although at least one "lame duck" session of Congress is scheduled between now and the time the new Congress convenes, action on HR 4720--"The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--is considered highly unlikely. Technically, the measure remains alive until Congress formally adjourns.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has called HR 4720 "probably the most important thing the League has done in a long time." The League's effort to secure a congressional solution to the issue of CC&Rs--deed covenants, conditions and restrictions as they affect the ability of amateurs to erect outdoor antenna systems--will re-start after the new Congress is gaveled into session in January.

The measure was referred to the House Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee, to which Walden was appointed. It 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.

For more information, visit the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720>> on the ARRL Web site.

==>FCC SPECTRUM POLICY TASK FORCE PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

The FCC Spectrum Policy Task Force this week presented recommendations to modernize the rules that guide how the nation's spectrum is managed and utilized. The panel recommended that spectrum management evolve from a traditional government "command-and-control" model to a more flexible, consumer-oriented approach. Created by FCC Chairman Michael Powell last June, the Task Force--after research and extensive public input--concluded that the time is ripe for spectrum policy reform.

"The foundations of our current spectrum policy are cracking beneath the weight of innovation and widespread consumer use of spectrum-based services," Powell said. "This is no

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surprise, since most of our policies date from the 1920s." The FCC said in a Public Notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-228242A1.doc> that the Task Force's report will provide a starting point for a long-term review of spectrum policy approaches.

The ARRL was among the entities and individuals commenting in the FCC's Task Force initiative, ET Docket 02-135, earlier this year. The League told the FCC that marketplace forces should not determine Amateur Radio spectrum allocations, and that interference management is a technical, not an economic, issue.

"The value to the public of a vital, growing Amateur Radio Service, while perhaps only indirectly measurable in market terms, cannot translate to a marketplace ability to pay for spectrum, no matter what the mechanism," the ARRL asserted in its comments. A market-oriented allocation processes could preclude Amateur Radio communications, the League asserted.

In its comments, the ARRL compared Amateur Radio spectrum to a public park or right-of-way. "Given the wide availability of Amateur Radio to the general public and its value as an educational and public service resource, the concept fits well," the League said.

The Task Force said some bands are heavily used while many are not in use in all geographic areas or are used only part of the time. "Thus, there may be opportunities for spectrum-based services or devices to operate in the resulting 'white spaces,'" the Task Force suggested. The Task Force said that technological advances--such as the increased use of digital technologies and the development of software-defined radios--are providing some potential answers to current spectrum policy challenges. "These technological advances enable spectrum rights to be parceled as a function of time," the FCC panel said. "Also, they allow systems to be much more tolerant of interference than in the past."

The Task Force also concluded that spectrum rights and responsibilities are not always clearly defined and that users need more certainty. "In addition, the rights and responsibilities that are defined need to better reflect more market-based models and policies," it said. Among its specific recommendations was to adopt "interference temperature" to quantify and manage interference.

The Task Force said using an "interference temperature" standard to establish maximum permissible interference levels on a band-by-band basis would place a limit on the noise environment in which receivers would be required to operate. "To the extent, however, that the interference temperature in a particular band is not reached, users who emit energy below that temperature could operate more flexibly," the panel said, "with the interference temperature

serving as the maximum cap on the potential RF energy they could introduce into the band."

The Task Force said it found that new technological developments now permit access to unused or underused spectrum through time-sharing of spectrum between multiple users and lead to more efficient use of the spectrum resource."

Concluded FCC Chairman Powell, "The Commission is chartered to serve the public interest. The public has made their desire for interference-free spectrum-based services quite clear. The challenge now rests with us to deliver."

==>PARENT BAILS OUT LAST EXPEDITION 5 ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT

Despite some last-minute anxiety due to equipment failure, an October 28 Amateur Radio contact between Colorado youngsters and the International Space Station was successful. The contact between ISS astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, and middle school students at Silverheels Middle School in Fairplay was arranged as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

"It's an experience we'll never forget, and we appreciate all the volunteers who made this possible," coordinating teacher Marcy Wilkins said. "I've been looking forward to this and so have the kids. They have been so excited about this since school started." The ARISS school contact was the last scheduled with a member of the ISS Expedition 5 crew.

Because the QSO was handled via a WorldCom teleconferencing link between the school and Earth station on Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Hawaii, all the school needed on its end was a working speakerphone. But, with all else ready, the school's speakerphone failed at the appointed hour. A parent rushed home and returned with a substitute unit, and the conversation went ahead as scheduled.

Student Jacob Reese wanted to know how long it takes Whitson to swim across the entire space station. Whitson said "swimming" in zero gravity is one of her favorite pastimes. "I actually can get across the station in probably less than a minute if I'm in a hurry," Whitson, said. "But sometimes high speed can get you in trouble, especially if someone happens to be in your way."

Replying to another question, Whitson took another mild swipe at the repetitious menu crewmembers consume while on ISS duty. "Every eight days we start over with the same foods we had the previous eight days," Whitson said. "So I think I'm looking forward to anything that's not on those eight days."

Whitson said it was an "amazing feeling" to lift off in the space shuttle. "It was a pretty exciting moment for me," she said. The first few days in space were another matter

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altogether. "You tend to feel like you have a head cold because the fluid has shifted toward your head, and a backache from having the fluid redistribute in your spine," Whitson explained. But, she said, those effects disappear quickly.

Toward the end of the contact, Whitson again reflected on the enjoyment she derives from living and working in zero gravity. "Living up here on space station gives me an opportunity to enjoy the feeling of floating," she said. "It's an amazing feeling." Working outside the space station, she added, made her feel like "a very very fast bird." As she's told other students, Whitson said she hopes to one day return to space after her current ISS tour ends later this month.

Whitson and her Expedition 5 crewmates, Valery Korzun, RK3FZ, and Sergei Treschev, RK3FU, have been in space since June 5. The Expedition 6 crew of Kenneth Bowersox, KD5JBP, Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and Donald Petit, KD5MDT, will launch aboard the shuttle Endeavour November 11. Bowersox will serve as the crew commander, Petit will be the NASA ISS science officer, and Budarin will serve as a flight engineer. The Expedition 6 crew will be the third all-ham crew to serve aboard the ISS.

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

==>OHIO HAM SUSPENDED FOLLOWING REPEATER INTERFERENCE

An Ohio amateur accused of interfering with a local repeater system has agreed to stay off the air for one year. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth notified Gary R. Weiler, KI8DI, of Loveland by letter October 22 to confirm the voluntary license suspension.

"The interference consisted of sound effects, harassment and unidentified communications," Hollingsworth said in his letter. In late September, Hollingsworth had served Weiler with a Warning Notice citing monitoring information alleging that on several occasions since last March Weiler had "deliberately interfered" with the K8CLA repeater in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Warning Notice also threatened him with enforcement action up to and including a fine of up to \$7500 and revocation of his amateur license.

Hollingsworth credited the Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club with helping to pin down the source of the interference to Weiler's location. In his reply September 30, Hollingsworth said, Weiler owned up to the infractions and said they'd involved a personal dispute of some kind. "He said he realized he shouldn't have done it," Hollingsworth said.

After reviewing his reply, Hollingsworth said Weiler agreed to the proposed one-year suspension, during which he will not maintain an Amateur Radio station. FCC said the suspension will end at midnight October 30, 2003, and that Weiler's

amateur license would be returned automatically on or before that date.

On October 24, Hollingsworth issued a welcome reminder to Danny A. Kenwood, WA6CNQ, of San Francisco. In November 2000, Kenwood agreed to a modification of his ham ticket that prohibited all but CW operation below 30 MHz for two years. It was not the first FCC sanction Kenwood had endured. In the fall of 1999, Kenwood lost his VHF and UHF privileges for 90 days following allegations of profanity, obscenity and deliberate interference directed at users of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater, and of failure to properly identify.

In the spring of 2000, the FCC issued Kenwood a Warning Notice on the basis of reports from the K7IJ repeater system control operator that the repeater had to be shut down due to what Hollingsworth called Kenwood's "interference and harassment to other operators on the repeater system." Kenwood subsequently agreed to the HF CW-only sanction. The modification of Kenwood's General license expires December 1.

==>US ARMY MARS OPERATION HOLIDAYS NOW IN 12TH YEAR

The holiday season offers plenty of opportunity for good deeds by hams in general and members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in particular. "Operation Holidays," sponsored by US Army MARS, marks its 12th year in 2002. The program offers the chance for families and loved ones to send US servicemen away from home free MARSgrams and phone patches.

In addition, "any servicemember" messages also will be delivered to selected overseas bases, and "any veteran" messages now can be sent to veterans in participating Veterans' Administration hospitals. The "any veteran" program inaugurated in Michigan and California two years ago is the newest wrinkle in MARS morale and welfare traffic.

Initiated by Frank Wegori, WD8NIK/AAA9AX, the Army MARS auxiliary membership coordinator, the new--and expanding--program is aimed at bringing recognition and hope to the 100,000 hospitalized veterans who may not have family or friends nearby during the holiday season.

Any Amateur Radio operator can participate by either initiating or relaying traffic through a MARS member or via the Internet. For many, the simplest way to send a MARSgram is to connect to the United States Army Military Affiliate Radio System Web site <<http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars>>, click on "MARSgrams" in the lefthand column and follow the instructions. Each message must include the full military address and, if available, the addressee's telephone number.

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Radio phone patch connections must be arranged by the overseas service member, and, in most cases, are available only where there no public telephone or e-mail link exists. In recent months, Army MARS has handled phone patch traffic from the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe, where Americans are stationed on peacekeeping missions. MARSgrams can be used to facilitate the connection.

Sending an "any servicemember" message is a worthy gesture for those who do not have loved ones of their own in uniform--a sort of pen pal arrangement. MARSgrams will be delivered to participating installations or organizations for forwarding to a serviceman or servicewoman. The largest overseas deployment is in Europe, and the active MARS organization there has challenged its members to initiate 100 "any servicemember" messages during the holiday season.

MARS asks senders to limit individual MARSgrams to 50 words each. There is no official limit on the number of MARSgrams a person may send, however.--Bill Sexton, N1IN

==>GREAT LAKES MEMBERS CHOOSE NEW DIRECTOR; INCUMBENTS RE-ELECTED ELSEWHERE

Members of the ARRL's Great Lakes Division have elected Jim Weaver, K8JE, of Mason, Ohio, to lead their division for the next three years. Weaver, with 2295 votes, topped the field in a three-way race. Incumbent Gary Johnston, KI4LA, got 1629 votes, and Paul Daley, WT8S, picked up 783. Incumbents were re-elected in contested races in the Atlantic, Delta and Midwest divisions.

"I will seek opinions and fully represent the division," Weaver said during the Great Lakes campaign. "I will not forget that ARRL is its members." An ARRL Life Member and an amateur licensee for 40 years, Weaver also pledged--among other things--to seek ways to improve recruitment, promote increased awareness of League services and join the fight against restrictive antenna laws, ordinances and deed covenant, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs).

Weaver served as a Great Lakes Assistant Director under four directors. He's active in traffic nets, DXCC and 10-10 International as well as in local clubs, and he once wrote a newspaper column on ham radio.

The former Great Lakes Vice Director, Johnston had been seeking election in his own right to the director's position he gained following the surprise resignation of George Race, WB8BGY, during last July's ARRL Board of Directors' meeting. Former Michigan Section Manager Dick Mondro, W8FQT, was unopposed for Great Lakes Vice Director.

The only other director's seat up for grabs was in the Atlantic Division, where incumbent Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, handily

won re-election over challenger Anthony Gargano, N2SS. The vote was 3115 to 1948.

In the Delta Division, incumbent Henry Leggette, WD4Q, was re-elected as Vice Director over Nicholas Smith, W4GKM. The final tally was 1520 to 629. Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, had no opposition.

In the Midwest Division, incumbent Vice Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, overcame a challenge from Bill Wheeler, K0DEW, 1231 to 1036. Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, also was unopposed for re-election.

Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Twila Greenheck, N0JPH, also faced no opposition in their bids for re-election. Candidates running unopposed were declared elected.

Ballots in the four divisional races were counted November 15 at ARRL Headquarters. New terms of office begin January 1, 2003.

==>ARRL VEC EXAMINATION FEE TO RISE

Starting January 1, 2003, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$10 to \$12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges.

"While the number of examinees has remained relatively unchanged in the past 24 months, our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs--continues to rise," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "An adjustment was needed in the 2003 test fee if we intended to maintain the same level of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect."

Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of \$12. Additionally, the maximum reimbursement ARRL VEC allows ARRL volunteer examiner (VE) teams to retain to directly offset their "prudently incurred" out-of-pocket expenses will go up from \$4 to \$6 in 2003 (this fee has remained at \$4 per person served since 1991).

Jahnke said that adjusting the reimbursement level for ARRL VEs also was past due. For more information, contact ARRL VEC, vec@arrl.org.

==>A SQUEAKER IN WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA AS SECTION MANAGER BALLOTS ARE TALLIED

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, narrowly won re-election as ballots were counted in three contested races. Armbrust--the first and only person to serve as WCF SM--edged out Gerald Dee Turner,

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N2MNC, by just two votes--490 to 488. An ARRL Life Member, Armbrust was first appointed to the job in November 1999, when the new section was created. He was elected for a two-year term the following year.

Just last year in Tennessee, Terry Cox, KB4KA, eked out a victory over David Bower, K4PZT, 540 to 538, for the honor of succeeding outgoing SM O.D. Keaton, WA4GLS, who decided not to run for another term.

Results in two other ARRL sections were not nearly as close. In South Carolina, incumbent SM Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, lost out to James Boehner, N2ZZ, of Aiken, in her bid for a new term. Boehner, an ARRL Life Member and a physician, outpolled Hensley 431 to 239. He has said he wants to enhance Amateur Radio growth in his section and "guide the path of Amateur Radio in South Carolina into the 21st century."

In Western Pennsylvania, incumbent John Rodgers, N3MSE, won re-election 485 to 410 over David Leiser, K3NPX. Rodgers, a ham since 1992, was appointed SM in 2000, replacing Bill Edgar, N3LLR, who had acceded to Vice Director. He was elected to a full term later that same year.

ARRL Field and Educational Services staff members counted and verified all ballots November 19 at ARRL Headquarters.

Incumbent ARRL SMs in six other ARRL sections did not face opposition and have been declared elected for new two-year terms. They are Phil Temples, K9HI, Eastern Massachusetts; Dale Bagley, K0KY, Missouri; Bill McCollum, KE0XQ, Nebraska; George Tranos, N2GA, New York City-Long Island; Thomas Dick, KF2GC, Northern New York; and Jean Priestley, KA2YKN, Southern New Jersey.

Terms of office for all successful candidates begin January 1, 2003.

Kansas also will get a new SM on January 1. Orlan Cook, W0OYH, has announced his retirement from the Kansas Section Manager's position as of end of this year after serving for five years. ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, has appointed Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, of La Cygne to complete the year remaining in the present term of office.

Cowan has been an Assistant Section Manager since April, 2002, and has been the Kansas Section Traffic Manager for about two years.

==>JONATHAN ADELSTEIN SWORN IN AS FCC COMMISSIONER

FCC nominee Jonathan Adelstein was sworn in this week to fill the Commission's remaining open slot. The nomination of Adelstein, a Democrat and a protégé of South Dakota Sen

Tom Daschle, had been held hostage for most of this year because of political wrangling over several judicial nominations. Adelstein will finish out the term of former Commissioner Gloria Tristani, which ends in June.

The only other Democrat on the FCC, Michael J. Copps, called it "a happy day" for himself and the FCC. Copps said Adelstein will make "an exceptionally fine new colleague" whose addition will bring the FCC up and running at full complement.

Okayed last summer by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Adelstein was confirmed by the Senate November 14 in a procedural floor vote.

Earlier this year, Adelstein's FCC nomination appeared dead for the year as Senate Republicans and Democrats squabbled over judicial nominations, and some Republicans, placed anonymous holds on Adelstein's nomination. The election and the change in Senate control obviated the issues involved, however.

The White House nominated Adelstein last February.

==>NEW OWNER, CALL SIGN, BUT LA-AREA REPEATER PROBLEMS PERSIST

The former W6NUT repeater in the Los Angeles area has a new owner and a new call sign, N6SAP. Nonetheless, complaints of the same sort of on-the-air behavior that inspired an FCC inquiry of the previous trustee more than a year ago have occurred under the new regime. The new owner says he's in the process of changing things for the better, however. A November 5 letter from FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth publicly put the machine's new trustee, Scott A. Press, N6SAP, on the spot because of allegations that some users had interfered with attempts to pass emergency traffic. Two users identified as having caused the interference also received inquiries from Hollingsworth.

"We view these allegations as extremely serious," Hollingsworth told Press--the repeater trustee--and those said to have been involved in the October 2 incident. He also cautioned those accused of perpetrating the problem against retaliating in any matter toward the complainants.

A League member, Press told ARRL this week that he's been working hard to turn around the repeater's past reputation but change will not happen overnight. "I knew what I was getting into when I bought the system and have made some strong progress with the exception of a few bad apples who have not seen the light yet," he said. "They are being shaken from the tree one by one."

Press purchased the former W6NUT repeater, once owned by Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK. According to FCC records, the trusteeship formally transferred September 3. At one point in

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2001, the FCC terminated authority to operate the repeater under automatic control. An earlier FCC review into the repeater's operation followed allegations that the licensee or control operator failed to address incessant jamming, broadcasting, the playing of music and other potential violations.

An N6SAP repeater user, Anthony Cardenas, WA6IGJ, complained to the FCC that he was jammed October 2 after attempting to use the repeater to report a motorist stranded in the midst of freeway traffic. Cardenas alleged that Ledge Musselman, KC6NCN, and Anton Johnson, N6OAY, blocked his efforts to alert the California Highway Patrol to the potentially hazardous situation via ham radio. Hollingsworth included the allegations in essentially identical letters to Musselman and Johnson, also sent November 5.

Information from Press and others who monitored the incident indicated that Press did just that. He shut down the N6SAP repeater for 20 minutes after other operators were unsuccessful in efforts to convince the interfering stations to let Cardenas pass his traffic. Transcripts of the recordings indicate that the interference consisted mostly of disparaging remarks, unmodulated carriers and singing. Cardenas says he was able to contact the police via another repeater.

Press has told the FCC that Cardenas' account of the incident was "accurate and true." He told ARRL that he'd been promptly in touch with the complainant and with an ARRL Official Observer who forwarded the complaint to the League.

According to the FCC, Press has told Johnson and Musselman to stay off the N6SAP repeater at least until the current dispute is resolved. "We expect that request to be honored," Hollingsworth said, "and if it is not, we will immediately institute license revocation proceedings," he wrote. Press has since also banned Cardenas from the N6SAP repeater.

Press said he's been working closely with the FCC to "clear up many things that are just out of my reach." Hollingsworth this week commended Press for "trying very hard to change what was a disgrace to Amateur Radio into a viable Amateur repeater" and said the FCC supports his efforts.

==>ANNUAL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY IS DECEMBER 7

The fourth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>>is December 7 (UTC). That's when Amateur Radio operators set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The event is sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service.

"The purpose of the event is to recognize the vital public service contribution that Amateur Radio operators make during National Weather Service severe weather warning

operations," said David Floyd, N5DBZ, warning coordination meteorologist, at the NWS Goodland, Kansas, office. "It also strengthens the bond between Amateur Radio operators and the local National Weather Service office."

For several decades now, hams have assisted the NWS by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm evolution. The information radio operators locate near a storm can provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters. SKYWARN operators in several states activated to spot and track an outbreak of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes November 10.

Scott Mentzer, N0QE--the meteorologist-in-charge of the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas, and the creator and annual organizer of SRD--says more than 90 stations are registered to participate, up from 80 last year. Most participating NWS stations will operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters using SSB and FM. Mentzer says a number of NWS offices will be equipped to support Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) stations.

All contacts will be made utilizing the General or Novice portion of the bands. Stations will exchange signal report, location and a one-word description of the current weather at their respective locations ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc). This is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed.

SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place December 7 from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. Since SRD is being held on Pearl Harbor Day, each NWS office will transmit a special message from approximately 1800 to 1900 UTC--approximately the time of the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attack on December 7, 1941--to honor the World War II veterans.

The deadline to register an NWS site is December 1. Contact Mentzer to register: scott.mentzer@noaa.gov. Complete information is available on the 2002 SKYWARN Recognition Day Web site <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* UK holding the line on additional 5 MHz experimenters:

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) reports that the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) in the UK on October 31 put a temporary moratorium on applications from full Class A amateurs who wish to experiment in the 5 MHz band. Eligible amateurs in the UK have had to apply for a Notice of Variation (NoV) to experiment in the band using five spot frequencies. The RA says applications for 5 MHz NoVs exceeded its expectations; it now worries that the risk of congestion may be detrimental to the overall success of the experiment. The RA says it will monitor occupancy of the five channels and review its position. "It is likely that an announcement will be made later this year for action early in the new year," the RSGB said.—RSGB

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* **Indian pirates persist:** Sahrudin, VU2SDN, the president of the Amateur Radio Society of India, reports a spate of pirate operations using call signs VU4A, VU7A and similar other call signs continues. These have all been pirates, he says. A blanket ban exists on operations from Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, so VU4 and VU7-prefix call signs have not being assigned for 10 years, although the brief 1993 VU2JPS from the Andaman Islands was valid. Sahrudin reported last April that India's QSL Bureau was receiving many QSL requests for contacts apparently made by bootleggers using VU call signs. Sahrudin has explained that call signs that begin with VU2 followed by two or three letters or with VU3 followed by three letters are the only valid call signs for India.--The Daily DX

* JOTA reports show 10,000-plus Scouts took part in 2002 event:

ARRL Educational Programs Coordinator Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, reports she's received more than 150 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) surveys so far for the 2002 running of the event. "The reports show that over 10,225 Scouts, 3000 visitors, and 770 hams participated," Wolfgang said. "This is a substantial improvement over last year, when only 65 surveys were returned." But Wolfgang is still waiting to hear from JOTA participants and hosts in Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming. If you participated in JOTA 2002 and have not yet completed the ARRL survey, have a representative of your JOTA event complete and submit the form by November 30. It's available on the ARRL Web site's JOTA page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jotalog>>.

* **ARRL honors MFJ founder:** At the second annual MFJ ARRL Day in the Park celebration October 5, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, presented an ARRL Commendation to MFJ Founder Martin Jue, K5FLU, in recognition of his 30 years of innovative development in the ham radio marketplace. More than 300 visitors turned out for the occasion, and some 700 contacts logged during a special event station run in conjunction with the ARRL Day in the Park. Haynie also toured the MFJ facilities while he was there. Jue, 58, started his product line very modestly in 1972, offering some simple audio bandpass filters. Today, his MFJ Enterprises, headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi, is in the forefront of US Amateur Radio accessories and equipment. The company <<http://www.mfjenterprises.com>> offers a product line that includes everything from amplifiers and antenna-related items to weather-monitoring systems and now includes the Hy-Gain, Ameritron, Vectronics and Mirage brands in addition to MFJ.

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