
B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

June 2003

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

B.V.A.R.A. OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

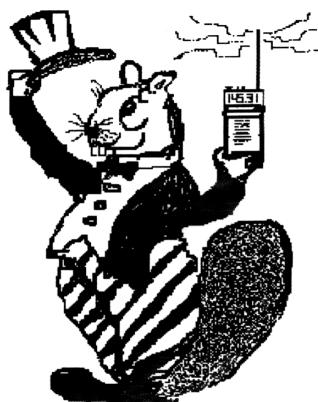
KB3EAQ.....Debbie Reid
N3GZZ.....Joe Streit
N3OJN.....Stan Riffle
N3ALS.....Wes Morar
N3SVM.....Bob Reid
WA3GFM...Al Belardia
KA3SMF.....Dave Heim
KE3ED.....Tony Petruccelli/Station Trustee

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

N3NBJ.....Janet Petruccelli

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

*** PLEASE NOTE *** The June B.V.A.R.A. meeting will **NOT** be held at the covered dish dinner prior to Field Day weekend. It will instead be held on Thursday the 12th at 7:30 PM at the Beaver County 911 Center, located at 250 East End Avenue, Beaver, PA. This will help facilitate final planning for the Field Day weekend. See you there.

TEE SHIRT AND HAT ORDERS

Club Tee shirts and hats may still be ordered from Phyllis N3KUG. Please let her know what style and size you want. She can be reached on the 145.31 repeater or at 724-846-6472

FIELD DAY PLANS

Plans for Field Day at Brady's Run Park's shelter #6 are going well. We will be setting up stations and antennas the afternoon of Friday June 27th prior to our covered dish dinner at 6:00 PM. Hours of operation will be 1800 UTC Saturday June 28th until 2100 UTC on Sunday June 29th. We hope for a big turn out to help operate the stations around the clock.

HAMS NIGHT OUT

In light of our covered dish dinner this month we will postpone "Ham's night out" until a day in July. Debbie want to thank all who showed up at Kings Buffet in May. A great time was had by all.

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

The Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL VE examination on Saturday June 7th, 2003 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).

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4. Your original AND a photocopy of any C.S.C.E's (if any).
5. The test fee of \$12.00.

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.

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

ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager:

John V. Rodgers, N3MSE
n3mse@arrrl.org

As we come to the close of May I want to remind everyone to make sure they have their radios in good operating condition. The end of May has often brought several severe storms that required amateur radio operators to pitch in and help. Last year a tornado touched down and cause damage in an amusement park and left one person dead in the aftermath. Previous years have also shown some of our worst storms have hit during this time. Check your radios and be sure you have fully charged batteries should our services be needed.

June first will be the 49th annual Breezeshooters hamfest held in Butler. This is one of the major hamfests of the section and is always a great deal of fun. I will be at the league table throughout the day as will other section staff members so please stop by and chat with us. Additional information regarding the hamfest is available at <http://www.breezeshooters.net> One feature new this year will be testing for the ARRL level one (EC001) Emmcomm course. This testing will be provided by members of the Ellwood City Amateur Radio Association. Another feature for the hamfest will be ICOM radio attending and demonstrating the newest in amateur radio equipment.

The last full weekend of June brings about the Field Day operating event. This event, designed to demonstrate the emergency capabilities of amateur radio has often been looked upon as a contest and other things. Many clubs make this into the operating and family event of the season. For several years I have visited several of the field day sites and always enjoy the opportunity to see what other clubs and operators are doing for the event. Most clubs have family oriented picnics and other activities during the weekend. I would like

to encourage every club to be sure and set up a Get On The Air station and encourage individuals that have never operated or have not operated for many years to get involved in the station. This is a great opportunity to encourage people to become hams and maybe get some old hams more active in the hobby.

Don't forget to also order your field day t-shirts and pins from the league and also new this year are t-shirts and pins to recognize the Get On The Air station as well. These go fast so order early. Also remember to send me a message via the national traffic system to earn your bonus points for the message. The WPA Phone and Traffic net will handle the messages for me. They meet every evening on 3983 hz at 6 pm. Check the field day rules for the message content requirements. If you would like me to stop by during the weekend be sure to send me a message and also directions to your field day operating site. I want to encourage every club in the section to set up and operate a field day station. Be sure to invite local officials and the public to see how amateur radio can benefit the community. Set up a computer and have the new Amateur Radio Today video showing to inform the visitors of what services we provide. The video is available from league headquarters for a minimal fee for the materials and copying or you can download the file from the web site. It is about a 60 megabyte file so be sure you are on a high speed connection. I hope every one will get out and join in the fun and excitement of field day and make this year the best ever. I would like clubs to forward me photos of their club operation for me to post some of the photos on the section web site. Send the photos to me at n3mse@arrl.org or by mail to my home address listed on page 16 of QST.

A beta operation of the logbook of the world has started and individuals that are interested in participating in the test should go to the league web site at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw> and download the software. The beta will help the developers detect and correct any problem areas before the program is implemented. The logbook of the world is designed to become an electronic validation of contacts made by amateur stations that would be recognized for awards. Please give it a try and help members services get this benefit into full operation.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable Memorial Day holiday and look forward to seeing you at the hamfests or at a club meeting. Still a few open dates for visits so let me know if you would like me to attend one of your meetings.

73 de John

==>AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT TO GET PUBLIC AIRING

The chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet has agreed to hear testimony on the House version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, HR 713, at a public hearing later this spring. Rep Fred Upton (R-MI) this week assured

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the bill's sponsor, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL), that the hearing--which will be convened to address public safety spectrum needs--will include an opportunity for a member of the Amateur Radio community to appear before the panel. Upton also told Bilirakis that he shares his interest in protecting Amateur Radio.

"That indeed is good news!" said ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP. "A hearing is exactly what we'd like to have in order to state our case, and I think we can state a good case, too." The date of the hearing has not been set.

Upton's willingness to hear testimony on the bill is considered critical to providing it with the credibility it needs as it moves through the legislative process. It also marks a major step toward getting HR 713 through this Congress.

The agreement, during a meeting of the full House Energy and Commerce Committee, came after Bilirakis asked to speak prior to consideration of another piece of spectrum legislation, HR 1320, the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act, which Upton sponsored. During his comments, Bilirakis spent about five minutes discussing the importance of Amateur Radio to the committee, chaired by Rep Billy Tauzin (R-LA).

The newest cosponsors of HR 713 include representatives Jerry Moran (D-KS), John Olver (D-MA), Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), and Walter Jones, Jr (R-NC).

The Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, S 537, recently got a boost when the chairman of the Senate Communications Subcommittee, Montana Republican Conrad Burns, signed on as a cosponsor. His cosponsorship indicates that the measure now has his attention and could convince others to follow suit.

Bilirakis filed HR 713 on February 12, while Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced 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 suchbands" 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 during disasters and emergencies.

Haynie continues to encourage ARRL members to urge their senators and representatives and to cosponsor the bills. "Letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed," Haynie says. 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>. (For additional information, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, QST May 2003, p 46.)

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

==>FCC ACCEPTING COMMENTS IN "BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE" INQUIRY

The FCC released its Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on the deployment of "Broadband over Power Line" (BPL) technology April 28 and now is accepting electronically filed comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104. The technology has raised concerns of substantial interference to the Amateur Radio HF bands. BPL would couple high-frequency RF to parts of the power grid and use existing power lines as the transmission medium to deliver broadband and Internet services.

The FCC has expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says Commission members have been acting more like cheerleaders than regulators. "We were disappointed in the tenor of some commissioners' statements, but we were encouraged by the fact that in the NOI itself the FCC did point out that licensed services—including Amateur Radio--'must be protected from harmful interference' from BPL," he said.

In the NOI, the FCC acknowledges the interference risk from BPL. "The multiple-carrier transmission nature of the new high-speed BPL technology could pose increased risk of harmful interference, and thus new BPL devices may need a higher degree of oversight to ensure that authorized users are not subject to interference," the FCC said.

The major interference threat to amateurs comes from so-called "access BPL," because its signals can radiate from outside power lines—possibly for great distances. The FCC also concedes that close proximity of access BPL equipment on utility poles might affect--and be affected by--cable TV and DSL service.

Current FCC Part 15 rules limit the amount of RF energy that can be injected into the power lines, but, as the FCC concedes, "the new generation of high-speed BPL devices that use wide spectrum was not contemplated" when those rules were formulated. The FCC has invited comments on possible changes to those rules.

The FCC also seeks information on a possible access BPL standards, spectrum and bandwidth, modulation techniques and data transmission speeds. Additionally, the Commission seeks the status of BPL development and anticipated deployment in the marketplace.

ARRL Laboratory Manager and RFI guru Ed Hare, W1RFI, has cautioned that BPL deployment could mean "a significant

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increase in noise levels" on HF. "Right now with BPL/PLC, there are more questions than answers, and until those questions are answered, these systems should not be widely deployed," Hare said. "The time to raise and answer these questions is now. I truly hope that the NOI will provide a means for the FCC to do just that."

The ARRL Lab has prepared a comprehensive information page, "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio," on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>. ARRL Lab staff members also plan to visit sites where BPL is undergoing field testing.

The complete NOI is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-100A1.doc>. The FCC now is accepting electronically filed comments via its Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required fields. Comments may be typed into a form, you may attach a file containing your comments or submit them via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page. The comment deadline will be 45 days after publication of the NOI in the Federal Register.

==>ASTRONAUT SUGGESTS LUNAR BASES AS STEPPING STONE TO MARS, UNIVERSE

NASA Expedition 6 International Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, has suggested that NASA should consider setting up lunar bases in the future as a stepping stone to expand mankind's exploration of the universe. The comment came in response to a student's question during an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact. Several students at Cowichan Secondary School in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada, had the opportunity to quiz Pettit about life in space via Amateur Radio on April 21. The QSO between VE7CVA and NA1SS was the last for members of the Expedition 6 crew of Pettit, Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, who head back to Earth this weekend (see <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/04/28/1/>>).

"I hope the next step for manned space exploration will be to go away from the planet Earth for a while instead of just going in circles around the planet," Pettit said. Setting up bases on the moon and learning how to operate at that distance from Earth, he said, would represent "a logical next step" in space exploration. "When you have your technology down, then you can go off to Mars and try doing a little exploration there," he added.

Pettit remarked that his five months aboard the ISS have been "an amazing experience" and "really quite enjoyable."

A couple of the Cowichan students wanted to know about sleeping in space. Pettit said he does dream in space. "When I initially started dreaming, I would dream about walking places," he said. "Now, though, I starting to have dreams when I'm on space station and not on Earth and I'm flying everywhere in my dreams." He explained to another youngster that the ISS crew members take their cues about when to sleep from their bodies, not from periods of light and dark. As the ISS orbits Earth, the sun "rises" and "sets" 16 times a day, he pointed out.

A dozen students in grades six through twelve took part in the contact as 150 members of the public and news media representatives looked on. The students were selected from schools throughout the region based upon a poster and essay competition. Members of the Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society assisted in setting up for the contact. Dale Jones, VE7DDK, was the control operator.

On April 16, Budarin spoke with youngsters in his home country of Russia during two ARISS contacts with students in Tver--located some 150 km from Moscow. According to Sergei Samburov, RV3DR--who heads Russia's ARISS efforts--a selection of students from 53 schools were picked to ask their questions. The contacts--made on successive orbits--went well, according to Samburov. Between the contacts, he and cosmonaut Sergei Treschev, RZ3FU, answered students' questions and talked about life in space.

ARISS school group contacts are off limits for the next few weeks due to the crew change. The Expedition 7 team of Cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and veteran NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, arrived aboard the ISS on April 28, and Lu will take over as NASA ISS Science Officer.

ARISS is an international project with participation by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT. For more information, visit the ARISS Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>>.

==>COLUMBUS HAMVENTION? VENDORS VOICE PREFERENCES ON ALTERNATIVE SITES

Most big Hamvention inside exhibitors have indicated they'd prefer the world's largest annual ham radio gathering to be held in Columbus, Ohio, if Dayton's Hara Arena were no longer available. This is the last year of Hamvention's five-year contract with Hara Arena. Event organizers have begun preliminary talks with Hara's owners for a new pact, but say they want to keep all options open. Hamvention takes place May 16-18, and the show's Production Manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL, says Hamvention 2003's fortunes have begun moving in a more positive direction in recent days.

"I think it's going to be a good year," predicted Matthews, who said he's seen a dramatic increase in interest over the past week. "I think the show may be slightly smaller this year in terms of inside exhibitors and outside vendors," Matthews conceded, "but if activity continues as it has since Monday of

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this week, we possibly could sell out the show. We're getting orders every day."

Earlier this spring, Matthews reported that things had been slower to come together in terms of advance sales to visitors and vendors. He said organizers have been beefing up direct-mail and other Hamvention promotional activities over the past couple of weeks, however, and results have been encouraging.

One popular Hamvention staple--the FCC forum--will be missing this year. Because of some miscommunication and scheduling problems, neither Bill Cross of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau nor Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau will attend Dayton Hamvention this year. Last-minute efforts to find suitable substitutes for Cross and Hollingsworth did not pan out, and the forum's two-hour Saturday morning time slot remains unfilled.

Matthews and FCC sources have indicated that tentative plans are in place to schedule an FCC symposium at Hamvention 2004 featuring Cross, Hollingsworth and FCC High-Frequency Direction Finding Facility Manager Dave Larrabee.

Matthews said that while it was unlikely Hamvention would be moving to Columbus--some 60 miles from Dayton--any time soon, it remained "a very strong contingency" if Hamvention ever did have to move elsewhere. "Our option with Hamvention would be to stay at Hara for as long as we possibly could, as long as we could make it work and the show could be a good show," he said. Hamvention is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, but Hamvention has quietly dropped "Dayton" from the show's official name.

Hamvention's preference survey went to 225 of the largest inside exhibitors, and Matthews said 80 percent of those indicating a preference picked Columbus as their top choice as an alternative site, while 12 percent said "no" to Columbus. Matthews said the Columbus Fairgrounds appears to be a suitable site were Hamvention to ever consider relocating. The other two preferences were Indianapolis and Cincinnati respectively.

Matthews said Hamvention officials this year plan to survey a selection of "average hams" during the show itself. Attendance at last year's 50th anniversary event was 24,832--down about 5 percent from 2001's crowd of 26,151.

Late news about the show is on the Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>

==>FCC SEEKS ASSISTANCE IN CURBING UNLICENSED 10-METER INCURSIONS

The FCC has requested the assistance of the ARRL Amateur

Auxiliary/Official Observers <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/oo.html>> in monitoring for illegal operation on 10-meters. The request came in an April 28 letter from FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, who says incursions on the band by apparently unlicensed operators continue to be a major enforcement headache.

"This is the first phase of a renewed investigation effort and may be thought of as detect, collect data, and report," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. Skolaut forwarded the request to members of the Amateur Auxiliary May 1.

Hollingsworth said the FCC wants help with a stepped-up effort over the next six months--from May through October--to identify any unlicensed operation on 10 meters "whether from business entities--including trucking companies--truckers or other individuals operating domestically." Hollingsworth said the FCC does not need direction-finding but would appreciate where possible "the names and cities of the operators, and license plate numbers and state if from a vehicle."

Skolaut said the FCC would like to concentrate on obtaining reports of this type of operation to help identify specific areas of the US where this problem is prevalent, although he concedes that not all illegal 10-meter operation originates in the US. "The FCC asks that OOs obtain as much information as possible and send their reports through normal channels to ARRL Headquarters," he said. The decision to record the transmissions of suspected interlopers was left to the discretion of the individual OOs.

The FCC request was made under a longstanding agreement between ARRL and the FCC regarding the use of Amateur Radio volunteers to assist in enforcement.

==>VHF GROUP TOLD ARRL WILL FIGHT INTRUDERS AGGRESSIVELY

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, urged those attending the annual conference of the Southeastern VHF Society <<http://www.svhfs.org/>> April 26-27 to continue to occupy the microwave bands. The ARRL official also encouraged the group to develop new and innovative communication techniques--such as IEEE 802.11 high-speed wireless--to expand Amateur Radio's presence on its microwave allocations. Imlay told some 70 amateurs attending the SVHFS event in Huntsville that amateurs were being asked to share their VHF and UHF bands with more and higher-powered unlicensed Part 15 devices, and he pledged the League's aggressive defense against these intruders.

"The FCC seems to want the amateur community to accept higher and higher 'interference temperatures,'" Imlay said, referring to higher noise levels caused by increased band occupancy. "We will fight that!"

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Imlay also presented an overview of the current regulatory climate in Washington and a detailed, band-by-band outline of the threats <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/>> to Amateur Radio frequencies from commercial interests. He noted ARRL's strong opposition to an FCC proposal to agree with a 2001 request from SAVI Technology that would allow operation of advanced RF identification (RFID) devices between 425 and 435 MHz. The ARRL contends that the RFID proposal is contrary to the philosophy of FCC Part 15 rules and could result in significant interference to amateur operations.

During the gathering, the SVHFS donated \$300 to the ARRL Defense of Frequencies Fund and another \$300 to AMSAT-NA.

==>TENSE MOMENTS MARK SAFE RETURN OF ALL-HAM EXPEDITION 6 CREW

The International Space Station's all-ham Expedition 6 crew of Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP; Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, is back on Earth. After spending more than five months aboard the ISS, Bowersox and Pettit became the first NASA astronauts to travel home from the ISS on a Russian Soyuz TMA-1 vehicle and the first to land in a foreign country. But their return trip was not without incident.

After undocking from the ISS May 3 at 2243 UTC, Bowersox, Pettit and Budarin touched down May 4 at 0207 UTC in Kazakhstan--some 285 miles shy of their intended target. The unexpected turn of events led to some tense moments in the Russian mission control center, where space officials of both countries were carefully--and anxiously--monitoring the crew's return.

The Soyuz was pulled onto its side in the hard landing, and its antennas were damaged in the impact. Search aircraft eventually picked up the Soyuz' emergency beacon and were able to locate the spacecraft and its crew some 2-1/2 hours after touchdown. It was another two hours before recovery helicopters arrived to pick up the crew from the remote Kazakh steppes. All three were in good health, but NASA sent in two flight surgeons and medical supplies to the Central Asia landing site just in case.

At week's end, it remained unclear why the advanced-model Soyuz TMA--the first of its generation to land on Earth--undershot its intended landing zone. News accounts indicate the vehicle inexplicably took a steeper and faster "ballistic" re-entry trajectory instead of a more-controlled landing approach. Russian space officials have promised an investigation. The Soyuz will handle all crew transport to and from the ISS while the US shuttle fleet remains grounded following the Columbia disaster February 1. The grounding of the shuttle fleet forced Bowersox, Pettit and Budarin to

spend another two months in space while US and Russian space officials worked out crew-exchange arrangements.

After a stop at Baikonur Cosmodrome, the crew headed for Star City, Russia, and the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center. There, they were reunited with their families and began physical rehabilitation after months of living in a weightless environment. They'll also undergo a debriefing. Bowersox and Pettit are slated to return to Houston in mid-May.

Expedition 7 Commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and NASA ISS Science Officer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, arrived on the ISS April 28 aboard a Soyuz TMA-2 spacecraft for a six-month duty tour. They'll return to Earth in early November. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov>> school group contacts will remain on hold for the next few weeks as the new crew settles in.

==>FCC AFFIRMS HEFTY FINE FOR AMATEUR IN INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has affirmed a \$12,000 fine against Technician-class Amateur Radio operator Scott E. Kamm, N0UGN. The FCC released a Forfeiture Order May 7 alleging willful and repeated interference, broadcasting of music and failing to identify with his call sign. The FCC's Kansas City office had released a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on January 24, but Kamm never filed a response, the FCC said. The Commission ordered Kamm to pay the fine within 30 days.

Kamm's station was in Waterbury, Nebraska, at the time he was cited last fall, although the FCC granted his February 27, 2002, application to change his mailing address to a location in Sioux City, Iowa.

Responding to complaints of continuing interference on the input of a 2-meter repeater, FCC agents monitored the machine's input frequency last December 9. They observed a very strong signal on 146.31 MHz "consisting of music, sound effects and unmodulated carriers" and no station ID. The FCC said the transmissions were interfering with amateur communications already in progress.

The FCC twice tracked similar signals to Kamm's residence in Waterbury, Nebraska, inspected his station and found a transceiver capable of operating on 146.31 MHz, the FCC said. Kamm claimed no transmissions were made from his station.

During 2002, Kamm was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth. Last fall, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Kamm's amateur license renewal based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's amateur license expired last September 29,

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and his license renewal application, filed August 8, has reverted to pending status.

==>FCC DECLINES TO GRANT LF ALLOCATION, GIVES CHANNELIZED ACCESS TO 5-MHZ

The FCC bowed to power company concerns and declined to grant amateurs an expected sliver-band allocation at 136 kHz "at this time." But, in a compromise with government users, the Commission gave amateurs secondary access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz instead of the 150-kHz band ARRL had requested. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making a year ago, the FCC appeared inclined to go along with both ARRL requests.

The FCC did agree in its Report and Order (ET Docket 02-98) to elevate the Amateur Service--but not the Amateur-Satellite Service--to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz. The changes to Part 97 go into effect 30 days after publication in The Federal Register, which has not yet occurred.

"We are disappointed that the FCC could not see its way clear to providing even a narrow LF allocation to the amateur service, given earlier encouraging signs and the general trend in other countries," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said of the FCC's decision.

The FCC, however, found itself more persuaded by arguments from electrical utilities and other commenters that amateur operation at 136 kHz might interfere with power line communications (PLC) used by electrical utilities to control the power grid.

The FCC said a new amateur LF allocation is not justified "when balanced against the greater public interest of an interference-free power grid." The FCC said amateurs wishing to experiment with LF could apply for experimental licenses or operate under existing Part 15 rules. "We will not jeopardize the reliability of electrical service to the public," the FCC concluded.

The granting of just five spot frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna--a half-wave dipole. The channels--each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2.8 kHz--will be available to General and higher class licensees.

"While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was sub

itted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," Sumner said. "Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radiocommunication." The restriction to USB is aimed at maintaining interoperability with federal government users, who conceivably could require immediate access to one of the amateur secondary channels.

Sumner said the ARRL was pleased to see 2400-2402 MHz upgraded to primary. "The upgrade of the 2400-2402 MHz amateur allocation to primary provides a seamless primary allocation from 2390 to 2417 MHz, in addition to the secondary allocations of 2300-2310 and 2417-2450 MHz," he said. Amateurs already have been experimenting with high-speed multimedia operation in the band using IEEE 802.11b protocols.

The Report and Order is available on the FCC's Web site, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc.

==>AMATEUR RADIO TODAY SENT TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

A copy of the new Amateur Radio Today CD-ROM video presentation this week went out to all 535 members of the US Congress. The ARRL video tells Amateur Radio's public service story from a non-Amateur Radio perspective. Former CBS news anchorman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, narrates the six-minute presentation.

"After viewing the video, I am sure you will agree that hams are a valuable public safety resource, and continued threats to the spectrum they operate on is not in our national interest," say identical letters to their colleagues from US Rep Michael Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, and US senators Michael Crapo, an Idaho Republican, and Daniel Akaka, a Hawaii Democrat. The letters also seek additional cosponsors for The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003. Bilirakis is the House sponsor of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, HR 713, while Crapo sponsored the Senate version of the bill, S 537. Akaka is an original cosponsor of the Senate measure.

The bills, an ARRL initiative, are on their third try in Congress. HR 713 and S 537 would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. That would include 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. The chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet has agreed to hear testimony on the House version of the bill later this spring.

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

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Individuals may order a copy of the Amateur Radio Today CD-ROM from the ARRL on-line catalog <<https://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8861>> or download it for free. Amateur Radio Today also is available in VHS videotape format. A subtitled (open-captioned) version also is available.

==>60-METER OPERATION TO REQUIRE OPERATOR PRUDENCE, CAUTION

When the five channels of the new 60-meter amateur allocation become available later this year, Amateur Radio operators will have to learn some new operating habits and adopt some new on-the-air attitudes. The limited spectrum and stringent bandwidth requirements will mean amateurs will have to demonstrate their best behavior and operating skills if the Amateur Service ever hopes to get an actual band segment at 60 meters.

"In terms of Amateur Radio spectrum, we usually say, 'Use it or lose it,'" said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The watchword for 60-meter operators should be, 'Misuse it and lose it.'"

The channelized scheme--similar to the 5-MHz experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom<<http://www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk/5mhz.htm>>--puts unfamiliar technical compliance demands on US hams who have, until now, not had to worry much about frequency stability or transmitted audio bandwidth. The FCC has granted amateurs 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the UK experimental operation's band plan. These are all "channel center frequencies," the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) said in a March 13 letter to FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Edmond J. Thomas. The NTIA, which administers federal government spectrum, opposed allocation of an actual ham band citing the ongoing spectrum requirements of federal licensees with homeland security responsibilities. The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees.

The NTIA says that hams planning to operate on 60 meters "must assure that their signal is transmitted on the channel center frequency." In general, the NTIA has advised, users should set their carrier frequency 1.5 kHz= lower than the channel center frequency. According to the NTIA:

Channel Center	Amateur Tuning Frequency
5332 kHz	5330.5 kHz
5348 kHz	5346.5 kHz
5368 kHz	5366.5 kHz
5373 kHz	5371.5 kHz
5405 kHz (common US/UK)	5403.5 kHz

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the assignment of these channels implies that amateurs now must adhere to certain frequency tolerances for their use.

While the international Radio Regulations don't list these for the Amateur Service, he notes, they do stipulate tolerances on the order of 20 to 50 Hz for other services.

"We haven't been told anything specific about frequency tolerances for these channels but would probably annoy federal regulators if we strayed any more than 50 Hz from the assigned carrier frequencies," Rinaldo cautioned.

Keeping one's audio within the 2.8-kHz wide channel to comply with the 2K8J3E emission specification is another important issue. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, believes prudence calls for not having baseband audio below 200 Hz nor greater than 2800 Hz--for a total bandwidth of 2.6 kHz. "That will probably keep us out of trouble," he said. Noting that the high-frequency response "can vary a lot from radio to radio," however, Hare recommended that amateurs play it conservatively.

Additionally, the FCC has restricted operation to USB only, with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W. The USB-only requirement stemmed from NTIA interoperability concerns. The NTIA wanted to make sure that federal users could copy and, if necessary, identify any amateur station using one of the 60-meter channels. As a result, the 60-meter frequencies will become the only ones available to the general amateur community that do not permit CW operation.

For the sake of this particular grant, the FCC said it would consider a half-wave dipole to have a gain of 0 dBd. In its letter to the FCC, the NTIA stipulated that radiated power should not exceed "the equivalent of 50 W PEP transmitter output power into an antenna with a gain of 0 dBd."

"Although this is less spectrum than the American Radio Relay League petition requested, this is the best we can do pending a definition of Homeland Security HF requirements," concluded Fredrick R. Wentland in the NTIA's letter to the FCC's OET.

Sumner has predicted that, over time, amateurs can and will "develop a record of disciplined, responsible use of the five channels in the public interest that will justify another look at these rather severe initial restrictions."

Just when amateurs will get their first crack at 60 meters is not yet clear. The changes to Part 97 go into effect 30 days after publication of the Report and Order (R&O) in The Federal Register, which has not yet happened. Publication could take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. ARRL will announce a specific date as soon as it's known.

The FCC Report and Order in ET Docket 02-98 is available on the FCC's Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc.

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==>OHIO HAM HIT WITH \$12,000 FINE IN MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE CASE

Cooperation between Canadian and US amateurs has resulted in a \$12,000 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) from the FCC to an Ohio amateur. The FCC has alleged that Ronald E. Sauer, WE8E, of Bedford Heights violated Part 97 rules prohibiting deliberate and malicious interference, transmission of music and failure to identify. The case involved daily interference to the Trans Provincial Net <<http://www.tpn7055.ca/>>, a Canadian net that operates on 7.055 MHz.

"This was no small task and was accomplished with the help of many people from the US and Canada working together," said ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, who expressed thanks to all involved. In addition to TPN members, that included Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <<http://www.rac.ca>> officials, Industry Canada, the FCC, ARRL Michigan <<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=MI>> and Ohio <<http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=OH>> Section officials, ARRL Official Observers and members of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society <<http://www.cars.org/>>. "This was indeed an example of teamwork in action and proves again that the FCC does care and continues to work with us to stop interference," Mondro added.

TPN Assistant Manager Jim Taylor, VA3KU, said the interference to the net had gone on for several months. "Our break came when the jammer decided to intensify his efforts by going to his local library and sending out repulsive and threatening e-mails to a few of our members," Taylor said. He and other Canadian hams were able to determine that the e-mails had come from a public library terminal in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Taylor contacted CARS President Bob Check, W8GC, for assistance in zeroing in on the jammer.

Tracking down the signal source involved mobile direction-finding work by three CARS members, who passed along their findings to the FCC's Detroit Office late last January. Already alerted to the situation, the FCC's Detroit Office had called on the Commission's High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Maryland. The HFDF group monitored jamming and the playing of music and narrowed down the search to an area near the intersection of Interstates 480 and 77 in the Cleveland area.

In the meantime, the FCC received the CARS report indicating that the interference was coming from Sauer's residence. On January 31, an FCC agent also used direction-finding techniques to track the source of the interference on 7.055 MHz to Sauer's home and conducted an inspection. The FCC said Sauer "admitted that he had been playing music and deliberately jamming the frequency of 7.055 MHz." Sauer "further admitted to jamming and playing music on this frequency on previous days."

Based on its findings, the FCC concluded that the \$12,000 fine was justified. The FCC ordered Sauer to pay the fine within 30 days or file a written statement seeking a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

==>FCC PROPOSES ADDITIONAL 5-GHZ SPECTRUM FOR UNLICENSED USE

The FCC has proposed making another 255 MHz of 5-GHz spectrum available for unlicensed use at 5.470 to 5.725 GHz. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 GHz, which it shares with government and nongovernment radars and--in part of the band--nongovernment fixed satellite uplinks. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Docket 03-122--approved May 15 but not yet released--the FCC suggested that the additional spectrum be made available for use by unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices, including Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs), operating under Part 15 of the FCC's rules.

"Our action today furthers twin goals of the Spectrum Policy Task Force: promoting spectrum access and furthering development of unlicensed technologies," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell in a separate statement. "Once the backwater of baby monitors and cordless telephones, the unlicensed sector has developed into a hotbed of growth and innovation." The other four commissioners echoed Powell's enthusiasm in their own statements.

The FCC's action comes in response to a petition for rule making from the Wi-Fi Alliance--an industry coalition formerly known as the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance (WECA). If the FCC goes through with the proposal--and it appears likely that it will--Amateur Radio will be left with a 25-MHz segment at 5 GHz--5.825 to 5.850 GHz--that's not already earmarked for unlicensed services.

The ARRL has opposed previous WECA petitions for additional 5-GHz spectrum. The League plans to comment on the latest NPRM once the full text has been released.

The Commission said its action advances the policies set forth in last fall's Spectrum Policy Task Force Report that specifically recommended making available additional spectrum for unlicensed use.

==>QRP WARC-SPEED DX CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED

Danny Eskenazi, K7SS, Ward Silver, N0AX, and the Western Washington DX Club--with the assistance of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM--have announced the year-long QRP "WARC-Speed DX Challenge." The objective is to work as many DXCC entities as possible using low power (QRP) on the so-called "WARC bands," 30, 17 and 12 meters.

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The Challenge starts at 0000 UTC June 1, 2003, and ends at 2359 UTC May 31, 2004. For the purposes of the Challenge, QRP is defined as 5 W or less output on digital modes or CW and 10 W PEP on SSB. (AM or FM operators also are welcome.)

Certificates will be awarded for the top three totals from each CQ Zone in each of several categories for working 100 entities on any single band. Results will be posted monthly in the following categories: 17-meter CW, 17-meter phone, 17-meter digital, 17-meter total, 12-meter CW, 12-meter phone, 12-meter digital, 12-meter total, 30-meter CW, 30-meter digital, total CW, total phone, total digital, total overall. Participants may enter as many or as few categories as they wish.

The Challenge involves no QSL cards or cumbersome paperwork. At the end of each month, WA7BNM will post a score submittal form on the 3830 Score Submittal Web page <<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>>. Participants will enter their totals and updated totals will be posted to the 3830 contest score reflector and CQ-contest reflectors (and be forwarded to the DX and QRP reflectors, as well). At the end of the year, participants will be able to download a nice certificate! The honor system rules, Silver said, and he notes the Challenge is not a contest.

For more information, contact Ward Silver, N0AX, n0ax@arrl.net.

==>IN BRIEF:

*** New Echo satellite could be launched this year:** AMSAT President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says AMSAT hopes to launch its new "Echo" satellite, now under construction, later this year. "Progress is good, and we hope to have the satellite under test during the late spring or early summer," he said in a recent AMSAT President's Letter. The so-called "AO-E" satellite will offer analog (including FM voice) and digital operation, high downlink power (7 W nominal), multiple channels (two transmitters), simultaneous voice and data, a multiband/multimode receiver and a turnstile UHF antenna. Optional payloads include APRS and PSK31 support. More information on the Echo project is available on the AMSAT-NA Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/echo/article-02-11.html>>.--AMSAT News Service

*** Correction:** An article "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act To Get Public Airing" in The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 18 (May 2, 2003), incorrectly identified the political affiliation of Rep Jerry Moran of Kansas. Rep Moran is a Republican.

*** Turkish hams help following earthquake:** Within hours after a deadly earthquake hit in the vicinity of the city of Bingol in southeastern Turkey on May 1, a contingent of Amateur Radio operators arrived on the scene. Amateurs, who traveled from Erzurum with a Civil Defense team, were

able to reach the repeater in Erzurum--some 3210 meters above sea level--from some parts of the stricken city. From Erzurum, a Turkey Radio Amateur Club (TRAC) station relayed traffic via HF, said TRAC President Aziz Sasa, TA1E. Sasa says a three-person team from TRAC's Malatya Branch arrived at the disaster scene about 10 hours later and got an HF station on the air at the Incident Command Center. In addition, he said, two members from TRAC's Ankara Branch were deployed via a military aircraft with Civil Defense personnel. The Amateur Radio operation wrapped up May 4 along with rescue activities. "During the four-day operation a nationwide HF network was active," Sasa said. "As there is the fear of some further strong seismic activities in that particular region, we will try to arrange a VHF-UHF local area voice network there as quickly as possible." He said ham radio operators and equipment are scarce in the extremely mountainous area, but the elevation eases the installation of a VHF-UHF network.

*** National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC announces 2003 on-the-air test:**

The National Hurricane Center's Amateur Radio station, WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW), will conduct its 2003 hurricane season on-the-air station test Sunday, June 1, 1300-2200 UTC. The event will mark the first time the NHC uses its new WX4NHC call sign. WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY, says the purpose of the annual station test is to check out all of the WX4NHC radio, computer and antenna equipment using as many modes and frequencies as possible. Some RFI monitoring also will be done. "We will also be testing some new antennas and equipment that are being installed for this coming season," McHugh said. "A few new operators will receive hands-on training." WX4NHC will operate on HF, VHF and UHF. HF operation will use this schedule: 1300 UTC--3.911 and 7.268 SSB and VHF/UHF FM; 1400 UTC--14.325 MHz SSB, VHF 147.000 repeater/UHF 442.350 repeater; 1500 UTC--144.200 MHz SSB, 14.070 MHz PSK31; 1700 UTC--14.325 and 21.325 MHz SSB, VHF/UHF IRLP Node 9210; 1800 UTC--21.325 and 28.525 MHz SSB; 2000 UTC--14.325 and 144.200 MHz SSB. CW operation will be on 14.035, 21.035 and 28.035 MHz (times will vary). Stations working WX4NHC are asked to provide a signal report, location and brief weather report. Non-hams are invited to submit their actual weather using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form <<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/WX-form1.html>>. QSL cards are available via W4VBQ. Include an SASE with all requests.

*** Distracted driver legislation raising ham hackles in New Jersey:**

An effort by some New Jersey lawmakers to amend that state's current laws regarding distracted driving has some hams upset and worried that the revisions could affect Amateur Radio mobile operation. Assembly Bill 2798, introduced last September by Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski of Middlesex County, would clarify that a "distracted driver may be charged with reckless, careless or unsafe driving" for engaging in what many motorists would consider routine activities, such as listening to the radio or a

CD or cassette player. Wisniewski's bill would amend three laws already on the books and give police the authority "when so warranted" to charge a person for engaging in "distracting behavior." The list includes, but is not limited to, "the use of communications technology" as well as "locator devices, AM/FM radios, compact disc players, audio cassette players, video players, Citizens Band radios and dispatch radios." The list also includes engaging in personal grooming, eating or drinking, reading or "tending to unsecured pets." A statement with the bill declares that "a substantial number of drivers in our fast-paced, multi-tasking society are utilizing communications technology and engaging in non-technological distractions while operating motor vehicles." The statement says that "various studies" have concluded that engaging in these activities while driving "contributes to motor vehicle accidents." ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, whose territory includes Northern New Jersey, calls the measure "a very bad idea." Fallon says he's been encouraging ARRL members to write, telephone, fax or personally contact their New Jersey Assembly members to let them know how they feel. "The bottom line is that New Jersey ARRL members have to get involved," Fallon said. Contact information for New Jersey lawmakers is available on the New Jersey Legislature Web site <<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>>.

*** Hams wanted for new wildlife tracking projects:**

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says ham radio assistance is needed for three new wildlife tracking projects. Moell says a biologist at the University of South Florida at Tampa (USF) is studying Florida burrowing owls, thought to range in Florida and the Florida Keys. Some Florida burrowing owl chicks are being radio-tagged, and USF wants volunteers throughout the Southeast to listen for the VHF radio tags in an attempt to determine the owls' routes and final destinations. The second project involves Mexican long-nosed bats. For about a month beginning in mid-June, Bat Conservation International wants volunteers to join a team that will track the bats' movements in and around Big Bend National Park in Texas. Project three involves a study of orphaned great horned owls conducted by the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary and the University of North Texas. After being raised at the sanctuary, up to two dozen of these owls will be released into the wild this summer with radio tags attached. Volunteers are needed to monitor for the radio tags, especially in the Denton and Collin county areas. Moell's Homing In Web site <<http://www.homingin.com>> has details and contact information on all three projects.

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