DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Secretary:
Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Printing & Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Kathy Urschel

January 2000

Happy New Year !!

Minutes of the December 20 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
KD8W, W8EH & Elaine, K8CM, N8NQF, W8ULC & Marilyn, N8TFH, W8MVN & Bonnie, WB8MYT, WA8PRA, KB8WKL, KC8IZF, KC8BZV, WA8DTU, WD8DFK, KC8DUX, WA8AGQ, W3GP, N8TQG, KB8VSX, KB8ZMO, N8AEG, KC8MVK, WD8NKR, W8LQW, Kathy

Minutes of Last meeting:
George indicated we should skip the reading of the minutes from last meeting and accept them as published in the last newsletter. No one disagreed.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl gave the financial report for October. We have currently 154 members representing 107 families.

Station Report:
Ernie gave a detailed report of status of all of our repeaters. We do have to consider replacing a duplexer and one antenna next year. The antenna out at West Middletown possibly has a bad connection.

WPFB site: KC8ECK and W8EH performed some maintenance work at the 146.61 repeater site. A newer large capacity deep cycle battery was installed at the site to power the repeater. This allows us to stay on the air for several hours of operation. The old Die Hard battery was swollen up and dead. We need to purchase a small 10 to 12 amp power supply to keep this new battery healthy. The old home built supply that is being used to charge it, keeps jumping around its voltage. This cooks out the battery.

A gel cell battery was installed to replace the bad one that powers the repeater controller and voter. The gel cell battery keeps the computer powered and allows us to continue to have phone line control, even when the main battery fails.

All equipment was checked and some other minor problems were fixed. The only outstanding work is to replace the power amplifier. Waiting on parts and W8DJY to put them in.

BREIEL site: W8EH completed the backup 146.61 repeater system. This system is a complete repeater with simple controller. This system is installed at our Breiel site. It is on 'hot standby', connected and ready to turn on by remote control. This system has 2 large deep cycle backup batteries installed and will allow us to operate for about 24 hours or more. Future plans include tying it into the 444.825 and 224.96 system. Now should our main site ever fail, a control operator can call up the backup site and make it active.

Packet systems operating ok here. Both the Dayton DX and Butler County DX clusters are tied into our W8BLV-MWO node now on 144.91.

Main antenna still needs replaced. Its halfway working but not well. The antenna is on hand at the site, just waiting for a climber to go up for some other reason and take it along.

West Middletown site: W8EH and N8LRN inspected the West Middletown repeater system to find the source of the intermittent

Next Meeting: Monday, January 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

problems. Several problems continue to exist. The main 146/440 repeater antenna has failed. A very weak signal was getting out. A check with the SWR analyzer indicates a possible feedline connection problem or antenna zapped by lightning. Climbing the tower is the only way to check this out. Meanwhile the 147.315 repeater was connected into the 50/146/440 three band antenna. It doesn't have as much gain as the main antenna did when it was working right. Signal level on transmit is now back to near normal. The Monroe remote receive site continues to work ok with the system.

The next problem is with the duplexer. It was reported that we had intermittent noise on the system. The duplexer is a 4 cavity hybrid ring system. This means there is a lot of coax, T connectors, and coaxial tuning stubs attached. This system is probably 25 years old and seems to be suffering from the high humidity that exists in the water building. Taking some of the connectors apart and reconnecting calmed it down a bit, but we may expect this to continue. We may want to plan on a replacement of this duplexer sometime in the future.

The APRS digipeater (144.39 - W8MWO) at West Middletown was also upgraded with a backup battery to allow it to stay on the air for several hours during a power failure.

Pictures of the installations: If you didn't see the latest repeater pictures on the internet, go to this site to see them::

http://www.infinet.com/~w8eh/Pictures/Dial/MAVICA.HTM

New Members:
Clayton Graham, KC8KHY, Richard Botos, KC8MVK, and James Bursler, W8MJB, were unanimously elected as new members of Dial.

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Old Business
We have received our slots for the Dayton hamvention for year 2000. We have the same slots as last year; #s 3201 3202 3203 Ron, N8NQF, will again be our same location (and Ron also has the same slots).

Ernie again reminded us that we need to check in on Y2K night. Even if you're not doing anything, please check in to the net. We need a good showing of folks so that we can be counted. We are not expecting anything, but just in case we should have a good turnout on the special y2k net.

New Business
The nominating committee presented the new recommendations for officers for the year 2000. They are President: Dave Williamson, KD8W; vice-president: Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV; Treasurer: Carl Morgan, K8CM; Secretary: Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH; and Activities Manager: Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ. No others were nominated. All officers were voted in.

Door Prize winner was Richard Botos, KC8MVK. ***Congratulations Richard!***

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary

Our Ohio Section Manager Speaks ...

Hamfests; Where Gridlock Is No Longer A Problem
By Joseph Phillips, K8QOE

Come on, admit it; you do it. I do it. All ham radio operators entering a hamfest do it. You arrive at an event, look around to judge the crowd size; see what commercial dealers made the show and whether your favorite flea market vendor is attending. Then within thirty seconds, you've decided - this hamfest is successful or it is not.

In the late 1990s, making these judgments has been very interesting. No so previously. In the 70s and 80s, all hamfests always exceed past performances. Nothing to judge - always bigger and bigger. But now, not anymore.

A hamfest within driving distance use to be once a month until the 80s when each week had a close event; some weeks - two or more. This is beginning to change as well. Fading attendance and low commercial dealer turnout at some shows (but not all in Ohio) will change the amateur radio hamfest calendar in the 2000s.

In *QST* (November, 1999; pages 53-56), Don Gagnon, WB8HQS, of Fort Wayne, gave us 63 reasons that the Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo in November is so successful. The four-pa article is a handy cook book approach on how anyone else can do the same. The tips are valuable and required reading for anyone involved in the hamfest business - veteran or rookie.

But if your looking for this article to reverse the current BEAR market in hamfest attendance and dealer turnout some of our Ohio shows are experiencing, I tend to doubt it will happen.

Putting The Dayton Hamvention in a league by itself (and if you're inclined not to do this, give me a call - I'd love to hear from you), we tend to categorize other hamfests as either MAJOR events or small hamfests. These designations will change in the 2000s as well when some grow and some continue to decline. At the beginning of this decade, the Cincinnati Reds were big market winners (world champions) and Cleveland Indians were small market losers. Unless you just arrived in Ohio from Mars, you know the past four years these baseball teams have dramatically reversed places. Past big hamfests have been and will continue to change places with small shows in the same way.

Let's look at this for a second. Big events had major dealers and even manufactures (ICOM, Kenwood, Yaesu, etc.) attending during the hamfest bull market. Then dealers began to see dramatic sales results from those 800 number long distan telephone lines. Right at the same time, the number of shows the were invited to attend seemed to double. More hamfests just at a

time when they seems to need to attend none at all for big radio sales - except for The Dayton Hamvention, of course.

So with manufacturers and major dealers attending less and less hamfests, smaller dealers and computer companies were courted by all hamfests to make up the difference. I need not tell you it has .ot always worked. I will not mention names: that simply isn't fair. But there are Ohio events use to selling in excess of 2,500 tickets now not doing half that number. I know a recent major show where the trustees were thrilled that attendance fell 3 per cent from the previous year. They had been worried the drop in percentage would be in double digits. Even The Dayton Hamvention, as large and powerful as it is, hasn't been completely immune to the new hamfest economics.

Actually observing events throughout Ohio the past year, it has been obvious that the most SECURE shows have been the small hamfests - those who continue to serve their base audience both in ticket sales and vendors. For others, it is just now getting interesting. *[The Ohio Section Journal]*

Winter 1999-2000 Ham Radio Class To Begin

Fall classes will begin, in Middletown, on Wednesday evening, January 26, 6-9 pm. All classes meet in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University. Instruction will be offered for Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus licenses.

Classes conclude April 26 with thirteen weeks of instruction and one VEC-examination session (March 15). A second examination session will be held at the conclusion of classes on May 5.

Although there is no charge for the classes, students should expect to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

14th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium

The Fourteenth Annual **Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium** will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2000; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The location is in Thesken Hall, Middletown Campus, Miami University, Middletown (OH) and the admission and parking is free.

Sponsored by The Center for Chemical Education, Miami University-Middletown, DIAL Radio Club, and The Ohio Packet Council

If you have an interest in CW, RTTY, APRS, Packet Radio, AMTOR, etc., please plan to join us.

Program chairman for the Y2K event is Hank Greeb, N8XX.

ARRL/VEC Test Reimbursement Fee for 2000

The FCC has announced that the maximum Amateur Radio examination fee reimbursement that Volunteer Examiners and Volunteer Examiner Coordinators can collect during calendar year 2000 is $6.66.

The ARRL/VEC has set its 2000 test fee at $6.65. Per ARRL-VEC policy, there is no examination charge for those taking only Elements 1A or 2.

A $6.65 fee will be collected from applicants seeking to upgrade using a physician's certification to waive the Morse code examination.--Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ *[ARRL Letter]*

Vast Majority of Hams not ULS-Ready

Even though registration has been available for approximately two years now, most Amateur Radio licensees have yet to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The ULS Task Force reports that, as of mid-November, 682,212 amateurs still have not registered. This figure includes individuals whose licenses have lapsed but remain in the two-year grace period. The FCC recently said approximately 3% of US licensees had registered with the ULS.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC--including renewals, modifications, and vanity call sign requests.

Meanwhile, the latest "good news/bad news" scenario from the ULS could go something like this: "Dear Amateur: The good news is that we have granted your requested Group C vanity call sign which you sought 10 weeks ago when you were a General class licensee. The bad news is that when we granted your long-awaited vanity call, we also undid the Advanced and Extra class upgrades you accomplished while your vanity was pending. So, congratulations! You're a General once again."

The ULS Task Force says it recently discovered that the bug occurs when several applications are pending (*e.g.*, a vanity application and an upgrade application). The FCC is attempting to straighten out the unintended downgrades and says it will have the operator class of affected licensees corrected within a week.

FCC personnel are currently testing the processing for club, military recreation, and RACES applications and hopes to act on pending applications before the end of the month. Up until now, those applications have been filed on paper and still must be manually keystroked into the ULS prior to processing.

The ULS Task Force also wants amateur applicants to know that if they apply too early for license renewal, their applications will be dismissed. A license renewal must be filed no sooner than within 90 days of expiration, even if coupled with a license modification. This is only an issue for those filing paper

applications; the electronic filing system will not let applicants file prematurely.

To register for the ULS, visit ***http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls*** and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration". Paper registration also is possible. For more information, call toll-free 888-CALL

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Denies League's Request to Strengthen PRB-1

The FCC has turned down a 1996 ARRL petition asking the Commission to go further in compelling state and local governments to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio and apply the least restrictive means to regulate amateur antennas and activity. However, in denying the petition, designated RM-8763, the FCC did offer some words that may be helpful to amateurs.

The requested rules changes would have expanded and clarified PRB-1, the Federal preemption of state and local regulation spelled out by the FCC in 1985 and since incorporated into the laws of several states.

Specifically, the League called on the FCC to amend Section 97.15(e) of its rules to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable" unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions were necessary for health, safety or aesthetic reasons.

Further, the ARRL asked the FCC to clarify that local government's role in applying PRB-1 was to accommodate ham antennas rather than to balance local interests against Federal interests in "effective public service amateur communications." The League also wanted the FCC to acknowledge that it "has no less interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio Station" in an area regulated by deed restrictions, covenants, or condominium regulations than by zoning ordinances. It also asked the FCC to preempt overly burdensome conditions and excessive costs localities might require in connection with amateurs antenna installations.

In its denial, in an Order released November 19, the FCC said it would not be "prudent" or "appropriate" to set a height standard for amateur antennas and supporting structures "because of varying circumstances that may occur" for differing antenna configurations. "We believe that the policy enunciated in PRB-1 is sound," the FCC said, noting that PRB-1 does not specify a height limit. The Commission also said it did not want to mandate specific provisions that localities must include in zoning ordinances.

"We continue to believe that the standards the Commission set, that is 'reasonable accommodation' and 'minimum practicable regulation', have worked relatively well," the FCC said. The Commission applied that same philosophy to the imposition of fees, zoning laws and other conditions that localities might impose on amateur antenna installations.

The FCC also said its policy with respect to restrictive covenants already is clearly stated in PRB-1, which excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as "outside the reach of our limited preemption." The FCC did say that it "strongly encourages associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio. But it drew the line at proposing specific rule changes to bring private restrictive covenants under the umbrella of PRB-1.

On a slightly positive note, the FCC did assert that PRB-1 precisely states the principle of "reasonable accommodation." Some courts have held that a local authority can merely balance its own interests against those of the amateur. PRB-1 says local regulations involving placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations "must be crafted to accommodate reasonably amateur communications, and to represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose." In its Order, the FCC said that given PRB-1's explicit language, "it is clear that a 'balancing of interests' approach is not appropriate in this context."

The ARRL Executive Committee will review the Order at its December 4 meeting to determine what further action is appropriate. [ARRL Letter]

Riley Hollingsworth to Keynote Hamvention

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will be the keynote speaker at the 2000 Dayton Hamvention banquet on Saturday, May 20. For the first time ever, the Dayton Hamvention will host the ARRL National Convention, and Hamvention 2000 promises to be the biggest and best ever. Because it's also the League's national convention, Dayton Hamvention 2000 will include an expanded forum schedule.

Hollingsworth already is well known to the amateur community, and his appearances at last year's Hamvention drew large and enthusiastic audiences. He says he's pleased to be invited back to Dayton and honored to be the banquet speaker for Hamvention 2000.

In the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--who's headquartered at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office--spearheaded an Amateur Radio enforcement initiative that reversed a long period of Commission inattention and apathy. Hams across the US have credited Hollingsworth with helping to reduce malicious interference and other problem behavior, both on and off the air. The result has been a marked upswing in morale within the amateur community.

Hollingsworth says his message is a simple one. "Our communications services in America, whether our telephone system or our computer networks, are the envy of the rest of the world," he said. "Our Amateur Radio Service should be, too. There's no reason why our Amateur Radio Service can't be the finest radio service in the world."

A native of South Carolina and a ham for 39 years, Hollingsworth holds an Advanced class ticket. He's a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University Law School. Now an FCC veteran, Hollingsworth, 53, previously served in several prominent positions within the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Hollingsworth joined the former Compliance and Information Bureau as Legal Advisor for Enforcement in 1998. As a result of the FCC reorganization in November, Hollingsworth became Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement within the FCC's new Enforcement Bureau.

In addition to his enforcement duties--which include the Land Mobile Service in addition to Amateur Service--Hollingsworth has been temporarily detailed to the new FCC Consumer Information Bureau to manage the Gettysburg Consumer Center.

A member of the ARRL, Hollingsworth also belongs to the Quarter Century Wireless Association and the Radio Club of America.

Dayton Hamvention will take place May 19-21, 2000. As part of the banquet festivities, the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association will present awards for Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year, Technical Excellence and Special Achievement.

Advanced registration now is available. For more information on Dayton Hamvention 2000, visit http://www.hamvention.org, e-mail

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Intervenes in Power Line Noise Complaints

Taking a new direction in a power-line interference case, the FCC has contacted a West Coast power company to remind the utility of its obligation to fix equipment problems that cause harmful radio interference. The case involved longstanding complaints by several northern California amateurs to Pacific Gas & Electric Company regarding severe power line noise on the ham bands.

On November 22, the FCC's Consumer Center wrote PG&E Senior VP James K. Randolph, who's also General Manager of Distribution and Customer Service requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time."

"It is a little bit unusual, but it had been ongoing for quite a while, and I had talked with the power company," said Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. He said the situation involved "a long history of non-response" by PG&E. "They've shown a lot of patience," he said of the amateurs who had complained, adding that he'd spoken to some of them during a West Coast visit earlier this year.

"The FCC has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment," the Commission's letter said.

Under FCC Part 15, utilities and others that fall under its provisions are obliged to not cause harmful interference to licensed services and to cease operating a device that's causing harmful interference upon FCC notification. The FCC said that while it remains confident that utilities can resolve such interference issues voluntarily, its letter was intended as a reminder that the unresolved interference problem "may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The FCC letter points out that the FCC encourages parties to resolve such problems "without FCC intervention" but says the FCC will step in when necessary. In this particular case, Hollingsworth said, the amateurs "had worked diligently with the power company and with the League, and we thought it appropriate for us to send a letter reminding them of what the Commission's rules and policies are."

Hollingsworth and ARRL Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI – the League's point man for interference-related issues – say that, before contacting the FCC to intervene as it did with the PG&E situation, affected amateurs first should attempt to work patiently with the utility and should contact the League for assistance.

The ARRL Technical Information Service has prepared a Web page, "RFI--Electrical and Power Line," at:

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html.

Amateurs suffering from interference believed to be emanating from power generation or transmission facilities also may contact Ed Hare, W1RFI,

[ARRL Letter]

Next *DIAL* Fox Hunt

The next DIAL fox hunt will begin at 10 am in Jacot Park, Middletown., on Saturday, January 22, 2000. *[W8EH]*

Mississippi Ham Awaits Court Decision in OFI Case

A Mississippi ham arrested for interfering with his neighbors' telephones is awaiting a decision on his request to throw out the complaint on the grounds that the state court has no jurisdiction in the matter. ARRL member Bennie Stewart, KJ6TY, of Meridian, was arrested and charged September 10 after a neighbor filed a complaint with the Lauderdale County Justice Court.

Stewart, a ham for 12 years, appeared in court October 26. He says his attorney, Felecia Perkins, filed a request to dismiss the complaint, brought under a Mississippi law that makes it illegal to "intentionally obstruct, injure, break or destroy, or in any manner interrupt any telegraph or telephone line or communication thereon between any two points." Stewart maintains that only the FCC has jurisdiction, and his station is operating properly.

The ARRL has provided legal defense assistance to Stewart's attorney. The case has been continued while the court mulls its

decision. If convicted, Stewart faces a fine of up to $500, six months in jail, or both. "It should have never gotten to this point in the first place," Stewart said, adding that he's tried to work with his neighbors regarding telephone interference ever since the first complaints arose three or four years ago. "I put myself on a schedule," he said, explaining that he operates on 40, 20, and 10 meters only on weekday mornings. He says he never operates on weekends, only runs 100 W, and no longer owns a linear amplifier.

"The problem is not here," he says of his station.

A retired professional photographer, the 60-year-old Stewart is confined to a wheelchair. He described his arrest - which he says took place in front of his three-year-old granddaughter - as "humiliating."

Stewart says he expects the court to rule on the case very soon.
[ARRL Letter]

Scary Riley?

The "other" Dave Sumner, KD7DS, points out that someone at the FCC must have had a great sense of humor when they came up with FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth's new title under the FCC reorganization.

Hollingsworth--who's K4ZDH--will become *Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement* -- or SCARE if you're into the sorts of acronyms our government seems to love.

The FCC's new Enforcement and Consumer Information bureaus became effective November 8, along with Hollingsworth's scary new title.

Just back from a visit to a hamfest appearance in St Paul, Minnesota, Hollingsworth reacted to the frightful acronym by declaring: "Wow, I hadn't thought of that!" -- thanks to Dave Sumner, KD7DS *[ARRL Letter]*

DARA Accepting Scholarship Applications:

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting requests for applications for the DARA Scholarship Awards. DARA has awarded numerous $2000 scholarships to assist young amateurs. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and hold a Amateur Radio license. All completed applications will be considered. Requests for applications, accompanied by an SASE, go to DARA Scholarships,

Completed applications must be postmarked before June 1, 2000.--Stanley R. Kuck, NY8F *[ARRL Letter]*

Amateur Radio Shows Slow Growth

According to Amateur Radio census statistics cited in the October 15, 1999, W5YI Report, US licensee growth has nearly stalled overall during the past year. The W5YI numbers--which exclude hams whose licenses have expired but remain within the two-year grace period--show 675,739 US licensees as of September 30, 1999. While that's up by more than 3000 hams over the same month in 1998, the number represents less than one-half percent growth.

The number of US amateurs peaked over the past year at 676,318 at the end of July. Looking at the numbers by license class, on Technician showed substantial growth--up by more than 10,500 from a year earlier. Tech Plus and Amateur Extra classes rose slightly too, but the numbers were down slightly for Advanced and General, and the number of Novice licensees declined by more than 5100 over the past year. *[ARRL Letter]*

Our First Y2K Meeting

I presented an idea for a future meeting to one of the officers who liked my idea. I said I would pass the word on to you all.

For the Jan. 2000 meeting, bring in your favorite or most unique QSL card. This can be a card that came from the furthest or most unique place, is unusual looking, or one that for whatever reason is your personal favorite and tell us a little about it. Please try to keep your presentations brief (no more than about 5 minutes) in order to give everyone a chance to show off their cards.
[KC8BZV]

Future Meetings

We continue to solicit your suggestions and recommendations regarding future meeting programs.

Please share your thoughts at the meeting and/or with any officer.

Meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

Remember, Y2K dues are same as last year ($26/$12) and were due by January 1. If your dues are unpaid, this will be the last ***Newsletter*** you will receive.

Presuming your dues have been paid, your Y-2000 membership card is enclosed. If, for some reason, you do not receive your card, please contact Carl, K8CM, as soon as possible

Next Meeting: Monday, January 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

January 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4	5	6 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	7	8 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
9	10	11	12	13 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	14	15 Packet Symposium And Mid-Winter OPAC Meeting
16 Sunday Creek ARF Hamfest - Nelsonville	17 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	18	19	20 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	21	22 DIAL Fox Hunt 10am - Jacot Park
23	24	25	26 Ham Classes Begin at 6pm Verity Lodge	27 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	28	29
30 TUSCO ARC Hamfest Dover, OH	31					

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

February 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	3 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	4	5
6	7	8	9 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	10 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	11	12 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License** **Exams - 9am**
IARC/MASER 13 Hamfest Mansfield 0700-1500 EST Richland County Fairgrounbds	14	15	16 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	17 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	18	19
20	21 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	22	23 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	24 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	25	26
27	28	29				

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February 2000

Minutes of the January 17 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH & Elaine, N8NQF, W8WLM, K8CM, KD8W, WD8DFK, WA8AGQ, WD4HPC, KC8CKT, W8MVN & Bonnie, N8TFH, WB8MYT, W8GNV, KC8IZF, N8AEG, W8ULC & Marilyn, W8LQW, WD8NKR, KE8OH & Tillie, KI8I, W3GP, N8TQG, WA8DTU, Kathy, KC8BZV, KC8LDV, KC8ISN, KC8IZE, WD8DEZ, N8HRA, KC8DUX, KB8WKL, KB8VSX, KC8HFX, KB8VRO, KC8MVK. (41).

Call to order by Dave, KD8W.

Minutes of Last meeting:
Motion to approve the December minutes as published, approved

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report by K8CM. Active members at the end of December was 154 out of 107 families. 1999 total expenses were $4,143.08, with the total income of $4539.20. So far 120 members have renewed for 2000.

Application for membership for N8ODK and N8LWM approved.

Station Report:
Station report by W8EH, everything still the same as last month. We do have a line on an amplifier for 146.61.

Y2K net report from Lori, KC8BZV. We had 42 check in to the net. The net lasted from 11:00 pm until 12:56 am. Dave presented Lori with an award for her work with the net.

Old business:
K8CM reported that the Digital Symposium was a success. Our special guest, Steve Bible from TAPR made a good presentation on the new gadgets TAPR was working on. Reports from those attending indicated it was one of the best years' for this. There were more than 60 persons attending.

New business:
W8EH reported that the club received a donation of the station equipment from the estate of K8INF. This includes HF rig, antennas, a couple HTs, 2 meter rig and miscellaneous things. Some of the items will be kept for club use and others will be sold.

Drawing for door prize (a free dinner at the Old Country Buffet) was won by Marilyn Howard, N8HRA.

Exams will be held January 26, February 23, March 15 and April 15. Classes start January 26.

Butler County VHF Association will have their usual exams on the second Saturday each month, as well as a special paperwork session on April 15.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary .

From the President ...

New Year and New Opportunities

The year 2000 should be a great opportunity for all of us. Now that we have the new 'Restructuring' everyone can make his best decision on when and how they want to upgrade. All of the bantering of what was good and what is bad should now be put behind us. We need to move forward and get on with life as hams and our own personal pursuits.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

On another subject, Dayton is just around the corner. As you know we have been confirmed on our slots again for this year. I look forward to a great weekend at Dayton. I hope all members will mark their calendar and plan on spending at least one of your days with us. It is one of the great hi-lights of our year.

A special thanks to all of you who checked in during the Y2K weekend three weeks ago. You are a special group because you were willing to participate in something that won't happen again for a thousand years. In fact the computer problem will surface again, but well past our time. Until next time.. 73 KD8W

Our Section Manager Speaks ...

Joe Phillips, K8QOE

When this year -2000- was four days old, it already had more amateur radio news than all of 1999. Including not only hams reaffirming our expertise in toilet tissue (some hams will always squeeze the Charmin) but our long suffering volunteer examiners, who got a late Christmas present. By Wednesday of the New Year, Ohio hams had:

A) Spent New Years Eve right through New Year Day at hospitals, police stations, county emergency operating centers (EOCs) standing ready to serve in the case of disaster from the Millennium Clock change over

B) Spend the time debating restructuring, as announced by the FCC, including what effect restructuring has on the ruination of Ham Radio.

C) Began to purchase upgrade books and looking for testing schedules to beat the FCC imposed April 15 deadline to upgrade under the old system.

While some of us were wondering out loud if our licenses were worth more than unused toilet tissue, numerous hams completed a raid on dealers and the ARRL for books to upgrade. Yes, the elimination of all CW tests above 5WPM has angered Advanced and Extra class amateurs. But the hobby has also been energized - at the start of the New Year. The ARRL was wondering if its book supply would last four weeks. Four DAYS later, the League was out of books. So are most dealers.

That's the late Christmas present our Volunteer Examiners received. Testing sessions, I predict, will now overflow well past the April 15 deadline. If you are looking for an Ohio testing session, may I suggest you visit <www.wcnet.org/~johnson> and thank Bob Johnson, K3RC, Stony Ridge, for constantly updating this list even when it wasn't this popular.

Guess what else helped energize this dormant hobby? Oh yes, it was Y2K. Oh I know Y2K was a big bust for everyone else but our mayors, police chiefs, county commissioners, state emergency officials were all reintroduced to the value of a back up communications system. Our county ARES programs will find getting equipment and meeting space from civil authorities easier for a while.

Even at the state level, 70 minutes before the clock changeover, Ohio Governor Bob Taft was at Ohio Emergency Management Headquarters asking John Chapman, WB8INY, about the ham radio effort. Chapman and seven hams were doing at Ohio EMA what hams were doing all over Ohio - working back up communications systems in anticipation of disaster. That th disaster didn't happen did NOT diminish our role. Now civ authorities, from Governor Taft to Ohio's city mayors, know of our value. And the utilities. And the safety officials. And the hospitals. Good.

One last stab at the toilet tissue issue. Complaints about restructuring, however valid, are hardly new. I remember when first getting my ticket in the late 50's. Then supporters of AM modes were complaining that Single Side Band would be the ruination of Ham Radio.

Yes, as we write this after four days, this year has 362 days to go (leap year remember). And it's already been historic.

[K8QOE]

14th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium

This symposium can be, clearly, marked as a success. Not only for our University sponsors but for Dial as well. This year's symposium attracted nearly 60 amateurs from around the country sharing and discussing advancers and applications of digital technology in amateur radio.

A notable highlight was the TAPR PIC-encoder presentation by Steve Bible, N7HPR. Steve traveled from his home in Georgia attend this year's conference and share TAPR's more rece developmental efforts.

Weather was great (for traveling!!), fellowship outstanding, and technical content stimulating.

Next year, the Symposium will be under the leadership of Hank Greeb, N8XX (Program) and Mike Brown, W8DJY (Physical arrangements). Mike is a member of Dial and a faculty member in the Department of Engineering Technology at Miami.

[K8CM]

Ham Radio License Exams

Ham radio license exams in Novice through Extra Class Amateur License will be conducted in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH, on the following dates:

Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7pm, on February 23 and March 15

and on

Saturday morning, beginning at 10am, on April 15

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Doors will open for registration one hour before the exams begin. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the ***Dial Radio Club***. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, and must arrive no later than Monday prior to the exam. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W,

Questions, Comments, Confusion Follow in FCC's License Restructuring Wake

Questions, comments, and some confusion have been the order of the day since the FCC finally dropped the other shoe on Amateur Radio restructuring on December 30. The FCC's momentous action--reducing the number of license classes to three and establishing 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination element--has, at least for now, polarized the Amateur Radio community. It also promises to change the complexion of Amateur Radio as it enters the new millennium.

More than half of those responding to an informal poll on the ARRL Web site indicate they plan to upgrade during 2000. Demand for study materials in the past week suggests many amateurs will be hitting the books in the coming weeks.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. The FCC's new licensing scheme simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra. Applicants will only have to pass one Morse code test, and there are fewer written examinations and total questions.

This is the best news I have heard since bread and butter!" exclaimed Jimmy Stewart, WD9FHY, who said he's been trying unsuccessfully for years to boost his code proficiency. On the other side were some who asserted that the revised requirements would contribute to a further decline of Amateur Radio and open the doors to "riff-raff."

The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to review the FCC Report and Order and discuss its implications when it meets January 21-22 in Memphis.

In a significant step, the FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The nation's Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, including the ARRL-VEC, now are under the gun to meet the plan's April 15 implementation date. "The Question Pool Committee has been meeting by telephone and e-mail to get the updating process under way," said ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "It's anticipated that the QPC will put out a news release soon that indicates when the updated question pools will be available to the public." Jahnke said the revised question pools will be out "well in advance" of April 15.

No one loses any privileges under the FCC's new plan, and, with one limited exception, no licensee is in a position to automatically gain any privileges when April 15 rolls around. The FCC's action establishes the Technician license--with or without Morse code credit--as the entry-level ticket to Amateur Radio. Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM Morse code exam will gain current Tech Plus HF privileges. The current "no-code" Tech license will continue to be available. Technician applicants opting to not take the code test will gain current Technician VHF/UHF privileges. After April 15, 2000, the FCC will lump Technician and Technician Plus licensees into a single "Technician" database. Despite the name change, current Tech Plus licensees won't lose any privileges.

Similarly, current General and Amateur Extra class holders will continue to enjoy their current privileges. The FCC took no action to reallocate any amateur bands.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test. The new Amateur Extra test is expected to combine the important elements of the current Advanced and Amateur Extra examinations. Only minor changes are anticipated in the new General class examination. The new Technician exam likely will include some questions on HF operating from the current Novice test.

The new licensing plan created a lone and limited upgrade for those who held a Technician license or a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) before March 21, 1987. Those individuals may claim credit for a new General class license. This is because there was a single Technician-General written test under the old system; only the code tests differed. The

upgrade is not automatic, however. Affected individuals will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC.

Judging from the questions coming into ARRL HQ, many hams want to know whether to upgrade now or wait for the new system. If you're either a Tech Plus or an Advanced licensee, there might be an advantage to taking an exam now. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 3B may apply for a General class upgrade when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Advanced licensees holding a valid CSCE for Element 4B may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade under the new system. To be valid on April 15, 2000, any such CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid CSCE, and pay any required application fee ($6.65 for the ARRL-VEC).

The reduced Morse code requirement hit a nerve with some hams who felt it "devalued" their upper-class licenses. Others, however, felt it minimized an unnecessary obstacle. The FCC said it believes a demonstration of Morse proficiency does not necessarily indicate an individual's "ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," as the FCC put it. The Commission also said it was not convinced that Morse proficiency had any particular value to emergency preparedness.

The reduction in the Morse code requirement was not entirely unexpected. Several other countries already have lowered their Morse code examination requirements, and some observers believe the Morse requirement will disappear altogether once it's eliminated in the international Radio Regulations. The FCC said it opted for the "least burdensome requirement" as its sole Morse standard. While the 13 and 20 WPM code tests soon will be history, the FCC said that "provisions must remain in place for accommodating individuals with severe disabilities."

The Morse code issue is expected to be on the agenda of a future World Radiocommunication Conference. The FCC said it would not automatically "sunset" the Morse code requirement even if Morse code is eliminated from the international radio regulations.

Frequently Asked Questions on restructuring are available at ***http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html/***. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at ***http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf*** or at ***http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.]***

[ARRL Letter]

Enhanced Amateur Enforcement Enters a New Year

As the new year gets under way, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth hinted he might have to break bad on hard-core offenders this year. He explained that poor or lax FCC enforcement in the past led him to be more forgiving of rule breakers during his first full calendar year in the enforcement chair. Now, those who persist in operating outside of the stated basis and purpose of Amateur Radio "are beginning to try our patience," he said. "I can't say we're going to be as compassionate this year."

Hollingsworth said he expected to continue his focus on incursions into the 10-meter band by unlicensed operators, especially as propagation gets better, and on equipment certification issues. "We're very concerned about the illegal equipment we see for sale at hamfests," he explained.

Overall, however, malicious interference remains "the basic problem," as he put it. "We're going to use the High-Frequency Direction Finding Center at Laurel [Maryland] more this year" to track down rule breakers, he said. In addition, Hollingsworth now has enhanced monitoring tools at his Gettysburg office, allowing him access to the HFDF Center's 14 antenna fields plus VHF-UHF "pods" that can be moved around as necessary. "We have dial-in capabilities to all of our antenna fields and to the pods, so we can cover HF, UHF, and VHF anywhere in the country, right here from the Gettysburg office," he explained.

"It's a force multiplier, so to speak," Hollingsworth said of the new capabilities.

Hollingsworth also says he's upbeat about the future of ham radio and the FCC's Amateur Radio restructuring plan announced December 30. "I'm really optimistic about it," he said this week. "I think that it's a good idea to simplify things a little bit as far the number of license classes," he added, referring to the new three-tiered system.

Hollingsworth said he believes Amateur Radio needs more young blood to keep it going in the future, and he thinks the new licensing system that becomes effective April 15 might help in that regard. He declined, however, to comment further on the specific policies and rules the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau laid down in its Report and Order, saying it would not be appropriate.

[ARRL Letter]

Question Pool Committee Eyes February 1 Release Date; ARLB003

A revised Amateur Radio question pool that reflects the April 15, 2000, restructuring rules could be out by February 1. Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee says workable question pools for the new Technician, General and Amateur Extra written exams will be made public by February 1 or "very shortly thereafter."

Adams says that a Technician class syllabus already has been drafted and approved. The various QPC members have been keeping in touch by telephone and e-mail since the FCC

announced the restructuring rules December 30.

Adams says that the QPC plans to further refine and update the newly configured pools in the future, after it has an opportunity to meet and formulate a plan. He said the revised question pools will follow the established format.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. Applicants desiring HF privileges will only have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April

There are four examination elements in the new licensing system. Element 1 is the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2 is a 35-question Technician test; Element 3 is a 35-question General test, and Element 4 is a 50-question Amateur Extra test.

Frequently Asked Questions and other information on restructuring is available on the ARRL Web site.

[ARRL Bulletin]

ARRL Announces New DXCC Awards

As it looks forward to the new millennium, the ARRL DXCC program has added a few new twists of its own, with something for the seasoned DXer as well as he DX neophyte. Inaugurated at the start of the new ear were The DXCC Challenge, the DeSoto Cup, the 20-Meter Single-Band DXCC Award, and the DXCC 2000 Millennium Award. Here's a rundown.

The DXCC Challenge is open only to holders of 5-Band DXCC. Individual standings in the DXCC Challenge are based on accumulated contact credits made on all eligible bands within the DXCC program using only current DXCC entities. This includes credits already received by DXCC for contacts with current DXCC List entities made after November 15, 1945.

Challenge standings will be updated each year. The deadline to submit is September 30, 2000. Standings will be reported as numbers. Plaques are available for those who accumulate 1500 DXCC Challenge credits. Endorsement bars are available in increments of 500. This year, eligible bands are 160, 80, 40, 20, 10, and 6 meters. The band list will be increased each year until all bands (except 30 meters) are included.

Starting this year, the DeSoto Cup will be awarded to the DXer who is at the top of the DXCC Challenge list on September 30 of each year. The cup is named for Clinton B. DeSoto, W1CBD, who wrote the 1935 QST article that inspired the original DXCC program. A DXer may only be awarded one cup.

The 20-Meter Single-Band DXCC Award is the first of several new single-band awards to be phased in over the next year or so. Contacts with current DXCC entities are eligible for credit, beginning with any SOs made on or after November 15, 1945, on any mode. DXCC reports returned after August 1, 1999, show 20-meter contact credits. Those with a 5-Band DXCC issued before April 1, 1992, may submit up to 100 current 20-meter cards with no per-card charges applied..

Here's a DXCC award for everyone. To qualify, work 100 or more current DXCC entities during the calendar year (UTC), any combination of bands or modes is allowed. Here's the best part: You don't have to submit any QSL cards! Applicants must certify to the authenticity of log extracts submitted, however. The DXCC 2000 Millennium Award period began 0000 UTC on January 1, 2000, and continues through 2359 UTC on December 31, 2000.

The DXCC 2000 Millennium Award is separate and apart from the traditional DXCC awards program. Qualifying for this award does not give credit for traditional DXCC awards, but DXCC rules still apply. The DXCC 2000 Millennium Award certificate is available to ARRL members and nonmembers.

Official application forms may be downloaded at ***http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc***. Forms also are available for an SASE (or an SASE plus one IRC for hams outside the US). Send requests to DXCC 2000 Millennium Application, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Completed applications must be received at ARRL HQ within one year of the close of the DXCC 2000 Millennium Award period. Applications should be accompanied by $10 (US funds) to cover the costs of printing, postage, and handling.

For additional information on these new programs, see "New DXCC Awards for the New Millennium" in December 1999 QST, page 47, or visit ***http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/00rules.html***.

If you have questions about any of these new awards, contact DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, ***bmoore@arrl.org***.

PHOTO: DXCC Millennium Award certificate

The new DXCC Millennium Award certificate.

[ARRL Letter]

Long-distance Rescue via Morse Code

Gene Nailon, K5DLE, reports a ham in the Rockies has a fellow amateur in Oklahoma and the Morse code to thank for helping after he fell ill during a QSO December 17. Larry Watson, W5EIU, in Oklahoma City answered a CQ on 3710 kHz from the Wyoming ham. They had been talking for about 15 minutes when the Wyoming op told Watson: "I think I'm having a heart attack, and I can't get to the phone." After that, his transmission broke off, and Watson was unable to raise him further.

About the same time, Jim Caldwell, WJ0C, of Waterloo, Iowa, broke in. WJ0C was able to look up the full name and location of the Wyoming ham and relay the information to Watson, who called the police in the Wyoming town to alert them to a potential medical emergency.

It turned out they were right. The Wyoming ham--whose name

and location were unavailable--was hospitalized, and the prognosis was said to be good. Watson, first licensed at age 13 in 1954, says this was a first for him. (By the way, both Watson and Nailon belong to Central Oklahoma Chapter 63 QCWA.)--Gene Nailon, K5DLE

[ARRL Letter]

Obtaining Documentary Proof of pre-1987 Technician Ticket

The FCC says to send any requests for verification of a pre-March 21, 1987, Technician license in writing to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, ATTN: Amateur Section, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The request must include name, address, telephone number, date of birth, call sign issued at that time, and when the Technician license was granted (if exact date is not known, give the approximate time frame). The FCC asks those inquiring to include any information that may be helpful in researching these requests, but it does not need to know details of the examination session, such as where the test was administered or who gave it. "These requests must be researched on microfiche, so they will be very time-consuming," an FCC spokesperson said, adding that no one should expect an overnight response.

You also may contact the FCC contractor ITS Inc (visit ***http://www.itsdocs.com/***). For a fee, ITS will research prior FCC licensing records and should be able to provide necessary documentary proof.--FCC

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Shifts License Color

The ARRL has learned that the FCC's Gettysburg office has begun issuing new Amateur Radio license documents on blue paper instead of the beige stock that hams have become accustomed to for many years. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau personnel say the new licenses are printed on whatever color "safety paper" stock they have available. "Our policy/procedure is to print all licenses on safety paper, so they can be easily identified as our official documents, but we don't have a requirement as to the color," an FCC spokesperson told the ARRL. "When the last shipment was received they were blue." The change apparently has nothing to do with the recently announced FCC license restructuring. *[ARRL Letter]*

Amateur Radio Club Offers "Ham Radio" Classes

The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society will offer ham radio license classes in the Cincinnati, Ohio area, scheduled to begin on Thursday evening, February 3rd, at 7pm.

Classes are now being formed for the current General and Extra class amateur radio licenses, as well as the Morse code at 5 words per minute only. Classes will be held every Thursday evening for ten weeks at the Salem Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Mozart and Higbee in Western Hills (behind the White Castle Restaurant at Harrison and Boudinot. Registration is limited.

At the conclusion of the ten week course, participants will be given an FCC license examination on Saturday, April 8th and Saturday, April 15th at the same location.

All Morse code classes are FREE! These classes are open to persons of any age, and no prior experience is necessary. T register, or for additional information, contact Carol Hugentobe. K8DHK or Bruce Vanselow N8FWA at Visit the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society on the World Wide Web at: ***www.qsl.net/k8sch***.

[N8FWA]

Mississippi Ham Awaits Court Decision in OFI Case

A Mississippi ham arrested for interfering with his neighbors' telephones is breathing a bit more easily today. ARRL member Bennie Stewart, KJ6TY, of Meridian, was arrested and charged September 10 after a neighbor filed a complaint with the Lauderdale County Justice Court. At the request of Lauderdale County Attorney Robert Compton, the court has ordered the case to be placed in its "inactive files."

Stewart's attorney, Felicia Perkins of Jackson, says the action essentially ends the case against her client. "For all practical purposes, it's in a box somewhere, and it's going to sit there unless Congress changes the laws," she said.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our February meeting will feature Joe Phillips, K8QOE,. Joe is a Fairfield (OH) resident and the Section Manager for the Ohio Section, ARRL. Joe will bring us greetings from the ARRL and share some very timely information affecting amateurs nationally as well as regionally.

Meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

"I didn't get my Newsletter ...."

If you hear this from one of your friends, ask if they have paid their Y-2000 dues. For the fifty (or so) who have not renewed their membership, last month's *Newsletter* was the last one they will receive.

Check your mailing label; your current year of membership is noted thereon along with your "class" of membership.

[K8CM]

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

February 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	2 3 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	4	5
6	7	8	9 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	10 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	11	12 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am BCVHFA License Exams - 9am
13 IARC/MASER Hamfest Mansfield 0700-1500 EST Richland County Fairgrounbds	14	15	16 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	17 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	18	19
20	21 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	22	23 ***Ham Exams*** 7pm Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	24 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	25	26
27	28	29				

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

March 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	2 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	3	4
5	6	7	8 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	9	10	11 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am BCVHFA License Exams - 9am
12	13 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	14	15 Ham License Examinations 7pm Verity Lodge	16 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	17	18 OHIO WINTER QSO PARTY Begins 00:01Z
19 OHIO WINTER QSO PARTY Begins 00:01Z Toledo MRA Hamfest Toledo	20	21	22 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	23 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	24	25
26 *Cincinnati - ARRL Convention* Hartwell Recreation Center	27	28	29 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	30	31	

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Kathy Urschel

March 2000

Minutes of the February 21 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH and Elaine, N8OZN, N8HRA, WD8DEZ, N8NQF, KD8W, WA8AGQ, K8QOE, KE8OH and Tillie, WB8DPZ and Lois, W8ULC and Marilyn, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN and Bonnie, KC8CYP, KC8DVC, KB8WKL, KC8ISN, KC8IZE, K8CM, W8WLM, W3GP, N8TQG, KC8BZV, WA8DTU, KC8IZF, N8AEG, WD8NKR, W8LQW, KB8VSX (35)

Program:
This meeting was called to order by Dave, KD8W. Lorie, KC8BZV, introduced the Ohio ARRL Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE. Joe spoke on several topics, including the FCC Universal, Licensing System and license restructuring.

Minutes of Last Meeting:
Motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting as printed in the newsletter, approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM,. read and detailed the Treasurer's report for the month of January 2000. We have 127 active members representing 84 families. Twenty-five members, from 1999, have not renewed their membership for 2000. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by George, W3GP; second by Ernie, WD8DEZ. Motion approved.

Old Business:
The January 26 ham exam report was given by Dave, KD8W, and Carl, K8CM. This session was attended by 37 persons, a very large number. Most of them trying to get exam credit before the change that takes place April 15. The next sessions are also expect be well attended.

Station report
Monroe 147.915 remote receiver is being repaired. A good (scrapped out) power amplifier has been secured for the 146.61 site to get us back up to 110 watts. This is a commercial, continuous duty, General Electric power amplifier section, with large heat sink. It will be installed as weather and time permit. We looked at commercial rated external power amplifiers and the price was around $1000. We will try this unit first.

Hamvention
We are still waiting on our space permits and tickets. We have the same spaces, 3201, 3202 and 3203. Discussion about food for Hamvention resulted in a motion by Carl, K8CM, to go with subs from subway again this year with the cost to be $20 for the weekend and $10 for one day. Second by Tom, WA8AGQ. Motion approved. Contact K8CM to make your reservation and pay up by May 5. Ron, N8NQF, wanted to amend the motion to include 20 dozen donuts each day. It was determined that the donut man will get whatever.

Door price was won again by Marilyn Howard, N8HRA.

Reminder that if you attend 3 meetings, you can receive a name tag.

John, KC8IZF, reported in a change in the way volunteer staff is given tickets at the Hamvention.

Ernie, W8EH, reported that Time-Warner is working with us on finding cable TV wireless phone jacks in a couple of neighborhoods. They found and fixed one near Charlie, N8CLT's house in Monroe and are working on several in the air of the his and Jerry, W8LR, QTH. Please take the time to tune your HF radios down to 3.530 +- and see if you are hearing strong steady carriers. Contact W8EH for help.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary .

From the President

We have had another big examination session!! Reports from several other clubs, who sponsor testing, gives the same impression. Our numbers are up significantly!!. On the real positive side, we have several of our own members who have just upgraded either with CSCE's or have passed the requirements for their Extra Ticket. It does not matter what we all may think of re-structuring, it is now our hope and wish that the ranks of hams will increase, they will be a positive addition, and we can attract more youth to the hobby. We will have one more test under the old rules on March 15. Pass the word!!

The 'Hamvention' is not too far away. It is time to start thinking about how you will spend your weekend on May 19,20, & 21. I hope you will plan to spend part of it with the club at Dayton. We always have good fun and of course, all members are welcome.!!

Have a great March !!

73 - KD8W

Hamvention 2000

A cooking ban continues at **Hamvention**; therefore, we will continue the "food service" practice we begun two years ago. George, W3GP, has volunteered to pick up sandwiches (from *Subway*) fresh each day. Complimenting the sandwiches will be various snacks, soft drinks, coffee, and tea. Probably a donut or two as well. All is included in your food donation of $20 (weekend) or $10 (daily)

Please remember, in compliance with Health Department rules, only **DIAL** members (or their guests) may participate. Pre-reservation (and payment) is required; we are not permitted to sell food at Hamvention.

For **DIAL** members not participating in our "meal plan", a cash can will be available to cover the cost of refreshments.

Reservations and payment are to be made to Carl, K8CM, on or before Friday, May 5, 2000.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, to Stand for Re-election to Ohio Section Manager Post

Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, of Fairfield, announced at the February meeting of the Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) he will stand for reelection to the American Radio Relay League post.

Mr. Phillips is completing his first two year term as Section Manager of Ohio which ends September 30, 2000. A complete election procedure for the ARRL post will appear in the May, 2000 edition of QST, the national magazine of the League. Voting will be in late July. The term begins October 1, 2000.

During his first term, Joe divided the state into five assistant section manager's districts and improved recognition of amateu from all areas of Ohio. He renamed the Ohio Ham of the Year award to the Al Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award to honor the former SM and Great Lakes Director.

Before being elected to the post, Mr. Phillips was Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Area Repeater Council from 1984 to 1989 and served the ARRL Ohio Section as public information coordinator. He organized the OARC Repeater Directory (now in its 13th edition) in 1986 and began the ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest (now in its Ninth Year) in 1992.

In 1995, the ARRL awarded Joe with the national Philip MeGan Silver Antenna Award for his work in promoting ham radio. The previous November, the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association named Joe its 16th member of the Cincinnati Ham Radio Hall of Fame.

K8QOE]

Restructuring and the Right Attitude

*[This was forwarded by our Section Manager, Joe Phillips (K8QOE). It appeared in the **Hello Radio** newsletter, Ironton, OH]*

I have recently noticed a flurry of comments about the upcoming license restructuring that we all are facing, some of them goo and some bad. I don't know if I agree with it 100% myself, but I think it holds a lot of promise for Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio for the most part has been declining in numbers in the past few years, and as the old saying goes "If you don't use it - you loose it".

We have already lost some frequencies, do we dare let them take more ? I would hope not, but if we keep declining then they certainly will put them to better use ! "Better" you say, yes - better for them ! We are privileged to be able to use millions of dollars worth precious frequencies almost without any cost whatsoever to us ! The only thing that it actually costs us is a small amount of time put in by volunteers during emergencies and disasters, and the number of volunteers are very small !

So a few good folks carry the entire cost for the entire Amateur community. Lets all take some time to think about what restructuring can do for us and put aside the bad thoughts. There are plenty of good people out there that could help in time of need to this great country we live in, and we need good communicators that are willing to do so. Since they are finally easing the burden to get an Amateur License, lets all strive to encourage and help newcomers into the hobby. Don't worry that someone got their license by easier means than you did, just encourage them to learn more as they go along after they obtain that license. Amateu Radio is like a fine jewel with many facets, there is something fo everyone and everyone deserves to at least give it a try if they so

desire.

Remember, we have privilege to the frequencies that we use, not rights. If they are abused, then they could be put on auction for the highest bidder to take. We may be amateurs, but we can at least look and act like professionals! Please pass this message along to all your Amateur friends and help spread the word, and with that, I say "Thank You"

Best 73 de: KC8AON
Rick McKee
Skywarn Liaison Officer
Lawrence County Ohio ARES/RACES

[K8QOE]

Ham Radio License Exams

Ham radio license exams in Novice through Extra Class Amateur License will be conducted in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH, on the following dates:

Wednesday evening, beginning at 630m, on March 15

and on

Saturday morning, beginning at 10am, on April 15

Doors will open for registration one hour before the exams begin. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the ***Dial Radio Club***. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, and must arrive no later than Monday prior to the exam. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W,

Recent Licenses Earned & Upgraded; February 23, 2000

New Technician licensees:

James Baer, Michael Jeffery, Nicholas Yeazel, and Suzanne Thomas.

Licenses upgraded:

Jaime Fawcett, W8SLT, from Technician to Technician Plus, and **Barney Taylor**, WD4HPC, from Advanced to Amateur Extra.

Congratulations !!!!

ARRL to Seek Partial Reconsideration of Restructuring R&O

The ARRL will seek partial reconsideration on two points in the Amateur Radio license restructuring plan announced by the FCC December 30. Both points involve the way the plan deals with Technician-class licensees. The new FCC rules go into effect April 15.

The League will ask the FCC to continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has passed a Morse code exam to earn Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges. Under the current system, the license class of Technicians is designated by a "T" in the FCC's amateur database, and of Tech Plus licensees by a "P." Under the FCC's restructuring plan, Technician and Tech Plus licensees will all be known simply as "Technician." The ARRL asserts the change will eliminate any easy way to tell which licensees have passed the Morse code exam and which have not.

"We're going to try to persuade the FCC that it made a drastic error in deciding to change all those Ps back to Ts in the database," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ.

The FCC has said that it would be up to Technician licensees, if asked, to prove that they have successfully passed the 5 WPM code test. The ARRL plans to ask the FCC to stipulate that any amateur who provides proof of having passed an FCC-recognized Morse code exam prior to April 15 would be entitled to receive credit for the Morse code exam element when applying for future upgrades. The FCC has indicated to the ARRL that after April 15, code credit for Technician applicants passing the 5 WPM test would not survive beyond the 365-day term of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--or CSCE.

Under both the present and new rules, anyone who held a Technician license before February 14, 1991, has permanent credit for the Morse code element, but others do not.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to file the Petition for Partial Reconsideration at its January 22 meeting in Memphis.

[ARRL Letter]

Another Petition to Reconsider Restructuring

Date of this message: Feb 26, 2000

Most of the ham community assumed that lower CW requirements would be accompanied by a higher technical level on the written exam. But BOTH CW AND WRITTEN will be lower skill -- for ALL license classes.

A Petition For Reconsideration of the FCC's Restructuring has been filed by Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli. You can read it on ***http://www.qsl.net/n5lf***

The FCC tells us that they will review the petition in the summer 2000. There is still time!

You can comment using your Web browser or by e-mail at:
http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html

Refer to WT Docket 98-143 (Amateur Radio Restructuring) and to the Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli Petition. The Report & Order is called FCC 99-412.

You can mail your comments to:

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Refer to WT Docket 98-143 (Amateur Radio Restructuring) and to the Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli Petition. The Report & Order is called FCC 99-412. Send 6 copies.

Even though the FCC may not reconsider their decision, the petition lays the groundwork for new initiatives in the future that could correct the situation.

Read the petition, and the original Report & Order. Support the parts of the Petition that you can, and add any additional issues that we missed, or variations that you are comfortable with. Let the FCC know what you think.

(This e-mail message will not be relevant after August 2000. Please do not forward after that date.)

73 ES BCNU,
Alan N5LF
http://www.qsl.net/n5lf
[e-mail v: Internet]

Amateur Radio Satellite Packages Rocket into Space

An Air Force Minotaur rocket lifted off right on schedule January 26 from the new California Commercial Spaceport at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Three Amateur Radio satellite packages were aboard. Two of the satellites already have been deployed and are said to be working. A third amateur picosat package will be deployed over the weekend.

The primary payload is the US Air Force Academy's Falconsat. JAWSAT--Joint Air Force-Weber State University Satellite--served as a bus for several deployable payloads and the Plasma Experiment Satellite Test experiment--PEST. The telemetry stream from JAWSAT, including data from PEST, will be transmitted on Amateur Radio frequencies. Amateur Radio operators have been invited to contribute to the program by recording the downlinked data. Data from PEST will require using either a G3RUH modem or a GMSK modem. Data rates should be as high as 38.4 kb/s. Data will be transmitted on 437.175 MHz or 2403.2 MHz. NASA says it will publish instructions for sending in data so the PEST team can use it.

Deployable payloads aboard JAWSAT are Stanford University's Orbiting Picosat Automatic Launcher--or OPAL; Arizona State University's ASUSat, and the Air Force Research Lab's Optical Calibration Sphere.

"It was a spectacular sight, since the sky was clear and the visibility almost unlimited," said Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY. "I was able to view the first two burns without binoculars, and it was an impressive sight! Hank Heidt, N4AFL, of the StenSat team said today that both JAWSAT and ASUSat appear to be working perfectly at this time, with telemetry indicating that all systems are reporting nominal performance. StenSat, which is a satellite within another satellite--OPAL--is set to be put into space this weekend, Heidt said.

ARRL staffer Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says he was able to watch the Webcast of the launch at home. Unlike the seemingly langu shuttle launches, Ford says, the rocket "went screaming skyward immediately and was lost to sight within less than a minute."

ASUSat and JAWSAT have Amateur Radio capability, but the tiny, eight-ounce StenSat is strictly a ham satellite--designed by hams, for hams. It was developed by a group of amateur enthusiasts in the Washington, DC, area as part of Stanford University's OPAL project.

StenSat will operate as a single-channel Mode J FM voice repeater. The uplink frequency will be 145.84 MHz; the downlink will be 436.625 MHz. StenSat will periodically transmit 1200 baud AX.25 for telemetry. Additionally, amateur radio operators will be able to "ping" the satellite by transmitting a six-digit DTMF command to the receiver uplink. More information on StenSat is available at ***http://users.erols.com/hheidt/***.

ASUSat will contain amateur packet hardware and a 2-meter/70-cm FM voice repeater. ASUSat1 is an ASU NASA Space Grant project and Arizona State University's first student-designed satellite. Information on ASUSat is available at http://nasa.asu.edu/asusat/.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

ARES Activates as Winter Takes a Bite out of Dixie

Normally a relative stranger to Georgia, Ole' Man Winter turned up unexpectedly January 23 in the form of an ice storm that affected the northern third of the state. Georgia SEC Tom Rogers, KR4OL, says forecasters did not anticipate the freeze line coming as far south. The weather emergency caught some ARES members off-guard as well and showed him that amateurs in the region need to be better-prepared for the unexpected.

The Georgia ice storm left some 340,000 homes and businesses without power, and tens of thousands still were without power at week's end. But The Peach State was not the only one affected by unusually harsh winter weather. Thousands of others in the Southeast were left without power and snowbound to boot. The winter storm cause widespread school and business closings and dumped upwards of two feet of snow on North Carolina, paralyzing traffic and stranding travelers. Parts of South Carolina, the Virginias, and Tennessee saw snow as well.

Rogers says that as power lines, telephone lines, and trees came crashing down in Georgia, out went the call for help. ARES teams in several Georgia counties were pressed into service, and Georgia's Emergency Management Agency sought ARES assistance as well. The Georgia ARES Net met on HF and continued to monitor the situation, Rogers said.

The exercise revealed what Rogers called "some very important lessons." For starters, the ice storm not only presented a very serious problem for public utilities but for amateur stations as well. Many stations lost their HF antennas due to icing, handicapping ARES' ability to coordinate between the ARES HF net and local areas, Rogers said. He recommended ARES members keep a spare, emergency HF antenna on hand for situations like this. Rogers says HF was not the only mode hampered by the icing. Several repeaters also were crippled by the ice, he said, and VHF coverage in many areas of the ice storm was lost.

Rogers pointed out that in winter conditions, things taken for granted can and do fail. "Create a plan for backup and exercise it," he suggested. "Winter icing creates conditions for amateur radio we can overcome if we plan ahead."

The surprise nature of the ice storm gave rise to another "lesson learned," Rogers said. "Don't assume you are going to have time to prepare your station before an event happens," he said. "Prepare now! Do not take the threat of winter weather to your station lightly."

Rogers said the assistance of each and every station is valuable to the ARES program and is sorely missed when stations are unable to be on hand. With the possibility of more freezing weather in Georgia this weekend--just in time for the Super Bowl in Atlanta--Rogers recommended that ARES members take time to review their station capabilities and ARES response plans.--Tom Rogers, KR4OL *[ARRL Letter]*

ARRL Asks FCC to Deny Kenwood "Sky Commans" Petition

The League says the FCC should deny a request by the Kenwood Communications Corporation to permit operation of its "Sky Command" system in the 2-meter band. In December, Kenwood asked the FCC either to declare that Sky Command complies with Commission rules or to waive applicable sections of the rules to make it legal. The ARRL filed comments on Kenwood's petition, DA 99-2805, on January 31.

Sky Command, which lets the user control a fixed HF station via a pair of dual-band transceivers, has been on the market for more than two years. The ARRL has declined to permit Sky Command advertisements in QST, however, because it maintains that the system is not legal to use as configured. Sky Command operates in full duplex, using a 70-cm frequency to transmit audio and control commands to a dualband transceiver at the remote station and a 2-meter frequency to transmit received audio via the remote station's Sky Command transceiver to the operator's transceiver.

The League maintains that Kenwood's use of a 2-meter frequency would cause amateurs using the system to violate Section 97.201(b), which limits auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In its comments to the FCC, the League said the type of operation employed by the Sky Command System is "clearly auxiliary operation, and as such is not permitted in the 144-148 MHz band." Kenwood had asserted that the 2-meter link constitutes third-party communications. The League said Kenwood's reasoning flies in the face of the FCC rules, which restrict automatic retransmittal of other amateur stations to auxiliary, repeater, and space stations. "The question of whether third-party communications is involved is simply irrelevant," the League said.

The League called Kenwood's Sky Command System "a fine product" that would be of interest to many hams if designed for frequencies on which auxiliary operation is legally permitted. Carving out an exemption by waiving the rules for Kenwood's product, the League argued, would amount to "inappropriate favoritism."

The League suggested that Kenwood could remedy its problem by using its TH-89 transceiver, which operates in the 430 MHz and 1.2 GHz bands. "Auxiliary operation is permitted in both of these bands," the League said. "Kenwood markets the TH-89 in Japan but has chosen not to export it to the United States."

In 1986, the FCC turned down a petition by the QCWA to remove frequency restrictions on auxiliary operation. The ARRL said growth in the hobby since then makes 2 meters even less appropriate today--especially given the growth in the amateur population and the use of packet and APRS.

Comments on the Kenwood petition were due by January 31, 2000. Reply comments are due by February 14, 2000. Commenters should reference DA 99-2805. The full text of the

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

ARRL comments are available at:
http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/arrl-da99-2805.pdf
[ARRL Letter]

Canada, Australia eye Morse Speed Reduction

Canada and Australia could follow the US in reducing the Morse code examination requirement to 5 WPM for full HF access. Radio Amateurs of Canada announced plans this month to ask Industry Canada to eliminate that country's 12 WPM Morse requirement. The RAC Board of Directors has voted unanimously in favor of the proposal, expected to be filed soon. If enacted, the change would leave 5 WPM as the sole Morse code examination requirement for full HF access in Canada.

Meanwhile, the Wireless Institute of Australia reports it's seriously considering whether to push regulatory authorities to reduce the maximum Morse code license test speed Down Under from 10 to 5 WPM. WIA says it expects to discuss the matter in detail next month with the Australian Communications Authority.

The WIA says a majority of its membership divisions appear to favor the reduction from 10 to 5 WPM in Australia. The general issue of Morse code licensing requirements is expected to be a topic for debate at the IARU Region 3 conference the WIA will host later this year. Discussion of the International Radio Regulations regarding the Morse code requirement is not expected to come up prior to the World Radiocommunication Conference set for 2003.

A single 5 WPM Morse code examination requirement for HF access goes into effect in the US on April 15 as part of sweeping licensing rules changes. The United Kingdom and Sweden also have adopted 5 WPM as the Morse code examination requirement for access to the full HF amateur spectrum. The South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority is said to be poised to act on a South African Radio League request for a lower code speed limit there. Other nations have expressed interest in the issue.

The Israeli Ministry of Communications has introduced a new license with a 6 WPM Morse code requirement that gives CW-only access to HF bands. The new ticket does not include all HF bands, however.

[ARRL Letter]

PRB-1 Bill Introduced in California Senate

California has become the latest state to consider PRB-1 legislation. ARRL Southwestern Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, reports Senate Bill 1714 was introduced February 23 in the California Senate.

Like a similar PRB-1 measure passed last year by Virginia's General Assembly, the California bill would require localities to accommodate Amateur Radio antennas of up to 200 feet, according to local population density.

Echoing the language of the PRB-1 limited federal preemption, the measure says that local ordinances regulating antenna placement, screening or height "shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the city or county."

Under the proposed bill, cities or counties with population densities of 120 persons or less per square mile (according to the 1990 US Census) would not be able to restrict Amateur Radio antennas to less than 200 feet above ground. Localities having population densities greater than 120 people per square mile would not be able to restrict ham antennas to less than 75 feet above ground. In both cases, localities would not be allowed to restrict the number of support structures.

The bill stipulates that "reasonable and customary engineering practices" be followed in erecting Amateur Radio antennas. The bill would not preclude localities from regulating amateur antennas with respect to the use of screening, setback and placement, and health and safety requirements.

Heyn credited Michael Mitchell, W6RW, will helping to get the bill introduced, and he asked California amateurs and clubs to contact their state lawmakers to support the measure.

Next Meeting

Our March meeting will feature Jerry Wycoff, W8AYB. Jerry will be representing the American Red Cross and will be speaking on his work with flood relief and related disaster activities. He may carry an invitation to the Club to participate in a damage assessment course.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

[KC8BZV]

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

Join today! Be a part of th betterment of Amateur Radio!

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

March 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Upcoming ham exams: March 15, April 6 (BCVHFA) and April 15 (DIAL and BCVHFA)			1 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	2 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	3	4
5	6	7	8 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	9 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	10	11 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
12	13	14	15 Ham License Examinations 7pm Verity Lodge	16 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	17	18 OHIO WINTER QSO PARTY Begins 00:01Z
19 **OHIO WINTER QSO PARTY** Begins 00:01Z **Toledo MRA Hamfest** Toledo	20 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	21	22 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	23 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	24	25
26 ***Cincinnati - ARRL Convention*** Hartwell Recreation Center	27	28	29 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	30 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	31	

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

April 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	6 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	7	8 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
9	10	11	12 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	13 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	14	15 *Ham Exams* *9am - Verity Lodge* *BCVHFA Paperwork processing - 9am*
16	17 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	18	19 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	20 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	21	22
23 International Marconi Day Cornish Radio Amateurs Club, UK	24	25	26 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	27 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	28	29
30						

April 15, 2000 Ham Radio Exams & Document Processing

BCVHFA; paperwork only at Fairfield Administration Building beginning at 9 am

DIAL; exams and paperwork processing at Verity Lodge beginning at 9 am

Next DIAL Ham exams; Wednesday evening, May 5, 2000. Registration opens at 6pm

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: ***http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/*** e-mail: ***dial@qth.net***

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Kathy Urschel

April 2000

Minutes of the March 20 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH, Elaine, N8RYS, WD4HPC, N8GGE, WD8DEZ, N8HRA, N8OZN KI8I, W8AYB, KC8FUZ, W8ULC, Marilyn, N8TFH, WB8MYT, WA8DTU, KC8BZV, Kathy, KF8TG, KE8OH, Tillie, KB8WKL, W8LQW, KC8CYQ, KC8DUZ, Ann, N8NQF, W8WLM, K8CM, KC8CKT, Lois, WD8DFK, WA8AGQ. (33)

Program:
Call to order by Vice President Lori, KC8BZV. She introduced our speaker, Jerry Wyckoff, W8AYB. Jerry spoke about some of his adventures with the Red Cross and asked if anyone wanted to help.

Minutes of last meeting:
N8NQF moved, second by WA8AGQ to approve the February minutes as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM,. read and detailed the Treasurer's report for the month of February 2000. We have 132 active members representing 86 families. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Ernie, WD8DEZ; second by Barney, WD4HPC. Motion approved. WD8DEZ also moved that we declare a dividend, but the VP didn't hear that.

Information:
A *World Radio Report* was passed out telling that if you held a Novice license you had code credit for life.

Station Report:
Ernie, W8EH, reported that the main 61 site was off the air for a few days. The main power supply developed a melted solder joint that was fixed. The backup repeater was working as a replacement. UHF link receiver for Breiel and Monroe was retuned. The 100 watt amplifier was installed 3 weeks ago and nobody seemed to notice.

Fox Hunt Report:
No fox hunt report. Planning for one soon.

Old business:
Hamvention food will be subs from Subway. Cost will be $20 for the weekend or $10/day. Reservations must be made with Carl, K8CM, by Friday, May 5. (422-9384).

New business:
Name tags were passed out for several people. If you attend 3 meetings during the calendar year, you are eligible for a complimentary *Dial Radio Club* name tag. New name tags will be made up on a quarterly basis for those who beccome eligible.

Courtesy of Mike Brown, W8DJY, pictures were available from the Field day.

Ernie, W8MVN, is in the hospital, a card was passed around for all to sign.

WARN training is coming up on Friday March 31.

Drawing for the free meal door prize was won by Mike, KF8TG.

Application was received from KF8TG, Carl moved for acceptance, WA8AGQ second, membership approved.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion by WA8AGQ to adjourn, seconded by N8NQF, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Hamvention 2000

A cooking ban continues at **Hamvention**; therefore, we will continue the "food service" practice we begun two years ago. George, W3GP, has volunteered to pick up sandwiches (from *Subway*) fresh each day. Complimenting the sandwiches will be various snacks, soft drinks, coffee, and tea. Probably a donut or two as well. All is included in your food donation of $20 (weekend) or $10 (daily)

Please remember, in compliance with Health Department rules, only **DIAL** members (or their guests) may participate. Pre-reservation (and payment) is required; we are not permitted to sell food at Hamvention.

For **DIAL** members not participating in our "meal plan", a cash can will be available to cover the cost of soft drinks.

Reservations and payment are to be made to Carl, K8CM, on or before Friday, May 5, 2000.

US Appeals Court Upholds RF Exposure Regulations; ARLB014

The US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has upheld the FCC's 1996 RF exposure guidelines. The court also turned away a challenge to the FCC's exclusive ability to regulate relevant radio facility operations. The wide-ranging challenge was brought by the Cellular Phone Taskforce joined by other petitioners including the Communications Workers of America.

In an opinion released February 18, the three-judge panel upheld the FCC against the challenges on all points.

The petitioners, in part, had claimed the FCC failed to account for non-thermal effects of RF radiation, didn't evaluate new evidence, failed to get expert testimony, and failed to account for "scientific uncertainty" about RF exposure in deciding to not lower the maximum permissible exposure levels below the maximum permitted thermal levels. The petitioners also faulted the FCC for adopting a two-tiered MPE level system that allows for higher exposure in "occupational/controlled" situations than in "general population/uncontrolled" situations.

Additionally, the Appeals Court:

* said the FCC was not irrational, arbitrary or capricious in its decision and that it did not ignore "substantial comments" from experts.

* noted that licensees are still responsible for compliance "and an interested person can petition the FCC for review of a site believed to violate the MPE levels."

* disagreed that an environmental impact statement was required from the FCC.

* rejected the petitioners' arguments that by not considering RF interference with medical devices, the FCC failed to take a hard look at the environmental consequences of its actions.

* rejected arguments that the FCC did not enjoy broad preemption authority over state or local government under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to regulate wireless service facilities.

ARRL RF Safety Committee Chairman Greg Lapin, N9GL, credits the FCC with being comprehensive in developing its RF safety regulations and thinks the Appeals Court did the right thing. "The FCC is not a health and safety organization, and the Commission never intended the rules to serve as a standard," Lapin said.

Lapin pointed out that the FCC's rules are based on accepted American National Standards Institute/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements standards, "which, in turn, are based on mountains of research and the opinions of lots of experts," he said.

The resulting rules take into account a consensus of expert opinion on the topic of RF safety. "The appeals court recognized this in its decision," Lapin said.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Field Day 2000 Preparations Under Way

The official Field Day 2000 information packet now is available online in PDF format at the ARRL Contest Branch Web site, ***http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/fdpack.pdf*** You can download this packet, which include the official rules and forms for FD 2000. To order the packet, send an SASE with three units of first-class postage affixed to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

A new bonus point category has been added for Field Day 2000. Groups can earn 100 bonus points by setting up a demonstration of a "nontraditional" amateur mode, including APRS, ATV or SSTV. The bonus does not include modes for which regular QSO credit already may be earned (such as AM or FM on phone or packet, PACTOR, AMTOR or PSK-31 on digital) QSOs made via the demo station do not count toward the Field Day score, and the transmitter does not count toward the transmitter total There are no rule changes regarding the special Novice/Tech Plus station.

The Field Day participation pins also are back this year To earn a pin, all you need to do is participate in Field Day--no minimum number of contacts to achieve or ARRL sections to work The pin is for anyone active in helping to make Field Day happen--from the set-up crew and on-the-air operators to the covered-dish organizers and generator crew.

Field Day 2000 pins are available now for $5 each Send orders

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

with payment to Field Day Pin Order, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Early orders are recommended, since the 1999 pins sold out rapidly. Clubs and groups are encouraged to purchase their pins together.

For more information on Field Day 2000, contact Dan Henderson, ARRL Contest Branch Manager, ***n1nd@arrl.org*** or 860-594-0232.--Dan Henderson, N1ND

[ARRL Letter]

Ham Radio License Exams

Ham radio license exams in Technician through Extra Class Amateur License will be conducted in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH, on the following date:

Saturday morning, beginning at 10am, on

April 15, 2000

Doors will open for registration one hour before the exams begin. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the ***Dial Radio Club***. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, 5766 Trenton-Franklin Road, Middletown, OH, 45042, and must arrive no later than Monday prior to the exam. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W, (424-5819).

APRS on the Internet

It used to be that the only live aprs source was www.aprs.net ..... Now, a new APRS resource on the internet. K4HG is now experimenting with a server that collects aprs data in different forms, one of which is the weather data page. If you want to see my weather station data for the last couple of hours, go to: ***http://www.findU.com/cgi-bin/wx.cgi?call=w8eh*** (southeast Middletown) (The time format is year, month, day, hour, second, hundreths) LOCAL EST

Or to check Ron's (N8NQF) weather, go to: ***http://www.findU.com/cgi-bin/wx.cgi?call=n8nqf*** (northeast Middletown)

Other weather stations in the area can be seen too; check ***W8DDY*** (Miamisburg), **WA6EZV** (Hamilton Co), ***K9GPS*** (Lawrenceburg, IN), **KD4PYR** (Boone Co., KY), **KB8IFX** (Clermont Co), **N8AGB** (southern Clermont Co), and **KA8FGE-11** (NW of Dayton) . Just substitute their callsign in the URL above in place of mine (or Ron's).

Other data, like station locations can be found here also, like mine (just plug the callsign of the station on the end like mine):

http://www.findU.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?w8eh

or for my tracker:

http://www.findU.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?w8eh-8

The start page for this is at ***http://www.findU.com***

This is experimental right now, it will be updated and the URL will probably be changed. This is associated with the data at www.aprs.net

Some of you may find this interesting.....

[Ernie, W8EH]

UO-14

Amateur satellite UO-14 which was lunched in 1990 as a store-and-forward satellite, has been converted into a full time, single channel FM voice repeater. You transmit on the uplink 145.975 MHz FM. You listen on the downlink 435.070 MHz FM. This satellite can be worked with a handheld radio and beam antenna. The key to hearing this satellite is to find out when it will be passing over, tune your UHF radio 10 KHz high (435.080) and listen for the pileup. After it passes overhead, tune your radio 10 KHz low (435.06). This is because of the Doppler effect. Good times to listen will be April 13 at 9:06 pm and 10:45 pm. April 14 at 8:39 pm and 10:15 pm. April 15 at 10:27 am, 12:08 am, and 9:45 pm. These passes will last anywhere from 15 to 20 minutes. Want to track these satellites yourself, download WinOrbit, a free tracking program at: http://www.sat-net.com/winorbit/index.html

[W8EH]

PSK 31, the Latest Digital Mode

Have you already heard about PSK31? G3PLX invented this new exciting mode. Its based on the RTTY mode of operation, but better. All you need to operate PSK31 is a HF radio and a computer with a SoundBlaster compatible sound board. The audio from your HF receive is routed to the input of your sound card. The program decodes the data and displays it on your screen. It is

neat to play around with, even if you don't transmit. One big thing about PSK31 is that it is very narrow bandwidth, less than 50 Hz.

The program to operate PSK31 is available FREE from several sites on the internet. The official web site can be found at: ***http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html*** The very basic windows program by G3PLX can be found here. The file name to look for **is p31sbw108.zip** Another program with more features, WinPSK, can be found at:
http://www.geocities.com/ae4jy/index.htm

[W8EH]

FCC: Hold the Phone on CORES and FRN

The FCC has rescinded a March 16 Public Notice that announced implementation of the FCC's agency-wide Commission Registration System (CORES) and the issuance of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to each licensee. The new system, which would supplant Universal Licensing System registration for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau-administered licensees, was to have gone into effect on Monday, March 27. Some key FCC personnel said they were unaware of the new system until they saw the Public Notice on the FCC's Web site.

This week, the FCC said it was delaying implementation of CORES and FRNs and suspending the March 27 effective date "until further notice." The FCC said it plans to soon issue a new Public Notice "clarifying certain issues about the new program and providing a new effective date for implementation."

CORES registration is expected to replace ULS registration within a year and possibly as early as six months from now. Information provided to the ARRL by FCC officials indicates that a new CORES registration form will take the place of the ULS Registration Form 606 when the new system goes on-line. Once in place, CORES will assign a new 10-digit FCC Registration Number, or FRN, which will replace the Licensee ID Numbers now issued by ULS for WTB licensees. Most FCC licensees are handled by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The ULS--which covers Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees and applicants--became effective for the Amateur Service last August, and the FCC still has not removed all the wrinkles from the system. Most hams have yet to register in ULS. Those who have automatically will be registered in the new system.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Fines Washington Firm for Illegal Amplifier Sales

The FCC has affirmed a $7000 fine on Cellular Systems Northwest Inc of Enumclaw, Washington, for willful and repeated violations of the Communications Act and FCC rules relating to the sale of transmitting equipment.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order March 16, the FCC said Northwest, a consumer electronics dealer, on two occasions in 1997 and 1998 sold and offered to sell "external radio frequency power amplifiers--commonly known as 'linear amplifiers'" to two different FCC agents posing as a member of the general public.

The FCC said the amps were capable of operating in the 27-MHz Citizens Band.

A Notice of Apparent Liability was issued in June 1998. Northwest sought recission of the $7000 forfeiture saying it never intended to offer or recommend the linears for CB use; its violation was unintentional; that it had ceased selling the illegal equipment; and that it is "small retailer" attempting to make ends meet. The FCC was unmoved and upheld the $7000 fine. The company was given 30 days to pay.--FCC

[ARRL Letter]

TXODX is on the Air - but Not Yet on the DXCC List

As promised, the Chesterfield Islands TXODX DXpedition debuted on the bands March 23. And while the Islands' DXCC status is pending, the advice from the experts is: "Work 'em now, worry later!"

TXODX already has overcome at least one hurdle on its way to becoming an official DXCC "entity." The International Amateur Radio Union yesterday accepted the Association des Radio Amateurs de Nouvelle Caledonie (ARANC)--the Amateur Radio Association of New Caledonia--as an IARU member society. A letter to that effect was faxed March 23 to ARANC President Jean Phillippe Torregrossa, FK8FK, by IARU Secretary David Sumner K1ZZ.

ARRL Membership Services Manager Bill Kennamer, K5NX, says the Chesterfield Islands, located in the Coral Sea, now are "potentially eligible" as a DXCC entity because of their separation from New Caledonia--some 350 km away. The ARRL DX Advisory Committee and the ARRL Awards Committee still must vote to approve Chesterfield Islands as a DXCC entity. Kennamer says he's not sure when those votes might occur but thinks the DXAC vote could be "fairly soon."

TXODX kicked off activity on 15 meter CW and SSB, as well as on 17 meter SSB, and 10 meter CW, working split. Pileups were described as bedlam. The station is expected to be on the air for the WPX SSB Contest the weekend of March 25-26, concentrating on a special 10-meter SSB frequency of 28.745 MHz. Using Yaesu FT-1000MP transceivers, the team expects to be able to operate CW and SSB simultaneously on the same band.

Announced operating frequencies are: CW--1834.5, 3504, 7004, 10,104, 14,024, 18,074, 21,024, 24,894, 28,024 and 50,115 kHz; SSB--3790, 7085, 14,195, 18,145, 21,295, 24,945, 28,480, and 50,115 kHz; RTTY--14083 and 21083 kHz. The TXODX operators will announce their listening frequencies as appropriate for the areas of the world with propagation at the time.

QSLs for TXODX (and for TX8CI) HF contacts go to Jarmo J.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Jaakola, OH2BN, Kiilletie 5C30, Helsinki 00710 FINLAND; TXODX QSLs for 50 MHz QSOs only will be handled by Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, 5-3 Sakuragaoka 4 Chome, Tama-City, Tokyo 206-0013 JAPAN.

Operation is expected to continue until Thursday, March 30. Regular bulletins will be posted to the TXODX Web site http://www.n4gn.com/tx0dx/ throughout the operation.

[ARRL Letter]

PRB-1 Bill Introduced in New York

A bill has been introduced in the New York State Assembly to codify the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 in New York State law. Assembly bill A. 9947 would require localities to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas and would prevent localities from restricting antenna structures to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of support structures.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says New York hams now have the chance to enact a law to "solve most of our tower problems." According to Fallon, the bill represents two years of work by his Hudson Division PRB-1 Task Force, which spearheaded the bill's development as well as a strategy to get it enacted. The Task Force used other successful state PRB-1 bills as models and had assistance from ARRL Headquarters. Fallon's staff and all three ARRL section managers in the Hudson Division stand squarely behind the measure. Support also has been obtained from Atlantic Division section managers in New York, and plans are under way for a statewide promotional effort.

Ten states have PRB-1 laws in place. New York joins California and Kansas among the list of states that have pending PRB-1 legislation. The New York measure is one of the few to specify a minimum antenna height.

The bill, introduced March 7, is in the Committee on Local Governments, which must vote on the measure before it goes to the full Assembly. Assuming the measure makes it past both chambers, it would go to Gov George Pataki--a former amateur--for his signature.

Fallon is urging clubs and individuals to contact their New York State lawmakers--Assembly and Senate--to cosponsor or support A. 9947. Echoing the PRB-1 language, it would provide that any ordinance impacting the placement, screening or height of antennas "must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the political subdivision's legitimate purpose."

The bill also would prohibit any local ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation, or other local law from restricting Amateur Radio support structure height to less than 95 feet above ground level or from restricting the number of antenna support structures.

For more information, contact ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon. N2FF. ***n2ff@arrl.org***; 516-746-7652.

FCC Processing Turnaround How Long is it Taking?

Before the restructuring announcement, license processing time was taking about ten days (some more, some less). Starting with the restructuring announcement on December 30th, testing activity jumped way up. While the number of test sessions is up only 25-33% over this time last year, the number of people testing and elements taken is way, way up. Here's some ARRL/VEC activity figures to consider (represents about 66% of all testing):

	Jan-Feb 99	Jan-Feb 00
- People served	5,634	13,067
- Elements administered	9,146	16,770
- Persons not upgrading	2,738	9,591*

Other notable stats:

- New Extra class license earned	up 120%
- New Advanced class license earned	down 17%
- New General class license earned	down 30%
- New Technician Plus license earned	up 24%
- New Technician class license earned	down 10%
- New Novice class license earned	down 25%
- Element 4B passed	up 1600%
- Element 4B total	up 1200%
- Element 3B passed	up 600%
- Element 3B total	up 427%
- Element 1 5 WPM taken	up 40%

* - Could these all be April 15th applicants waiting to turn in credit?

Overall license turnaround is about 3 weeks.! This is primarily because we at the ARRL VEC are backed way up (not because FCC is slower than usual) – our processing queue is full, and it will presumably be that way until well after April 15th.

Until then, we expect that you all and we will be extremely busy. Hang in there, we do expect activity to return to a bit more normal levels come early Summer.

[Excerpt from VE Express; ARRL]

Valid Types of Examination Element Credit

At a test session, VEs review all credit documents presented by applicants. Starting April 15th, many applicants may be bringing valid credit for use toward upgrades. Those forms of valid credit, to be accepted by ALL ARRL VE Teams, will include:

1. A CSCE issued within the previous 365 days for Element Credit (credit as indicated). Some credit presented on/after April 15th will not be useful--these include: If an applicant is seeking a General to Extra class upgrade, the applicant must have earned within 365 days Element 4A and Element 4B credit before April

15th (Element 4B credit alone without Element 4A credit-or without holding an Advanced license or having just qualified for same--has no value toward an upgrade on/after April 15th).
2. Proof of General written Element 3 test credit earned before March 21, 1987 (these are persons who took a 50-question combined Technician/General written test before that date). Pre-3/21/87 Grandfather credit for Technician licensees (Element 1 and 3 credit) can be verified and deemed acceptable if an applicant presents any of the following:

* Per FCC Rules, an FCC Technician license issued before March 21, 1987, as indicated on the license, receives Element 1 and 3. In addition, applicants potentially can have taken the Element 3 written test up through midnight March 20, 1987, which would not have resulted in a license issuance until July 15, 1987. For ARRL VEC purposes, ARRL VE teams will accept a Technician license issued before July 15, 1987, to be eligible for the Element 1 and Element 3 credit.
* An original Element 3 CSCE document issued before March 21, 1987, is acceptable for Element 3 credit toward a new license.
* An FCC-issued License Verification Letter (see items 5 and 6 at ***http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html***) indicating that the applicant was licensed as a Technician licensee prior to March 21, 1987, is acceptable for Element 1 and 3 credit. To request such a letter, write to FCC, ATTN: Amateur Section, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (or fax 717-338-2696).
* An International Transcription Service (ITS) FCC Records Contractor extract/certification from FCC Fiche Records showing that a Technician license was held prior to March 21, 1987, is valid for Element 1 and 3 credit. There is a charge for this service. You can obtain contact information for ITS by calling 717-337-1433 (or visit ***http://www.itsdocs.com/***).
* A 1987 Edition, or earlier, Radio Amateur Callbook listing as a Technician licensee is acceptable as proof for Element 1 and 3 credit (be sure to include the year of publication reference, if not printed on the page). The Radio Amateur Callbook company will, for a $10 fee, provide a notarized "Proof of Licensing" document which will serve your credit-proof requirements. For more information contact: Radio Amateur Callbook, 575 Prospect St., Lakewood, NJ 08701; E-mail: ***103424.2142@compuserve.com*** ; or call 732-905-2961 (choose option 5)
* ***WWW.QRZ.COM*** has posted a copy from their archives of their very first CD ROM product on their web page, as originally published in 1993. This data includes licensees from 1983 to 1993. A printout of such a listing from this CD ROM, showing a Technician license effective/begin date prior to 3/21/87 is acceptable. Their URL is ***http://www.qrz.com/search1993.html***
* Any other reasonable form of verification, showing license class as Technician and the license ending date along with a license beginning/effective date before 3/21/87 must be acceptable as well. 3. For code credit, the following additional documentation is acceptable beginning April 15th:
* Any copy or original Novice license (new or expired) is valid for 5 WPM Element 1 credit.
* A Technician license granted before February 14, 1991, has credit for 5 WPM Morse code. Since the first codeless license application was not processed by FCC until April 12, 1991, therefore a Technician license granted before April 12, 1991, is also valid for 5 WPM Element 1 credit.
* Any FCC-granted Technician Plus license (current or expired) is valid for 5 WPM Element 1 credit. Also, any Technician license issued after April 12, 1991, together with a CSCE issued between February 14, 1991 and July 1994 showing a Morse code credit (this covers people entitled to a Tech P' license, but for whatever reason their license class was not appropriately updated at FCC when the Tech Plus License was implemented by FCC in June 1994).
* Any current or expired less than 5 years FCC Commercial Radiotelegraph license or permit is valid for 5 WPM Element 1 credit. If any credit presented to you seems reasonable, accept it, issue a CSCE for it but send the CSCE to the ARRL VEC--deferring credit verification to us at the ARRL VEC. If we conclude the credit is valid or not, we will so advise the applicant.

{Excerpt from VE Express; ARRL]

Next Meeting

Our April meeting will feature Professor Jeff Ferriell, K8ZDA. Jeff is the Ohio Section (ARRL) State Government Liaison officer and will be speaking on government issues important to amateur radio licensees.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

[KC8BZV]

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

Join today! Be a part of the betterment of Amateur Radio!

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

April 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	6 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	7	8 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
9	10	11	12 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	13 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	14	15 *Ham Exams 9am - Verity Lodge* *BCVHFA Paperwork processing - 9am*
16	17 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	18	19 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	20 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	21	22
23 International Marconi Day Cornish Radio Amateurs Club, UK	24	25	26 Ham Class 6pm Verity Lodge	27 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	28	29
30						

April 15, 2000 Ham Radio Exams & Document Processing

BCVHFA; paperwork only at Fairfield Administration Building beginning at 9 am

DIAL; exams and paperwork processing at Verity Lodge beginning at 9 am

Next DIAL Ham exams; Wednesday evening, May 3, 2000. Registration opens at 6pm

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

May 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
				Ham Exams 7 pm *Verity Lodge*	Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	**Last day for Hamvention meal reservations**	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6		Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	**Dayton Hamvention** HARA Arena	**Dayton Hamvention** HARA Arena
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Dayton Hamvention HARA Arena			Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		
28	29	30	31			
					Plan now for **Field Day 2000** June 24 - 25	

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV
Kathy Urschel

May 2000

DAYTON HAMVENTION - 2000

Dial Hamvention FleaMarket Space #s 3201, 3202, & 3203

Minutes of the April 17 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH, Elaine, N8OZN, N8RYS, WD8DEZ, N8NQF, WA8AGQ, KD8W, K8ZDA, W8WLM, K8CM, W8LR, KE8OH, KF8TG, KB8WKL, KC8IZF, N8AEG, WB3FIH, Rochelle, KC8BZV, Kathy, WA8DTU, KC8MVK, N8PFX, WD8DFK, KC8DVC, KC8CYP, W8MVN, Bonnie, WB8MYT, N8TFH, WB8DPZ, Lois, WA8PRA, KI8I, K8CI, N8GGE, WD4HPC, W8LQW, WB8NKR, KC8DUX, KB8HSO, WD8NKJ (44).

Meeting called to order by Dave, KD8W. Carl, K8CM, introduced our speaker, Jeff Ferriell, K8ZDA. Jeff is the State Government Liaison for the ARRL. Jeff discussed his job of keeping up with state legislature actions. He also mentioned that a state version of PRB-1 may be introduced in the next session January 2001. He said we can help amateur radio by supporting our state candidates and by taking part in the election process. When we do, we should tell about amateur radio.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by WA8AGQ, second by N8PFX to approve the minutes as published in the April newsletter. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM,. read and detailed the Treasurer's report for the month of March 2000. We have 134 active members representing 8 families. Motion by W8LR, second by N8RYS, approved report.

Old Business:
Dave, KD8W, distributed name tags to several members.

Station committee report by W8EH. West Middletown site is having power supply trouble, the six meter transmitter is off to see if that helps.

Hamvention. The club received our space and drive in passes. We are in 3201, 3202, 3203 again. Reminder to contact K8CM about food for the weekend.

Field day. W8EH will request Jacot Park for the field day weekend. W8MVN asked if we have the paperwork from the ARRL. It's available at *http://www.arrl.org*.

Our special Saturday test session went well. 35 persons were processed. 6 tested, 3 earned new Technician, 2 upgraded to General. The others were paperwork only upgrades. Dial had 9 members upgrade to General and 8 to Extra.

The drawing for the free dinner door prize was won by Ron, N8NQF.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary .

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Recent Operator License Upgrades April 15, 2000

The following *DIAL* members earned operator license upgrades at the April 15 *DIAL - ARRL/VEC* examination session.

Upgrading to General Class (9): Musako Callahan, KA8WNF, Don Cridlebaugh, WD8IBH, Roy Downs, KC8CYP, Clayton Graham, KC8KHY, Randall Hagen, KA8ZLS, Robert Heizer, KC8LDV, Marilyn Howard, N8HRA,, Wanda Morgan, W8WLM, and Tom Ristaneo, K8DTR.

Upgrading to Amateur Extra Class (7): Harold Callahan, W8GNV, Mark Johnson, WD8DFK, Calvin Reynolds, WB8MYT, Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ, George Svet, KE8OH, Charles Thornsburg, KF8PD, Donald Urschel, WA8DTU.

Our congratulations to all who upgraded!

Hamvention Repeater

Operating on battery power, our Hamvention repeater will again be active during the full weekend. It will be operating on 147.315 +600 (same as last year), and incorporating PL access of 100 Hz. Since the repeater will be operating "full-PL; you must have your encoder tuirned on for access.

As it will be on battery power, please, **no 'rag chewing'**. *[W8EH]*

More Hamvention 2000

A cooking ban continues at **Hamvention**; therefore, we will continue the "food service" practice we begun two years ago. George, W3GP, has volunteered to pick up sandwiches (from *Subway*) fresh each day. Complimenting the sandwiches will be various snacks, soft drinks, coffee, and tea. Probably a donut or two as well. All is included in your food donation of $20 (weekend) or $10 (daily)

Please remember, in compliance with Health Department rules, only **DIAL** members (or their guests) may participate. Pre-reservation (and payment) is required; we are not permitted to sell food at Hamvention.

For **DIAL** members not participating in our "meal plan", a cash can will be available to cover the cost of refreshments.

Reservations and payment were to have been made on or before Friday, May 5, 2000.

Advanced VEs Get More Administrative Privileges on April 15

Within the FCC's License Restructuring Report and Order Advanced *VEs* gained additional VEC administrative privilege. Being April 15, VEs holding an FCC-granted Advanced Class license can administer Elements 1, 2 and 3 (5WPM Morse and the Technician and General written tests). General VEs will continue to have authority to administer the Element 1 (5 WPM Morse and Technician written exams). Amateur Extra VEs can administer all operator exams.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Invites Closer Partnership with Official Observers

ARRL Official Observers will be encouraged to play a more regular role in Amateur Radio enforcement, now that the FCC has stablished a credible Amateur Radio enforcement presence.

"It's really up to the Amateur community and to the OOs as to how much we want them to come in and start playing a role," Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said this week.

His remarks followed a discussion on the role of Official Observers during a recent meeting of the ARRL Enforcement Task Force. The League invited Hollingsworth to attend the meeting to compare notes with him and to stress that the League wants enforcement to remain an important FCC initiative.

Since taking over the amateur enforcement helm some 18 months ago, Hollingsworth has said he first wanted to re-establish the FCC's enforcement credibility before encouraging greater participation by the OOs. Hollingsworth told the Task Force that when the ARRL felt the FCC's credibility was re-established, the FCC would be ready to ask the OOs for more help. The Task Force concurred that the time was right to gradually fold the Official Observers back into the enforcement blend.

"The FCC is in this with them--we're all in the same boat," Hollingsworth said this week, adding that he's been able to make good use of information supplied by Official Observers in amateur cases. "The problem has never been anemic OO complaints or a lack of quality, it's just been a matter of whether the FCC was present on the enforcement front." Hollingsworth has told the Enforcement Task Force that OOs can often help him to fill the gaps in cases he's already familiar with.

Hollingsworth noted that while the rate of amateur-related complaints has declined, he's not planning to let up on the pressure. "We're still pedaling as fast as we can right now," he said."

Hollingsworth also said he'd like to see amateur enforceme viewed more as an FCC effort and less with him personally. "I would like to see amateur enforcement associated more with the

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Commission as a whole and part of its infrastructure than with some guy named Hollingsworth up there," he said.

[ARRL Letter]

Amateur Radio Survives Restructuring

Despite dire predictions from some quarters, the "Big Day", Saturday, April 15, 2000, dawned with nary a "10-4," a "roger beep" or "echo box" to be heard on the Amateur Bands. During the first weekend of restructuring, fledgling Generals and Extras were out in force on the HF bands, trying out their upgraded privileges and proudly appending the required "interim AG" or "interim AE" to each ID.

Amateur Radio has passed another milestone in its long history without incident. For the first time in more than 60 years, applicants for an Amateur Radio license seeking full HF privileges didn't need to take a 13 WPM or higher Morse code exam.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, was among those urging veteran hams to put out the welcome mat to all newcomers. "They will need to learn things that have never been part of any FCC test," he said in an open message published in the division newsletter, The Hudson Loop. Fallon advised experienced hams to be generous with their help, to be tolerant of mistakes and to be "friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement."

Meanwhile, the ARRL-VEC team doesn't need any restructuring reminders. It's been dealing with an increased influx of applications for the past three months.

"You're a little early. It's taking about a month," Assistant to the ARRL-VEC Manager Wayne Irwin, W1KI, tells a newly upgraded caller whose new privileges have yet to show up in the FCC database or in his mailbox despite having tested March 22.

Irwin points out that VE teams have 10 days to get their paperwork into the mail or shipped to the ARRL-VEC. The 10 days does not include transit time to ARRL, which can be a week or more. The ARRL-VEC has an FCC-imposed 10-day deadline to check over the paperwork and send the files electronically to the FCC. But the volume of activity as a result of upgrade fever has put things behind the dime. Although it's hired on extra help, ARRL-VEC is still struggling to keep up. "The phones ring relentlessly with inquiries, and the e-mail runneth over," says ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

Over the weekend, thousands of hams took advantage of strategically scheduled upgrade and paperwork processing VE sessions, including some held at the stroke of midnight. Jahnke says he's gotten word of individual sessions with as many as 135 attendees. ARRL-VEC alone had nearly 250 separate sessions registered for April 15, so he's expecting an additional paperwork valanche this week.

Nearly 90 applicants turned out for the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association's effort to be the first to offer amateur exams under the new rules. The club began administering tests at the stroke of midnight during its special VE session in Mt Clemens, Michigan. Club spokesperson Paul Valko, W8KC, says the first one in the door was William "Captain Bill" Heaver, KB8QMP, who directs the Mt. Clemens Salvation Army center where the upgrades took place.

Among ARRL Headquarters staff members caught up in the restructuring upgrade wave are Penny Harts, N1NAG, Carole Dimock, N1NAM, and Mary Lau, N7IAL, who upgraded to General, and Mike Tracy, KC1SX, and John Bee, N1GNV who upgraded to Extra.

Perhaps as a point of pride, more than a few hams hustled in the weeks remaining before April 15 in an effort to upgrade under the old rules. One was ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO. Another was Don Wenger, WD8OTT--now "interim AE"--who wrote ARRL HQ to say the League's code tapes did the trick for him after years of struggling with the code. "I hold nothing against a 5 WPM Extra, but for my own personal satisfaction I did it the 'old way.'" he wrote.

[ARRL Letter]

Generals not allowed in Advanced subbands; ARLB022

The FCC says newly upgraded General class licensees may not operate in the current Advanced class subbands under the new amateur rules. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division notes that no privileges changed for any license class.

The Advanced class license continues to exist under restructuring, which became effective April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. Current Generalsdo not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, when they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges. The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals remain ineligible to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs.

Newly upgraded licensees were cautioned to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site at ***http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/.***

The FCC today released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year.

[ARRL Bulletin]

FCC Readies Restructuring Phase-In

The FCC has indicated that it will continue to accept electronic filings from VECs for Technician Plus license applicants until May 4, 2000--20 days after restructuring becomes effective. But ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says that date is under scrutiny at the FCC and could change. April 14, 2000, is the last day that an applicant may take the Tech Plus examination, however.

According to information from the FCC as of this week, Tech Plus applications reaching the FCC by May 4 will be granted a license stamped "Technician Plus," and this license class will be posted to the FCC database. After May 4, the FCC no longer will grant new Novice, Tech Plus, or Advanced licenses. Licensees of any class may modify and renew their licenses indefinitely after restructuring becomes effective. At renewal time FCC will change a license class of "Technician Plus" to "Technician," but no privileges will be lost. The "codeless" Technician license will continue to be available under the revamped licensing system.

Restructuring also will mean changes to the forms required to apply for an Amateur Radio license. "What's changing is every written test, answer sheet, roster, test report and most importantly the Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam, or CSCE--all to reflect the new exam element categories," Jahnke said. Prior to April 15, Volunteer Examiners also will be supplied with copies of a revised NCVEC Form 605 that reflects the new four-element examination system of three license classes and one Morse code speed. The new form no longer will include the Novice, Tech Plus or Advanced license nor will it include the physician's certification section for applicants seeking a waiver on the Morse code examination.

If ARRL-VEC statistics are any indication, the HF bands will be hopping with newly minted licensees starting April 15. Jahnke says interest in obtaining element credit prior to the big day has been nothing short of intense. ARRL-VEC statistics show that the number of individuals served has risen by more than 135% in the three months since the FCC announced restructuring December 30, 1999. The number of applicants--many Tech Plus ticket holders--attempting to pass Element 3B to upgrade to General rose by several hundred percentage points over last year's numbers. Interest skyrocketed among applicants--many Advanced licensees--trying to get credit for Element 4B, the Amateur Extra written examination. The number attempting that element rose on the order of 1500%. Demand for General and Extra license study materials also has been unprecedented.

Jahnke said that while a typical ARRL-VEC examination session last year served maybe a dozen or so examinees, sessions the first quarter of this year have seen five or six times that number--and more. VE teams across the US have scheduled so-called "paperwork processing" and examination sessions on April 15, some of them starting at the stroke of midnight so licensees can get an early start on using their new privileges. The upswing in the number of applications has slowed the normally swift flow of paperwork through ARRL-VEC. As a result, it now can take up to 10 days or more for a new license to show up in the mail.

[ARRL Letter]

Smothers Brothers to top Dayton Banquet Lineup

Dayton Hamvention has announced that the Smothers Brothers comedy team will headline the post-banquet entertainment this year. This year's Hamvention also will host the ARRL National Convention.

The Smothers Brothers, Tom and Dick, are perhaps best known for their TV variety program, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," which aired in the 1970s. The comedy duo will perform Saturday, May 20, at 8:30 PM, following the Hamvention banquet in the Nutter Center. The Grand Banquet begins at 5:45 PM.

This year's banquet keynote speaker will be FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Hollingsworth's appearances at last year's Hamvention were a huge hit. He'll also appear again this year as part of the FCC forums.

Returning for the third year as master of ceremonies for the 2000 Hamvention banquet will be Carl Nichols, N8WFQ, chief meteorologist for WDTN Channel 2 News in Dayton.

See the Dayton Hamvention Web site for details on this year's event, ***http://www.hamvention.org***.

[ARRL Letter]

South Africa, Australia to Adopt 5 WPM for Full HF Access

Two more countries have joined a small but growing list of administrations that have adopted a 5 WPM Morse code test requirement for full access to the HF bands.

South Africa has approved a full HF-access license plus what it called "a practical based student license"--both requiring a 5 WPM code test. The new Class A3 ticket--with a distinctive ZT call sign prefix--provides "full license" privileges at up to 100 W output. The new entry-level Class B license aimed at school-aged youth, requires completing what's called a "modular syllabus"--essentially a construction project that results in a completed station. Licensees will be assigned ZU-prefix call signs and be able to operate at up to 25 W output on selected band segments. The 12 WPM Morse code requirement remains in place for the Class A1 "full license," which carries the ZS prefix, privileges on all bands and a maximum output of 400 W.

Meanwhile, the Wireless Institute of Australia is claiming a substantial victory in its efforts to get the Australian Communications Authority to lower the Morse code license test

speed for full access to HF bands there from 10 to 5 WPM. The ACA has said it plans to merge the privileges of the current Intermediate and Unrestricted licenses. The change will take place by mid-year, just in time for the expected influx of visitors for the Olympics in Sydney.

Under the plan, Australian Intermediate licensees will get the same HF privileges as so-called "full call" licensees. The two license classes and their distinctive call signs blocks would remain, however, as would the 10 WPM code requirement for the Unrestricted ticket. The Intermediate License currently requires a 5 WPM Morse test and has restricted access to 80, 15, and 10 meters at 100 W output. So-called "Full calls" get access to all Australian amateur allocations at up to 400 W. Once the ACA upgrades the Intermediate license, holders would have full HF access and privileges.

The general issue of Morse code licensing requirements is expected to be a topic for debate at the IARU Region 3 conference the WIA will host later this year. Discussion of the International Radio Regulations regarding the Morse code requirement is not expected to come up prior to the World Radiocommunication Conference set for 2003.

South Africa and Australia join the US, the UK, Sweden, and Gibraltar among countries that have lowered the Morse code requirement for full HF access to 5 WPM. A reduced Morse code requirement is under consideration in Canada, India, and Germany.--thanks to Jim Linton VK3PC, President WIA Victoria, and Jim Price, N3QYE

[ARRL Letter]

Prizes Pledged in *FREQUENCY* Promotion Competition

An ICOM IC-746 HF plus VHF transceiver is among the prizes pledged by manufacturers for the club that does the best job of promoting Amateur Radio at a local theater screening the movie Frequency. The ham radio-related sci-fi thriller is expected to debut April 28. Local show schedules could vary.

Other prizes and donors--to date and in no particular order--include a Heil Sound GOLDLINE studio microphone from Heil Sound; a KT-36 tribander from M2; an AR-147+ 2-meter mobile transceiver and PMC-100 desk mike from ADI; coaxial cable from Cable X-Perts; a Delta 4C desktop console coax antenna switch and video/book, Basic Technology for the Amateur Radio Enthusiast from Alpha Delta; a 40-meter double bazooka antenna from International Antenna Corp; and a DJ-V5TDC (clear-blue) dualband H-T from Alinco.

In addition, the ARRL will donate the choice of a 2000 ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs or 2000 Handbook CD-ROM to each participating club.

Premier/ADI Marketing Director Ken Collier, KO6UX, is nthusiastic about the promotional potential the movie offers. "As an Amateur Radio operator, it is exciting to see our hobby so prominently featured in a major studio movie like Frequency, and I see it as an incredible opportunity," he said.

Winners of the competition will be selected based on each club's written description of its promotional activity. The awarding of the prizes will be determined by a panel consisting of representatives of the manufacturers and suppliers who donated to the prize pool. The League has agreed to receive submittals for the competition. The activity descriptions must be submitted no later than 5 PM Eastern Time on June 30, 2000, to Marjorie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, Field and Educational Services, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Clubs are encouraged to include a letter from their local theater attesting to how many people may have been reached through the promotion, but this is not an absolute requirement. Decisions of the awards panel are final.

Some clubs also may be able to get free passes to a sneak preview of the film. A field publicity representative for the film's distributor, New Line Cinema, said that select clubs in the top 50 markets where early screenings are being held will be offered the opportunity to get passes to a sneak preview during the week of April 24. Clubs contacted may also be asked about their promotional activities for the weekend of the movie's release. Clubs selected to attend a Frequency sneak preview will be contacted during the week of April 17. If available, tickets would be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, at the discretion of New Line Cinema. Clubs are being urged to contact their local theaters to inquire when Frequency will show in their area and about the possibility of on-site promotion on behalf of Amateur Radio.

Frequency was directed by Gregory Hoblit. The movie uses ham radio as a plot device that lets a long-dead father (Dennis Quaid) and his adult son (John Caviziel) meet up on the airwaves via ham radio--during the mother of all sunspot cycles. Eventually, they conspire in efforts to change the past. The ARRL was consulted in the interests of accuracy, but no League representatives have viewed the film.

For more information on "FREQUENCY" visit:
http://www.frequencymovie.com.

[ARRL Letter]

They Also Serve who Sit and Listen

As one of the several operators taking part in last week's dramatic on-air rescue operation of young Willem van Tuijl, ARRL member Fred Moore, W3ZU, knows better than most that sometimes the best help is to just stand by.

"Basically, what needs to be done is a lot of listening and very little talking," said Moore, who lives near Philadelphia and is a regular participant on the Maritime Mobile Service Net. "The net control station is obligated to make well aware that there is an ongoing emergency and that he will not accept any frivolous calls. And that's what I did through the night."

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Moore and others spent some 14 hours on the Maritime Mobile Service Net the night of March 28, rendering whatever assistance they could to facilitate Willem's rescue and transfer to a hospital in Honduras. The 13-year-old from The Netherlands--now the subject of national news coverage--was shot and seriously wounded by pirates who had boarded the family's sailboat. After the incident, the boy's father, Jacco van Tuijl, KH2TD, turned on his radio to seek help, breaking into a QSO involving Phil Fiol, WB2BMC. Fiol moved KH2TD down to the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14.300 MHz. The other station called the US Coast Guard, which summoned the Honduran Navy.

Moore's ability to speak fluent Spanish turned out to be crucial. "At one point, there was so much chaos and some confusion because the Honduran Navy people could not understand English well," he said. At that point--after monitoring the situation for some time--he was able to step in himself and assist, with the blessing of the net control station. "There was a need to get some order on the frequency," he explained.

Moore said he was able to get position reports and, in general, coordinate communication between Jacco van Tuijl and the Hondurans, up to and including the airlift of Willem and his mother, Jannie, KH2TE, to a hospital in La Ceiba, Honduras.

Moore says that unless a net control can maintain a high degree of order, things can break down in a hurry. During the recent crisis, he said that most operators abided by the rules, although a few persisted in "their nonsense," as he called it. There was even some intentional interference.

Moore also says it's hard for some has to resist the urge to press the push-to-talk button and put in their two cents worth. Sometimes, he says, egos get in the way of common sense. But he urged operators encountering an emergency net to simply "be quiet and listen" unless they can contribute to the situation.

Moore had high praise for net participant Tony Fabrizi, W0IVY, who stood by for the entire crisis, only occasionally letting Moore know he was available if he needed a break. "That's a real amateur," he said. "I laud that man."

Moore says the long hours of duty and little glory can be gratifying. "It makes me feel good when there's a positive result. Hopefully, we were instrumental in helping to save that boy's life, who was at no fault."
Willem remains in Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, thanks to efforts by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP.

Other stations identified so far as having assisted in the crisis include K4TCV, KD5BZ, K1LNC, WB1AVE, J39GH, N3FK, W1KY, and YV5/VE7AMV.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our May meeting will feature Mr. Ed Williams. Mr. Williams, an octogenarian, will be speaking on the early days of radio. Although he is not a ham, he sounds very interesting. He bu crystal sets as a boy, listened to the Dempsey fight on radio, and saw Lindbergh take off. After speaking with him on the telephone, I am sure his talk will be both interesting and somewhat reminiscent for us all.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

[KC8BZV]

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

Join today! Be a part of the betterment of Amateur Radio!



Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

May 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 **Ham Exams 7 pm** ***Verity Lodge***	4 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	5 **Last day for Hamvention meal reservations**	6
7	8	9	10 Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	11 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	12	13 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
14	15 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	16	17 Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	18 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	19 **Dayton Hamvention** HARA Arena	20 **Dayton Hamvention** HARA Arena
21 **Dayton Hamvention** HARA Arena	22	23	24 Ham Class Evaluation and Fall Planning Meeting - 6:30 *pm* Verity Lodge	25 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Plan now for **Field Day 2000**

June 24 - 25

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

June 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
				Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6			Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		**Field Day 2000** **Jacot Park** **Family Picnic** **6pm**
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Field Day 2000 **Jacot Park**				Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		

Plan now for **Field Day 2000**
June 24 - 25
Covered-dish Family Picnic at 6pm

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

June 2000

Field Day - 2000

Jacot Park, Middletown; June 24-25

Minutes of the May 15 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
Attendance: W8EH, Elaine, K8CM, N8NQF, KC8GMR, WD8DEZ, N8HRA, N8OZN, KE8OH, Tillie, WA8DTU, W8LKU, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, Bonnie, KC8IZF, N8AEG, KB8WKL, N8GGE, N8HP, KD8W, W3GP, WA8AGQ, WD8DFK, W8LQW, KC8MVK, WD8NKR, KC8DUZ. (29)

The meeting was called to order by Dave, KD8W. He then asked Lori, W8LKU, to introduce Mr. Ed Williams, who discussed some of his activities.

Secretary's Report:
One correction noted; N8HRA was in attendance at the April meeting and was, inadvertently, omitted from the attendance list. With this correction, a motion was made by WD8DEZ, second by WA8AGQ, to approve the minutes as published in the May newsletter. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM,. read and detailed the Treasurer's report for the month of April 2000. We have 137 active members representing 91 families.

No new applications for membership.

Station report:.
Everything seems to be working, minus the noisy duplexer at the west Middletown site.

Old Business:
Field day. The permit to use Jacot Park has been applied for.

Hamvention: Leaving times were discussed.

An attendance name tag was presented to Ken Tessneer, N8AEG.

New Business:
W8LQW had asked if anyone knew when the club started. Nobody had a definite answer.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary .

Our President Speaks

By now, the ham-vention at Dayton is over. We had a very good year and a lot of fun!!.

For those of you who didn't make it, you missed a lot of sights. Rumor had it there was a 'goat' sporting a vertical antenna!!. We saw our old faithful, with the tower on his head and this year he was also sporting a 'beam' up there. There were many attractions,

Next Meeting: Monday, June 19, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

good fun and the social time was enjoyed by all who participated. If you didn't go, why don't you make it a point to go NEXT YEAR!!. You won't be sorry!!.

Our next event is Field Day (4th weekend in June). We'll be having our usual Sat evening picnic on the 24th. If you haven't been contacted by Lorie (now w8LKU), please contact her and volunteer to help. We will be needing operators to keep the radios hot!!. More on this at our next club meeting on the 19th of June. kd8w

[KD8W]

Upgrades and New Call Signs

Beverley Taylor, N8GGE, and Ken Tessneer, N8AEG, recently upgraded their amateur operator privileges. Beverly upgraded to General Class and Ken to Amateur Extra.

A couple of new callsigns are now being heard on the repeater; Barney Taylor (WD4HPC) is now known as N8HP and Lorie Urschel, KC8BZV, is sporting W8LKU

Congratulations to one and all!

So, Where's My New Ticket?

Despite an infusion of temporary help, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators continue struggling to process the huge influx of exam session paperwork resulting from Amateur Radio "restructuring" that went into effect April 15. As a result, license grants from post-April 15 applications are taking up to four weeks.

"How do y'all spell 'busy'?" asks ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, who, along with his staff, has been putting in a lot of overtime and weekend hours lately. Jahnke jokes about imposing a moratorium on sick leave. Fred Maia, W5YI, cites a similar situation for applications filed via his W5YI-VEC, where he's added a couple of temporary employees. "We've got mail buckets everywhere," he said this week.

Jahnke and Maia urge amateur applicants to refrain from calling or e-mailing either their respective VECs or the FCC to inquire as to the progress of individual applications. "If we respond to the phone calls and e-mails," Maia said, "we can't handle the processing. We're going as fast as we possibly can."

Maia believes that a lot of the impatience in the amateur community has come from those wanting to either file a vanity call sign application or to upgrade their Volunteer Examiner status. Neither can be accomplished without a license grant from the FCC reflecting the applicant's upgraded class. In a few cases, applicants are awaiting first-time amateur licenses and do not even have interim operating authority.

Boxes of applications continue arriving to be logged in at ARRL-VEC, which has added three temporary staffers. Jahnke says the ARRL-VEC now has caught up with the paperwork backlog from pre-April 15 test sessions. The ARRL-VEC served nearly 35,800 applicants between January 1 and April 14. It continues to deal with the nearly 16,000 applications logged in from April 15 through April 25, most of them from April 15 test sessions. Jahnke points out that while VE teams have 10 days to ship session paperwork to ARRL-VEC, the transit time can be as long as a week.

"At this point, Jahnke said this week, we're just wrapping up the April 18 receipts and moving on to April 19 and 20.

Once keyed in and sent on electronically to the FCC, most applications are granted overnight. Jahnke says the care ARRL-VEC takes in checking VE session paperwork and applications for "completeness, accuracy and integrity" pays off in avoiding potential problems or questions from the FCC down the road. "We're still saying at least 3-1/2 weeks from exam to FCC grant," Jahnke says, "including transit time from the VEs to us." Maia cites a similar number. He said it's taking about three weeks "from receipt to filing" and says that license grants applied for via W5YI-VEC are taking up to a month from the exam date. "Right now, we're filing sessions received at W5YI-VEC April 25," he said.

Statistics to date suggest a total of more than 13,000 new Generals and more than 10,000 new Extra class hams as a result of restructuring--and those numbers undoubtedly will continue to rise. As ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recently put it: "Amateur Radio is on a roll!"

[ARRL Letter]

Field Day Family Picnic

Once again I will be chairing the Field Day Family Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, June 24, 6pm, at Jacot Park. As in years passed, this will be covered dish. If you are planning on attending this fun event, please contact me by phone , e-mail , or by radio (after the Thursday night Net is a very good time!) with the number of people attending the type of dish (appetizer, salad, or dessert) you plan to bring The Club will be furnishing meat, chips, and soft drinks. Please try to let me know no later than June 19.

I look forward to seeing each of you there.

[W8LZU]

Questions Continue in Restucturing's Wake

April 15 has come and gone, but the flow of questions about Amateur Radio "restructuring" has only slowed somewhat in the intervening days. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, say the most common question these days is: "When can I expect to

see my new license grant from the FCC?"

"The answer we give is three to four weeks from the test date, possibly sooner," Jahnke said. As a result of April 15-16 weekend testing and upgrade processing, the ARRL-VEC anticipates seeing 10,000 or more license applications over the next week or so. "We had some 250 sessions scheduled for April 15, and they average perhaps 50 applicants at each," Jahnke explained.

"Based on gut feelings and a crystal ball, we conceivably could now have 10,000 new Generals and 5000 new Extras hitting the airwaves at roughly the same time," Jahnke speculated. That's just based on the first day or two of upgrading and testing under the new rules.

Other burning questions have had to do with operating privileges. Several callers have wondered if Technicians who pass the 5 WPM Morse code test (Element 1) may then operate on the Novice bands. The answer is yes. Such licensees no longer get a new license class--it would have been Tech Plus under the old rules--but they have the same privileges as current Tech Plus licensees.

At present, while such Element 1 credit provides new privileges for the term of the license, the credit--at least for now--is only good for 365 days for upgrading purposes. The League has petitioned the FCC to make Element 1 credit permanent.

The FCC last week made it clear that General class operators may not operate on the Advanced class subbands, however.

Other callers have wondered if they may use a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--CSCE--for an "old" amateur examination element under the new rules. In most cases, as long as the CSCE is not older than 365 days, it is still valid for equivalent element credit. For example, a Technician holding a CSCE for the "old" Element 3B (General written) may upgrade upon passing Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test, provided the CSCE is no older than 365 days. "An unexpired CSCE for Element 3B is valid for the new Element 3," explained Brennan Price, N4QX, the newest member of ARRL Field and Educational Services. In addition, unexpired CSCEs for Elements 4A and 4B together still confer credit for the new Element 4 (Amateur Extra written).

"On the other hand, an unexpired CSCE for the Advanced Element 4A by itself will earn, at most, a hearty handshake," explains Price, an experienced VE who's been helping to handle the backlog of inquiries. "Element 4A is no good without Element 4B."

[ARRL Letter]

Restructuring Petitions on Public Notice

The FCC has put on public notice five petitions for partial consideration of the Commission's amateur "restructuring" Report and Order WT Docket 98-143. The list includes a petition filed by the ARRL. Interested parties may file opposition comments. The FCC does not solicit supporting comments for such petitions, and it's under no obligation to consider them.

In addition to the League's, petitions put on public notice April 18 were filed by Alan J. Wormser, N5LF, Frederick V Adsit, NY2V, and Michael J. Dinelli, N9BOR; by Fred A Duran, W4NKI; by Millard H. Qualls, K9DIY, and by Stewart Teaze, N0MHS. The petitions were put on public notice April 25 in The Federal Register.

The League's petition, filed in mid-March, asks the FCC to continue to maintain records indicating whether or not a Technician has Morse code element credit. It also seeks permanent Morse element credit for any Amateur Radio applicant who has ever passed an FCC-recognized Morse exam of at least 5 WPM.

The Wormser, Adsit, Dinelli and the Qualls petitions also call on the FCC to rethink its plan to eliminate the "Plus" designation from the license class of Technicians who have passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination. Wormser et al say that essentially merging Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single database would hamper enforcement.

Two petitioners also ask the FCC to retain the 20 WPM Morse code requirement for the Extra. Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli contend the FCC's December 30, 1999, R&O "unnecessarily reduces the speed of the Amateur Extra Class telegraphy examination as a way to avoid code waivers." The petitioners argue that the General class license with its 5 WPM code test offers "reasonable accommodation to disabled persons" claiming an inability to pass the higher code test. As an alternative, the petitioners suggest that the FCC allow applicants claiming an exemption "to certify their own impairment under oath." Qualls requests retention of the 20 WPM test or at least a 12 WPM requirement for the Extra ticket.

Wormser et al also want the FCC to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session. Their petition says amateur applicants should be restricted to one exam session in any 24-hour period. It further asks the FCC to not extend exam element credit beyond the current two-year license expiration grace period.

The Wormser et al and Qualls petitions also ask the FCC to set the number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Extra test. Wormser et al further request that the FCC "retain sufficient question pool categories to maintain or increase the proportion of technical and theoretical questions on each written test."

The Teaze petition calls upon the FCC to institute a new entry-level Communicator license class. Under his proposal, Communicator licensees could be no older than 16, must use fixed antennas no more than 20 feet above ground or above the building or tree they're mounted on, and use not more than 2.5 W ERP. Channelized voice and digital operation would be in the range of 445 to 446 MHz. The exam would consist of "25 fairly simple

questions."

The Duran filing requests that the FCC elevate former "Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra, instead of leaving them at Advanced class--something the FCC's Report and Order specifically said it would not agree to do.

The window to file opposition comments to any of these petitions remains open through May 10. Replies to opposition comments are due 10 days later. Copies of all petitions may be viewed on the FCC Web site. Visit http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html, click on "Search the ECFS System" and type "98-143" in the "Proceeding" field.

Wireless Modems; Interference

Subject: Status Report
Date: Tue, 9 May 2000 11:20:45 -0400
From: "Hare, Ed, W1RFI" <w1rfi@arrl.org>
To:

Hello,

First, thank you all for your patience. Preparing a status report for the ARRL RFI Task Group and getting decisions made about what to do next has been time consuming.

Here is an the executive summary of what steps are being taken next, taken from my report to the ARRL RFI Task Group (an ARRL Board-level committee):
Executive Summary

In late 1998, ARRL started receiving reports of interference near 3.53 MHz. The interference was traced to wireless modem jacks made by Phonex. Many of these units were bought by TCI cable and installed with their digital cable service. TCI has since been purchased by AT&T.

These devices are generally permitted by FCC Part 15 regulations, although the ARRL has received some test results that indicate that these units could significantly exceed what is permitted under the rules. Phonex and TCI/AT&T both responded favorably to ARRL inquiries, but in spite of their best efforts, there is still significant interference from these devices. ARRLHQ has received 102 reports of interference. 101 of those reports are from current ARRL members. (Many of these members renewed during the time that this problem has been ongoing.) The involved hams represent a group of especially loyal ARRL members. These reports represent 13 ARRL Divisions, with the majority coming from the Pacific Division. Several ARRL Board members have indicated that they have received additional verbal and email reports. For example, Walt Stinson reports that he has received approximately 20 reports that are not on the list of reports sent to ARRL HQ.

In January 2000, ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, solicited those who sent reports, asking for a status report. 67 hams responded, only 4 reporting that the problem had been corrected. In their comments, many hams asked the ARRL to take additional steps to correct the problem by involving the FCC.

The RFI Task Group recommends that the following actions take place:

* ARRL HQ staff should continue the staff-level contact they have maintained with AT&T technical staff.
* ARRL should inform the FCC of the present status of the wireless-modem jack problem.
* ARRL should ask the FCC to test the radiated emissions limits of the old and new versions of the wireless modem jacks to determine if they exceed the FCC limits for radiated emissions from intentional emitters and carrier-current devices.
* The ARRL should ask the FCC to send an advisory letter to the President of AT&T, more formally informing AT&T of the present status of the wireless-modem jack problem, explaining the applicable rules and informing AT&T that the FCC expects that they will address the problem more effectively.
* The ARRL President should contact the AT&T President, to discuss the importance of clearing up the ongoing problems.
* The ARRL President should contact the FCC to use this problem as an opportunity to discuss Part 15 issues in general.
* ARRL contact with the FCC and AT&T should include a request that AT&T and other companies that have not resolved all reported cases of interference issue a recall of all outstanding 3.53 MHz wireless modem jacks.

Unfortunately, what started out on a positive note has not ended up as such. Excellent cooperation at the manufacturing and TCI/AT&T corporate level has not, from all of the reports I have received, been universally found at the local "resolution" level. Forward progress in many cases continues only when ARRL and AT&T's corporate engineering staff apply constant pressur locally, and appears to stop quickly once that pressure is removed. The above set of ARRL action items, approved informally by the ARRL Board, are a direct result of the many comments and suggestions that I received in response to my earlier requests for input. (On a related note, if anything has changed since your earlier email to me, please let me know.)
I am hoping that a combination of continued contact with AT&T and others cable companies and FCC involvement will help bring us back to a reasonable level of forward progress. I also hope that the FCC will better understand the severe impact on Amateur Radio of permitting Part 15 devices to operate in ham bands.

As always, I look forward to any and all input and suggestions on how to best proceed from here.

73 from ARRL HQ,
Ed Hare, W1RFI
ARRL Laboratory Supervisor
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111
860-594-0318
Internet: w1rfi@arrl.org
ARRL Web: http://www.arrl.org/.
ARRL Technical Information Service: http://www.arrl.org/tis.

[W8EH]

Next Meeting: Monday, June 19, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

ARRL Launches Continuing Education Pilot Project

The ARRL has launched the developmental phase of a Certification and Continuing Education Program pilot project in mergency communications. That announcement came this week from Dan Miller, K3UFG, who recently assumed responsibilities as ARRL Certification Specialist in the new program.
Since February, members have been offering comments and suggestions via the Certification and Continuing Education Program's Web-based educational forum http://www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/w-agora.php3. Responses showed a need and desire for emergency communications to be the very first--and most important--topic for further study and learning. A special-interest forum was begun in March under the leadership of Pat Lambert, W0IPL, to gather more details.

Results and progress can be found by browsing the Emergency Communications topic of the forum, ***http://www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/w-agora.php3?bn=agora_certemerg***.

Miller says the next step in putting together an emergency communications curriculum will be to pull together all the training material available from various sources. Once the information's in one place, it can serve as a resource in disaster-response planning.

"If you have a current training plan for any type of public disaster nd/or emergency communications, such as SKYWARN, ARES/RACES, NTS-affiliated, or other plan, please share with us so we can share with the world," Miller said. E-mail submittals are preferable, but regular mail also is acceptable. Send submittals to Dan Miller, K3UFG, ***k3ufg@arrl.org***, or to ARRL Continuing Education Pilot Program, ATTN Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Miller said he hopes to have the emergency communications curriculum in place for the pilot project by the end of this summer.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of the self-education Continuing Education and Certification Program for radio amateurs at its January meeting. The program is aimed at inspiring amateurs to continue to acquire technical knowledge and operating expertise beyond that required to become licensed.

Miller says that anyone wanting to participate in the program who is not yet an ARRL member can take advantage of a special membership offer for those taking part in the Continuing Education Pilot Project. Call or e-mail Miller for details at 860-594-0340; fax 860-594-0259; e-mail dmiller@arrl.org.

[ARRL Letter]

MIAMI VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO BULLETIN BOARD

[via e-mail from Fred Stone, W8LLY]

Greetings:

Yesterday (May 13, 2000), I "launched" the "Miami Valley Amateur Radio Bulletin Board" (MVARBB), an amateur radio "news and information exchange" OF, BY, and FOR ALL amateur radio clubs and groups in the greater Miami Valley, and surrounding region.

The Mission of MVARBB is to provide an exchange for all area clubs, related groups and individuals to share news and information about all facets of amateur radio and CLOSELY-RELATED topics.

The Primary Goal of MVARBB is to SERVE YOU with what's happening in our "regional community" in terms of amateur radio activities--a Clearinghouse, of sorts. Information that will come directly to you as posted. Topics will include (not in any order of priority):

- ARC meeting notices & promotion
- Club activities and other information
- Hamfests
- Hamvention information
- Public Service Events
- Emergency preparedness
- Amateur radio licence classes
- License exam sessions
- Field Day information
- Local Nets
- Special Events
- Elmers
- Technical exchange
- Trading Post (For Sale, Wanted, etc)
- Etc, etc, etc.
- Your suggestions for topics not mentioned

Now, this is where YOU come in. The information distributed by MVARBB will be only as complete as YOU and the local ARClubs and related groups make it. EACH CLUB/GROUP SHOULD DESIGNATE A PERSON (PERSONS) TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO MVARBB ON A REGULAR BASIS. Also, individual with information of general interest to others should remember to share it through MVARBB.

MVARBB will NOT include postings of the ARRL Bulletins. Many of you receive these directly from ARRL or via other services and desire not to receive duplicate copies. The information distributed via MVARBB will be of a local and regional nature. This is your outlet to share information "first-hand" with one and others.

BULLETINS will continue to distribute the ARRL Bulletins, ARRL Letter, etc. If you wish to also receive ARRL bulletins, etc., from the BULLETINS LISTSERV, please send me a message

requesting to be subscribed to BULLETINS. Address your request to: <*w8lly@arrl.net*> Please include your First name, Last name, Call sign, and email address.

Currently, I am the only one who can post messages to BULLETINS and MVARBB. The primary purpose of limiting who can post is to eliminate "Spam" and other garbage and to maintain the quality and integrity of these services. However, I am in the process of setting up additional people who can post--especially when I'm not available. I'll also establish a common, easy-to-remember address for submitting information to be posted. Thus, everyone with information can send it to a common address and it will be posted in a timely manner. This process also will continue to provide a degree of scrutiny to keep out the "junk-stuff." In the meantime, send your news & information for MVARBB to: <*w8lly@arrl.net*> Also, until clubs have a designated person(s) in place to submit news and information, the newsletter editor and/or club officers are encouraged to do so.

MVARBB will have over 400 subscribers within the next day or so and I expect MVARBB to grow rapidly as word spreads. This is the Miami Valley's clearinghouse for area amateur radio news and information which will be posted via email directly to each subscriber. I hope you will find this service very beneficial.

And, in addition to the MVARBB email postings, there still will be the audio "broadcasts" of Amateur News Weekly (ANW) on the area nets, and the ARES District 3 Website will post and archive some of this information for future reference. Thus, you can receive it directly via MVARBB; you can hear it on the weekly nets thanks to Phil Thomas, W8RMJ, and Amateur News Weekly; and you can check the ARES District 3 Website managed by Randy Allen, KA0AZS. More information about the weekly nets and audio reports and about accessing or submitting to the ARES District 3 Website will follow.

I want to thank John Ackermann, N8UR, who has graciously set up these LISTS and REFLECTORS on his "febo.com" server. THANKS, JOHN!

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Send them to <*w8lly@arrl.net*>

Stay tuned! MVARBB is on its way!

73, Fred, W8LLY

[forwarded by W8EH]

Things For Sale

Yaesu FT-890AT 100 watt HF Transceiver, 160-10 meters, general coverage receive, internal automatic antenna tuner, mobile microphone. Has optional CW filter and the optional SSB filter. Operation manual and service manual. Contact Ernie, W8EH,

Butternut HF6V-X HF 6-band Vertical antenna, 80/40/30/20/15/10M. Good condition; works well. **$175**. Carl, K8CM,

Next Meeting

Our June meeting will focus on preparations for our annual Fie' Day activity. You should expect to hear from Ernie Howard (W8EH), Ernie Helton (W8MVN), Lorie Urschel (KC8BZV), and Dave Williamson (KD8W) regarding facilities, plans, and preparations.

Yes, we are planning our annual Saturday night, family picnic. Lorie, courageously, volunteered to coordinate the acquisition of foodstuffs; therefore, you should contact Lorie as soon as possible.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

[K8CM]

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

Join today! Be a part of the betterment of Amateur Radio!

Next Meeting: Monday, June 19, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

June 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	9	10 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
11 20/9 ARC Youngstown, OH Amelia ARA Amelia, OH Goodyear ARC Suffield, OH	12	13	14	15 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	16	17 Milford ARC Milford, OH
18	19 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	20	21	22 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	23	24 **Field Day 2000** **Jacot Park** **Family Picnic** **6pm**
25 **Field Day 2000** **Jacot Park**	26	27	28	29 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	30	

Plan now for **Field Day 2000**
June 24 - 25
Covered-dish Family Picnic at 6pm

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

July 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	7	8
9 **Wood County ARC** **Bowling Green, OH**	10	11	12	13 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	14	15 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
16	17 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	18	19	20 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	21	22 OH-KY-IN ARS Hamfest - Cincinnati
23	24	25	26	27 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	28	29
30 **Portage County ARC** **Randolph, OH**	31					

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

July 2000

Silent Key: KC8DVC

We note, with sadness, the passing of **Patricia A. Downs, KC8DVC**, on Tuesday, June 14. Pat had been active with *Dial* since receiving her license in 1996. She will be missed by all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and many friends.

Minutes of the June 19 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
W8EH, Elaine, N8OZN, K8CM, W8WLM, KD8W, N8NQF, KB8QQF, KC8DUX, KE8OH, WA8DTU, Kathy, W8LKU, KC8MVK, KC8CYP, WA8PRA, WB8MYT, N8TFH, W8MVN, Bonnie, W8GNV, KB8WNF, KB8WKL, KC8IZF, N8AEG, KB8VSX, N8GGE, N8HP, WA8AGQ, WD8NKR, W8LQW. (31)

Call to order by KD8W.

Secretary's Report:
Motion, by Ron, N8NQF, to approve the May minutes as published. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM,. read and detailed the Treasurer's report for the month of May 2000. We have 139 active members representing families.

Carl presented the Hamvention expense report. After the space fees, food expenses and donations from members were tallied, the Club ended up with a modest gain.

Upon motion and second, both reports were approved as presented.

Name tags:
A *Dial* name badge was presented to Harold Radenheimer, KB8VSX.

Station report:.
Station report by W8EH. The amplifier we had tried on 146.61 died. It was putting out less than a watt. Will take a look at it. We are now running 25 watts out until either W8DJY fixes the old one, or we get a new one. We need a work party to fix up the repeater shack. Needs paint, sealer and insect extermination. Any volunteers??

West Middletown needs a new power supply to keep both 2 meters and 6 meters running. Motion by W8EH to purchase an Astron RS-35 amp power supply and have Carl get it before field day, second by WA8DTU, passed.

It was asked what happened with the replacement of the amplifier (on 61) with a commercial unit. Prices were pretty high to get something better that would hold up, so we first tried something used, a GE Mastr II 100 watt PA section. That should have worked well but didn't.

Old Business:
Field Day: Lori gave the information on the picnic. Dave discussed the setup for Saturday morning, who was picking up trailers, equipment and generators. Work on trailer to be at Bob's. Need lots of workers to set up everything. Need operators. Need people to help with cleanup. Need picnic tables and trash barrels.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 17, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Announcement in the paper. Also discussed bonus points, announcement in paper, satellites, demonstration of non-traditional modes, layout of the field, antenna location and a lot of other stuff.

A donation of equipment had been made by the widow of K8INF. Some of the items were sold off ($216 at Hamvention). The major item, a TS-850, will be kept for club use (like field day). KD8W told that we were discussing using the money for class materials. Books could be bought to be available all the instructors and some can be loaned to club members upgrading. A motion was made by W8EH to use this money for buying books for the ham classes. Motion passed. Dave will write the letter, Carl will get the books and make up a sticker for the inside, making note of the memorial.

New Business:
No new business was presented.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn by WA8AGQ, seconded, and approved without dissent.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary

Our President Speaks

My main comments for this month concern the Field Day activity.

I would like to first apologize to any folks that had planned to operate and did not. I had heard too late that there were a couple of potential operators who wanted to be there to operate some of the period, but did not because they thought we had shut down when we sustained some of the rain wetness and 'lost' some computer logging equipment.

I'm sorry about that, but we did not plan to 'shut down' only wait for the equipment to dry out.

We had a good turnout this time overall for operating. I have not seen the early results but we think at this time we had over a 1000 phone and 500 CW contacts. For those of you who thought we were shutting down CW when the early 'drenching' came upon us, believe me we waited only for equipment to dry out and pulled out the backup computers.

It was a great time overall, and the radios (except for the dryout periods..hi..hi) stayed hot most of the night. It was a first for us to have TWO towers standing, and I guess we made quite a site at Jacot park this year.

If you missed it, you should make it a point to find a way to participate next year, and get more active. Remember only you will get out of amateur radio what you put into it.

[KD8W]

Upgrades and New Call Signs

Vernon Stanfill, N8FLZ, recently upgraded his amateur operator privileges to Amateur Extra Class.

Mike Armstrong, formerly KF8TG, is sporting a new call; he now known as KM8A

Congratulations, Vernon and Mike!

Dayton 2000: Hamvention-Convention 2000 a Hit!

Amateur Radio's upbeat mood spilled over into Dayton Hamvention 2000, which hosted the ARRL National Convention. Early indications were that the three-day event, which ended Sunday, attracted more than 30,000 visitors for the first time in its history.

"This appears to be the largest Hamvention in history," Great Lakes ARRL Director George Race, WB8BGY, announced last Saturday. Hamvention General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said this week that the official Hamvention attendance had not yet been determined. Hamvention weather cooperated for the most part with partly sunny to overcast skies and generally cool temperatures.

Sales counters were busy. Several dealers reported running out of popular items well before the end of Hamvention.

Hamvention banquet speaker Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH exhorted his audience to work toward making the Amateur Rad. Service the finest radio service ever. Hollingsworth, who's the FCC's special counsel for amateur radio enforcement, reiterated that the Commission is in the enforcement business to stay.

"To work with you in restoring the Amateur Radio Service to its rightful place in the American communications infrastructure is the greatest privilege of my professional and personal life," Hollingsworth told the banquet audience.

Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended Dayton Hamvention for the first time in his role as the League's new president. "These are extremely exciting times for Amateur Radio," he told those attending the ARRL Forum Saturday. "I hope y'all are as excited about our future as much as I am, because if you are, we can do nothing but win."

Haynie discussed the broad parameters of "The Big Project"--his ham radio in the schools initiative that would offer a turnkey curriculum in Amateur Radio as well as equipment for use in middle school classrooms. Haynie said he plans to have the program, funded by corporate and foundation grants, in place by the end of 2001.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, flew in from Istanbul, Turkey, just to attend the League's Nation Convention. Sumner has been on the International Amateur Radio Union team representing Amateur Radio interests at the World

Radiocommunication Conference 2000.

During his "Vision for Amateur Radio's Future" on Saturday, Sumner noted that Amateur Radio's demographic peaks in the late 40s or early 50s. "This is the 'baby boom' moving through the system," he said. "The point of entry for Amateur Radio today is not principally teenage, as it perhaps was 30 or 35 years ago." Sumner said today's technology has opened Amateur Radio's once "unique window on the world" to many outside the hobby, especially those on the Internet. That trend will continue, he predicted, as telecommunication costs drop. In the future, the population that got into ham radio as a cheap personal communication service will no longer be attracted to the hobby, he said. "The effect of that is that the licensing figures likely will go down."

He predicted a precipitous drop in the number of Amateur Radio licensees in the US starting in 2001, when many licenses of those who had entered the hobby a decade earlier as a part of the initial flurry of code-free Technicians expire. But he doesn't see that as a major negative for ham radio--just indicative of a shift in focus of the participants.

Sumner said he's seen a higher regard for disaster communications capabilities of Amateur radio at WRC-2000 than he'd seen at other recent conferences. "A low-technology solution to disaster communications is not a bad thing, it's s a good thing," he said. "All you need is two hams and it will work." Sumner said if a proposed "harmonized" worldwide allocation at 7 MHz ever is approved at a future World Radiocommunication Conference, it will not be because of DXing or contesting but because of disaster communications capability.

Sumner said Amateur Radio will continue to have a role in scientific investigations. And he said personal achievement and accomplishment will continue to provide an incentive to be a part of Amateur Radio in the future. "Lest we forget," he said, "it's supposed to be fun."

At Dayton Hamvention, Yaesu introduced its Model V FT-1000MP HF transceiver, which features 200 W output and several improvements over the original MP platform. The radio could be on the market by month's end. Kenwood also had a developmental all-band, all-mode transceiver on display. Elecraft debuted its K1 transceiver kit, a two-band, low-power unit aimed at backpackers and travelers. Ten Tec introduced its Pegasus FP (for "front panel") HF transceiver, a desktop version of its popular PC-controlled Pegasus. A new player, Mobat Communication--a partnership of Motorola and Bartal--introduced its MICOM H transceiver, a computer-programmable DSP-based HF radio.

[ARRL Letter]

Dayton 2000: FCC Feeling Restructuring's Impact

The impact of restructuring is being felt at the FCC. During the well-attended Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announced that the Commission already had processed nearly 9200 license upgrades as of May 19--six times the normal flow of applications.

"It appears Advanced class licensees are upgrading in significant numbers," he said. "So are the Technician Plus class licensees." He recommended that experienced amateurs help newcomers to bridge the gap between their new license classes and their sometimes less-than-fully developed operating skills.

"Just like you, newly minted Generals and Extras want to comply with the rules," Cross said. "Just like you, they have invested a lot in getting that signal on the air, although it may be on the wrong frequency. And just like you, a correction that starts with 'you idiot' isn't going to get the result you want."

Cross defended the FCC's action lowering the Morse code requirement to 5 WPM. He also credited the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee with "an amazing job" of revising the question pools in very short order. "They aren't easy questions," he said. "These exams are not 'dumbed down' by any stretch of the imagination. If anything, they're more difficult because the easy questions are gone."

Cross also said the FCC has a copy of its pre-April 15 database to keep track of which Technicians have HF privileges as a result of having taken a Morse code exam in the past.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth also addressed the FCC Forum. "Nothing about restructuring bothers me from an enforcement standpoint," he said. "We have a basically good set of rules" that the FCC is willing to enforce. While insisting he did not want to trample on anyone's First Amendment rights, Hollingsworth urged amateurs to present a good face to the nonamateur community by maintaining a high level of on-the-air decorum. "We're being listened to all the time," he said. "So we have to think about what kind of impression we're making."

[ARRL Letter]

League Calls Ham Radio "Fertile Testing Ground" for SDR

The ARRL says that Amateur Radio "is a fertile testing ground" for software defined radio technology and that SDR would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster communications. The League commented this week in response to FCC Notice of Inquiry ET Docket No 00-47 on SDR technology, released in March.

The League said its understanding of SDRs is that they are "in essence, digital computers connected to an antenna, controlled by software." True SDR functions, other than baseband DSP, are yet to be incorporated into commercial or even into sophisticated homemade amateur equipment, the ARRL noted.

The League said that because of its flexibility, utilization of multiple modes, and shared allocations, the Amateur Service provides the proper environment to develop, test and deploy SDR technology. Amateur Radio is not constrained by limitations

imposed on other services and "serves as a reasonable paradigm for a regulatory structure that might be adapted to other services," the ARRL told the FCC. The League said it intends to give a "high profile" to SDR developments in the Amateur Service through its technical/experimental publication, QEX.

The ARRL said that SDR affords a level of flexibility and interoperability that could enhance Amateur Radio's performance in emergency communications and disaster relief efforts with respect to served agencies. "Amateur SDR equipment could be rapidly reprogrammed to be interoperable with that of served agencies such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, local civil defense offices, state OES offices, and public safety agencies," the League said. The result would be "an even more immediate and adaptable source of restored communications for disaster relief coordination" than previously available.

The ARRL told the FCC that SDRs would obviate the need for differing transmission standards in the future. SDRs automatically could shift transmission standards to overcome common communication roadblocks such as noise levels, propagation characteristics, QRM, and other factors.

The League cautioned the FCC against imposing equipment authorization requirements on SDR hardware or software designed for amateur use that could inhibit experimentation.

A copy of the League's comment in response to FCC Notice of Inquiry ET Docket No 00-47 is available at:
http://www.arrl.org/fcc/arrldocs/et-0047.pdf.

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL-VEC "Completely Caught-Up"

The ARRL-VEC has made it over the restructuring application mountain and down the other side. "We're completely caught up!" ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, exulted this week. All applications through June 16 receipts that were able to be "routinely processed" were set to be transmitted to the FCC June 22. ARRL-VEC staff members already have begun tackling receipts from this past Monday, June 19.

Jahnke said he anticipated very shortly getting back to a "normal" 10-day wait between test session and FCC license grant. He emphasized that the length of any applicant's wait continues to largely depend on when the test session paperwork arrives at ARRL-VEC.

Fred Maia, W5YI, of the W5YI-VEC reports he's closing in on being current and expects to be there by July 4. "This was the hardest spring period we ever had in our 16 years of doing this," he said. "We're starting to see daylight." As of week's end, W5YI-VEC had processed April and May test sessions and was working on session receipts of June 12.

On the downside, Jahnke says, some applicants could be in for additional delays because of missing or problematic information on their paperwork. Applications are not transmitted to the FCC until all information is complete and problems resolved, Jahnke said. The same goes for applications where the information provided does not jibe with what's already in the FCC database. He estimated that fewer than 1% of the 25,000 applications filed since January 1 fall into the "problem" category, however.

Among applications in the huge influx since the FCC announced restructuring last December, ARRL-VEC staffers have encountered incomplete or missing items, including element credit, proof of license, Social Security number, and even the applicant's or the volunteer examiners' signatures.

The FCC's Universal Licensing System also has burped on applicants' attempts to upgrade and renew their licenses at the same time. Because of a ULS software problem, combining a renewal with an upgrade--or with an address or a name change, for that matter--will cause the ULS to reject the application altogether, Jahnke explained. As a result, the transactions must be filed separately.

Upgrade applicants whose licenses turn out to be in the two-year renewal grace period also can expect delays. "You need a current license to get your upgrade granted," Jahnke explains, "so the renewal must be filed first, then the upgrade."

Other applicants unwittingly have stumbled into problems by filing separate applications with the FCC via the ULS. For example, a few individuals with pending upgrade applications in the meantime have applied for and been granted vanity call signs via the ULS. "What happens is the person ends up with another call sign that doesn't match the one on their upgrade application Jahnke says. He advises applicants either to wait until their upgrades have been processed before applying for a vanity call sign or to let the ARRL-VEC know that they have another application pending via the ULS.

Jahnke advised applicants who attended an April or May ARRL-VEC test session and have not yet found the results of their earned upgrade on the ULS to contact ARRL-VEC by telephone (do not send e-mail) at 860-594-0300. He says the ARRL-VEC still is holding some applications with errors or missing information

[ARRL Letter]

WRC-2000 Recommends Agenda for WRC-2003

The WRC-2000 Future Agendas Working Group has agreed to recommendations for a number of World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 agenda items of importance to Amateur Radio. Among other things, the Little LEOs could be back at the trough at WRC-2003 seeking additional allocations. The WRC-2003 agenda is not cast in concrete, however. The ITU Council will make the final decision on the WRC-2003 agenda two years before the conference. The recommendations came as WRC-2000 concluded June 2 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Amateur Radio-related topics likely to be on the table at WRC-2003 include a possible revision of Article S25 of the

International Radio Regulations. Article S25 contains the basic rules for the amateur and amateur-satellite services and includes the requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency for access to amateur bands below 30 MHz. Observers report there was broad support and no opposition voiced to having Article S25 on the WRC-2003 agenda.

Provisions of Article S19 of the International Radio Regulations--concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services in order to provide flexibility for administrations--also could come up at WRC-2003. So could a review of the terms and definitions of Article S1--as required as a consequence of changes made in Article S25. Among other things, Article S1 contains the definition of the amateur and amateur-satellite services.
Also up for possible consideration is a so-called "harmonized" or worldwide 40-meter allocation--a longstanding problem identified at WARC-92.

WRC-2003 also may consider allocations for non-geostationary, non-voice mobile satellites--the Little LEOs--below 1 GHz, as well as spectrum above 1 GHz for feeder links.

HF broadcasters gained approval of a resolution calling for review of the need to switch from double-sideband AM modulation to SSB. The associated WRC-2003 agenda item stresses the desire to convert from DSB to digital modulation.

Among items penciled in on the WRC-2003 agenda but unlikely to be considered unless additional resources become available are consideration of frequency allocations for HF broadcasting from approximately 4 to 10 MHz and up to 6 MHz of frequency spectrum to the Earth Exploration-Satellite Service in the 420 to 470 MHz band.

WRC-2000 managed to avoid designating Amateur Radio spectrum in the 2300 to 2400 MHz range for use by third-generation IMT-2000 cellular systems. Several "footnote" changes will affect the status of some amateur allocations in other parts of the world. For example, amateurs in Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland will gain some additional flexibility on 160 meters.

Representing the International Amateur Radio Union at WRC-2000 were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM. Also: ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, served as a member of the US delegation for ARRL; David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, was in the Australian delegation representing the Wireless Institute of Australia; Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, was in the Canadian delegation for Radio Amateurs of Canada; and Jay Oka, JA1TRC, was in the Japan delegation for the Japan Amateur Radio League.

[ARRL Letter]

Phase 3D Tentative Launch Date Reset

AMSAT now says the next-generation Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite will launch in September at the earliest. Under the latest tentative Arianespace launch schedule, P3D could go up on the Ariane Flight 507 as early as mid-September, but the launch could be as late as the end of October.

Flight 507 had been on the schedule to go into space in July. Arianespace recently announced a resumption of Ariane flights from the European Spaceport. A three-month flight hiatus resulted when several prime Arianespace passengers put their launch preparations on hold until concerns over possible onboard thruster problems could be resolved.

AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF, called the Arianespace announcement "very good news" for the Phase 3D program. On the Ariane 507 launch manifest with P3D is the PAS-1R satellite and two STRV micro-satellites.

The Phase 3D satellite safely arrived at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, last January and has been awaiting the start of its launch campaign.

Arianespace representatives--including the mission director--met recently with Phase 3D representatives at AMSAT-DL headquarters in Marburg, Germany, to discuss preparations for the P3D launch campaign, which could take up to a couple of months to complete.

The next Ariane 5 launch is targeted for July 25, with the Astra 2B and GE-7 satellites aboard. The exact date of the Phase 3D mission's launch depends on how that launch goes and on the availability of the other satellites that will fly with P3D.

A launch contract accepting Phase 3D as a payload for the first suitable Ariane 5 launch vehicle was signed last October.--AMSAT-DL and Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, via AMSAT News Service; SpaceNews

[ARRL Letter]

Amateur Radio Industry Mulls Ideas to Boost Hobby Growth

Meeting June 8 in conjunction with HAM-COM in Dallas, representatives of the Amateur Radio industry focused much of their discussions on ideas to attract younger licensees. Some of the conversation also centered on ways to boost the number of amateurs.

HAM-COM hosted the meeting and provided dinner. Moderating the session were Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Evelyn Garrison, WS7A.

Those on hand included contingents from the ARRL and from major Amateur Radio manufacturers, suppliers, other publishers and instructors. Representing the League were President Jim Haynie, W5JBP; Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO; Media Relations Manager Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY; and Advertising Manager John Bee, N1GNV.
Bee, who also attended a similar industry gathering earlier this year in Wisconsin, said he thought the Dallas meeting was, in general, positive. "The industry recognizes that it needs to take an

active approach and to undertake, or at least fund, new approaches to increase participation," he said.

During the session, President Haynie spoke on the need for an intensified youth-recruitment campaign--now dubbed "The Big Project." He reiterated his intentions to raise $1 million in corporate and foundation donations for the project this year.

White reviewed recent Amateur Radio upgrade statistics and discussed various efforts under way in her department that focus on young people and schools. Hagy outlined the League's extensive public relations efforts, including those associated with the April release of the Amateur Radio-related movie Frequency and the Willem van Tuijl story earlier this year. The concept to award amateur equipment as prizes to clubs that developed the most creative Amateur Radio promotions associated with Frequency had been a product of the Wisconsin industry gathering.

Top prize is an ICOM IC-746 HF/VHF transceiver. Activity descriptions must be submitted no later than 5 PM Eastern Time on June 30, 2000, to Marjorie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, Field and Educational Services, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

In an effort to promote greater activity by school clubs, Rick Ruhl, N4GDO, of Creative Services Software offered to donate a copy of LogWindows to any school club that wants it.

Those represented at the Dallas industry gathering included: ADI/Pryme/Premier; Alinco; Alpha Power; Aluma Towers; Amateur Radio Trader; Am-Com; ARRL; Austin Amateur Radio; C.G.A. Enterprises; CQ Publications; Creative Services Software; Gordon West; Houston Amateur Radio Supply; ICOM; M2 Antennas; MAHA; Master Publishing; NCG Companies; Radio City; 73 magazine; W5YI Group; and Yaesu.

Another industry meeting is set to take place at the Huntsville Hamfest in August.

[ARRL Letter]

Mir Crew Talks to Students Before Heading Home

As it prepared to mothball the aging Russian space station--possibly for good--and head home, the crew of Mir spoke via ham radio with youngsters at a school in Pennsylvania on June 12. Handling the earthbound end of the contact was Tom Daniels, N3CXT. Sergej Samburov, RV3DR, of Energia was on-line to assist with translating.

Using the R0MIR call sign, cosmonauts Sergei Zalyotin and Alexander Kaleri held a 10-minute conversation with youngsters at the Schnecksville School. At one point, the cosmonauts were asked if they liked it better in space or home on Earth. "When I live at home, I would like to be in space, but now I would like to be home," one of the two space travelers responded.

The cosmonauts arrived safely back on Earth June 16 after a 10 week mission that was financed in part by foreign investors. The cosmonauts' school contact attracted the attention of MSNBC, which carried the story with video at:

http://www.msnbc.com/news/419653.asp.

The cosmonauts reportedly prepared to abandon Mir, although Russian space officials still have not ruled out yet another missic if the money can be found.--Farrell Winder, W8ZCF; press reports

Amateur Radio Classes
September 2000 - May 2001

Radio License Classes will be offered on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 9 pm, in Verity Lodge during the following time periods. Students may attend as many sessions as they choose; however, *new students will not accepted after the second class meeting* without permission of the instructor.

During the Fall session, operator license levels to be offered will be Technician (August 30-October 11) and General (October 25 - December 6). Instruction in 5 WPM Morse code, radio theory, radio regulations and radio operating practice will be included. In the event of low enrollment, a specific class may be canceled without affecting the overall program. Maximum enrollment will be limited to 40 participants.

There will be no charge for the instructional portion of these classes. Students are advised that the purchase of appropriate training manuals and supplies may cost $20-$25.

Things For Sale

Yaesu FT-890AT 100 watt HF Transceiver, 160-10 meters, general coverage receive, internal automatic antenna tuner, mobile microphone. Has optional CW filter and the optional SSB filter. Operation manual and service manual. Contact Ernie, W8EH,

Butternut HF6V-X HF 6-band Vertical antenna, 80/40/30/20/15/10M. Good condition; works well. $175. Carl, K8CM,

Next Meeting

Our July meeting will feature Mr. Gary Johnson, KI4LA. Gary is the Vice-director for the Great Lakes Division of the ARRL and will update us on current "happenings" and anticipated trends in amateur radio.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

July 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	7	8
9 **Wood County ARC** **Bowling Green, OH**	10	11	12	13 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	14	15 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
16	17 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	18	19	20 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	21	22 OH-KY-IN ARS Hamfest - Cincinnati
23	24	25	26	27 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	28	29
30 **Portage County ARC** **Randolph, OH**	31					

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

August 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 **Voice of Aladdin** **Columbus, OH**	5
6	7	8	9	10 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	11	12 **OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am** **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
13	14	15	16	17 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	18	19
20 **Warren ARA** **Warren, OH**	21 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	22	23 **Ham License Examinations** **7pm** **Verity Lodge**	24 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	25	26
27	28	29	30 **Technician License Classes Begin ... 6pm** **Verity Lodge**	31 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

August 2000

Minutes of the July 17 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
KI4LA, KD8W, KC8DUX, WA8AGQ, N8GGE, N8HP, KC8MVK, W8LKU, Kathy, WA8DTU, W8LQW, WD8NKR, WA8PRA, W8MVN, Bonnie, N8TFH, WB8MYT, W8GNV, KA8WNF, KC8CYP, KC8IZF, N8AEG, KC8ONK, KB8WKL 4)

Call to order by KD8W.

Lorie introduced Mr. Gary Johnston, KI4LA, Vice-director of the Great Lakes Division ARRL. Gary then made a very interesting presentation on the state of amateur radio. He pointed out some interesting internet Web sites we should be aware of and also took some ideas presented by us to his meeting with the Directors this week. We appreciate his visit !!

The web site is : ***http://www.mrrace.com/ARRL*** (caps are needed).

Secretary's Report:
Motion was made to accept the minutes as written in the newsletter by John, KC8IZF, seconded by Tom, WA8AGQ. Motion approved without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:
We did not have a Treasurer's report. It was suggested that maybe Carl could put some information into newsletter about finances. We need to discuss at next time as necessary.

[We are solvent ... during the month of June, our expenses exceeded our income by $450.49. We are "on target" for this time of the year. ... Carl, K8CM]

Membership remains at 139 members / 92 families.

Station report:.
The amplifier has been fixed and reinstalled at 61. The new power supply has been installed on the six meter transmitter at West Middletown.

Old Business:
A cover for the club trailer is being looked into. It was mentioned that the hitch needs an equalizer, but this will wait. Tom says he has one on his old trailer, we can look at and see if it will work.

New Business:
The West Middletown antenna needs to be replaced. Motion to have this work done was made by Don, WA8DTU, second by Dick, W8GNV. Estimated cost was $250 for the antenna and $150 installation by Roy Dalton. Motion approved without dissent.

[I think the part about hiring Roy Dalton to do the antenna work should be $200 to $300. I spoke to Roy about it today, he will try to work it into his schedule sometime in August. He will need ground support by the way.....Ernie, W8EH]

OH-KY-IN Hamfest this Saturday (July 22) in Cincinnati, OH from 7am-1pm at Diamond Oaks Development Campus, 6375 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn by Bob, KC8DUX, seconded by Ricjard, KC8MVK, and approved without dissent.

Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary ProTem

Next Meeting: Monday, August 21, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

NCVEC Advances Revised Morse Testing Standards; ARLB034

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has voted to set up revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US.

Under the revised standards, examinees would have to show 25 character-count solid copy on test sheets or successfully answer seven out of ten questions of a fill-in-the-blank quiz on the sent text. The plan would bar multiple choice tests for Morse code testing.

Morse examinations would specify use of a Farnsworth "character speed" in the range of 13 to 15 WPM. Morse code audio pitch would have to be between 700 and 1000 Hz. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed could be administered only as a special accommodation.

The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1 but VECs may implement them sooner.

The NCVEC vote came July 21 during a meeting of VECs in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

[ARRL Bulletin]

New Call Signs

Ed Tipton, formerly WB8EYZ is sporting a new call; he is now known as WB8ED.

Congratulations Ed!

Ham Exams in August

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, August 23, 2000
at 7:00 p.m. in Verity Lodge,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the Dial Radio Club. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, and must arrive no later than Monday, August 21. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Talk-in on 146.610 -600

Ham Classes

Fall 2000-2001 Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning in August, the ***DIAL RADIO CLUB's*** Fall, 2000-2001, Amateur Radio class will be offered, in Middletown, on Wednesday evenings, 6-9 pm. Meeting in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, classes will be offered to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician and General Class operator license.

Technician Class instruction will begin August 30 and conclude October 11; General Class instruction will begin October 25, concluding December 6.

Instruction in the International Morse code will begin August 30 and continue through December 6.

Amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, in Middletown, on October 18 and December 13.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately $20-25) for use in class.

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

FCC'S Hatfield Tells Hams to "Walk the Walk"

The FCC's Dale Hatfield, W0IFO, predicts a bright future for Amateur Radio. But the Office of Engineering and Technology chief says that amateurs "will be under a certain amount of pressure" to justify their free use of the radio spectrum. As a result, he said, it will be more important than ever that hams actually fulfill their service, good will and educational roles--not

just talk about them.

Hatfield offered his observations as keynote speaker for AMRAD's 25th anniversary dinner June 17 in Virginia. Hatfield told the gathering, "the key issue for the amateur service is maintaining access to an adequate amount of spectrum." While emphasizing that he was not suggesting any immediate threat, Hatfield said hams will have to do a better job of justifying their current allocations.

Hatfield said hams should actually engage in experimentation to advance the state-of-the-art, provide communication and train operators for emergencies, encourage international cooperation and good will, and offer an important technical educational outlet. "Or, to use a bit of slang, it seems to me that it will be even more important for all segments of the amateur community to 'walk the walk' not just 'talk the talk'," he said.

Hatfield encouraged his audience to explore advanced techniques that conserve spectrum, especially digital techniques. As the rest of the telecommunications world transitions to digital techniques, Hatfield said, "the amateur service will look antiquated if it is not making progress in that direction as well."

Hatfield also said software defined radios could facilitate "a new era of amateur experimentation" and, in many ways, represent "a final merger" of radio communications and computers.

The text of Hatfield's prepared remarks is available on the FCC Web site at:

http://www.fcc.gov/Speeches/misc/dnh061700.html

[ARRL Letter]

FCC launches CORES; ARLB029

The FCC has begun implementing the Commission Registration System, known as CORES. While the action has few immediate implications for Amateur Radio licensees, CORES registration eventually will replace Universal Licensing System, or ULS, registration.

Described as an agency-wide registration system for anyone filing applications with or making payments to the FCC, CORES will assign a unique 10-digit FCC Registration Number, or FRN to all registrants. The FCC says use of the FRN will allow it to more rapidly verify fee payment.

The on-line filing system and further information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC Web site, http://www.fcc.gov and clicking on the CORES registration link.

For the time being, using an FRN is voluntary, although the Commission says it will consider making it mandatory in the future for anyone doing business with the FCC.

CORES registration will supplant ULS registration, but the ULS will remain the licensing database system for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees, including amateurs. For now, the ULS remains available to new registrants. Amateurs who registered in the ULS prior to June 22 automatically have been registered in CORES and will receive an FCC Registration Number in the mail. ULS registrants also may search for their FRN on-line at the FCC's CORES Web site.

A copy of the FCC Public Notice on CORES/FRN is available at:

http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/da001596.pdf

[ARRL Bulletin]

ARRL asks for primary status at 2400-2402 MHz; ARLB030

The ARRL has asked the FCC to elevate the domestic status of Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services from secondary to primary in the band 2400 to 2402 MHz. The League filed a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC on July 17.

Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz. The ARRL says it's necessary to secure the intervening spectrum slice "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites," including Phase 3D.

"It is urgent to protect the 2400-2402 MHz band due to the extensive reliance by the Amateur-Satellite Service on the future development of satellite uplinks and downlinks in that segment in particular," the League said.

Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users. The League said it wants an allocation that's not subject to reallocation or use by "an incompatible sharing partner." The City of Los Angeles recently was granted an experimental license to operate a TV downlink system in the 2402-2448 MHz band. The ARRL has protested that grant as well as a similar application from Los Angeles County.

[ARRL Letter]

Weather Site @ Ohio State

Ohio State University is supporting a weather site, accessible from the internet. Point your browser to:

http://twister.sbs.ohio-state.edu/

[W8EH]

Hollingsworth: "There's a Lot of Work to be Done"

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says he expects to continue his amateur enforcement effort at the current pace despite fewer complaints in recent months. "There's a lot of work to be done," he said July 20 during a visit to ARRL Headquarters.

At the same time, Hollingsworth said, amateurs wielding their newly minted HF privileges as a result of restructuring have generated no enforcement problems whatsoever. "In fact, had I not known about the restructuring, I wouldn't know it from an enforcement standpoint," he said. "I've noticed no difference." Hollingsworth encouraged veteran operators to bring newcomers

to the HF bands "into the fold" and teach them to be proficient, compliant operators.

Hollingsworth noted that while the pace of amateur complaints continues to slow, the Amateur Service still is not where it should be from a compliance standpoint. "Today, the equipment seems to be better than a lot of the operators," he said, adding that he did not expect to change his enforcement pace for the next several years.

The trend toward fewer overall complaints, he said, will provide the FCC with an opportunity to concentrate on the more complicated cases, including unlicensed operation. "We can't tolerate unlicensed operation," he said. "The whole allocation system breaks down if you tolerate unlicensed operation."

Hollingsworth also said the federal government has ramped up its efforts to collect fines in those cases where they've been levied on violators. In the meantime, he said he plans to continue to curry voluntary amateur compliance, without fines or license revocations. "The main goal is not to take licenses. The main goal is compliance," he said.

During his brief visit to Connecticut, Hollingsworth also spoke informally with ARRL Board members and League officers prior to the July 21 Board of Directors meeting in Hartford.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Reduces Fine for Former Amateur

The FCC has substantially reduced a $17,000 fine that it proposed to levy on a former Houston, Texas, amateur. On July 12, the Commission issued a Forfeiture Order telling Leonard D. Martin, formerly KC5WHN, that he should pay $4000 for repeated unlicensed operation and for failing to allow the FCC to inspect his radio equipment.

Martin first ran afoul of the FCC two years ago. In May 1998 the Commission received a written complaint alleging that a station identifying as KC5WHN was operating on frequencies not authorized by Martin's Technician class license. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth sent Martin a Warning Notice in November 1998. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Hollingsworth, the FCC says, Martin "generally denied the unauthorized operation."

In February and March of last year, an FCC agent using mobile automatic direction finding equipment tracked 27 MHz transmissions to an antenna at Martin's residence. Both times, Martin reportedly refused an FCC inspection.
The FCC's Houston Office issued Martin an Official Notice of Violation last April. In his reply, Martin said that he understood that operating on the frequencies in question was a violation and that the FCC has full inspection authority. He also promised to comply with FCC rules. In July, Martin turned in his Amateur Radio license for cancellation.

Last October, the FCC twice tracked 27 MHz transmissions to Martin's residence. Once again, Martin reportedly refused to let FCC personnel inspect his transmitting gear.

In March, the FCC's Houston Office sent a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Martin for "repeatedly and willfully" operating without an FCC license and refusing to allow an FCC inspection. Martin did not deny the violations but said he couldn't pay the $17,000 fine and submitted copies of his tax returns for 1996, 1997 and 1998 as proof. He also told the FCC that he would dismantle and sell all of his radio transmitting gear and antenna and forfeit proceeds to the FCC or to charity and would permit FCC personnel to inspect his residence to insure all equipment has been removed.
The FCC said that while it could not rely on Martin's "promises of remedial action," it could reduce the size of the proposed forfeiture given Martin's "limited ability to pay the full amount." The FCC said the $4000 fine was justified in light of the serious nature of the willful and repeated violations and gave Martin 30 days to pay. *[ARRL Letter]*

Australia Makes 5 WPM Official

Australia officially has adopted a 5 WPM Morse code examination requirement for full access to the HF amateur bands. In an announcement in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on July 12, the Australian Communications Authority changed the amateur regulations for the VK Intermediate grade license that requires 5 WPM Morse code proficiency. By that action, the ACA lifted the previous HF band restrictions on Intermediate licensees, who now may use all bands below 30 MHz. The change had been anticipated following a submission to the ACA in March by the Wireless Institute of Australia seeking a lowering of the code speed. For the time being, Australia will maintain it. Unrestricted license--which requires 10 WPM Morse proficiency--but only to satisfy the needs of reciprocal licensing agreements. The HF operating privileges and conditions for the Intermediate and Unrestricted licenses now are identical. For more information, visit Linton's "Morse code watch: ***http://www.tbsa.com.au/~wiavic***.

[Jim Linton, VK3PC/WIA; *ARRL Letter]*

ZVEZDA Module Eventually to House Ham Radio

The just-launched International Space Station Zvezda Service Module eventually will become home to the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space. Until the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--antennas can be installed on the Service Module, however, the initial ham station gear will be installed aboard the Zarya Functional Cargo Block, already in space.

The first ISS crew, headed by US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, is scheduled to be launched in October from Kazakhstan. Accompanying Shepherd will be Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gaidzenko.

If all goes as planned, the initial amateur station hardware will be sent up to the ISS aboard shuttle mission STS-106 in August, and

Shepherd and his crewmates will be on the air on 2 meters (FM voice and packet) from the Functional Cargo Block this fall. The initial station will use an existing Functional Cargo Block antenna that's being adapted to support operation on 2 meters but not on 70 cm.

Current plans call for amateur 2-meter and 70-cm antennas to be installed on the Service Module during a space walk next year. The initial station gear will be reinstalled in the Service Module once the antennas have been fitted.

A Russian Proton-K rocket carried the long-delayed Service Module into orbit July 12 from Baikonur Cosmodrome. Zvezda ("star") will contain flight controls, waste-disposal facilities, and crew sleeping quarters. Once in orbit, the unmanned Zvezda will be docked July 26 by computer with Zarya ("dawn") and the US Unity modules launched in 1998.

A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, has been issued for the ISS ham radio station. A German call sign, DL0ISS, also has been issued, and a US call sign has been applied for. An international call sign may eventually be assigned if a call sign block is established for international space stations.

A primary goal of ARISS is to establish and maintain a schedule of Amateur Radio contacts with schools. ARISS will inherit the long legacy of the successful Space Amateur Radio EXperiment. SAREX, a cooperative education effort involving NASA and the ARRL, has allowed students to speak directly to shuttle astronauts and US astronauts aboard the Russian Mir space station via Amateur Radio.

As ISS construction progresses, it's expected that slow-scan TV, various types of amateur TV, and experimental projects eventually will be added. Phase 2 of the ARISS initial station calls for incorporating a German-built digitalker/speaker-mike, SSTV, and possibly an RF notch filter. Subsequent stages of the ARISS effort call for a transportable station and, ultimately, a permanent station that will include HF through microwave capabilities on several modes. Details of the permanent station still are being worked out.

[ARRL Letter]

European Working Group Supports 5 WPM Morse Standard

The Wireless Institute of Australia's Morse Code Watch reports that the EUROCOM Working Group of radio societies has voted to support the introduction of a 5 WPM Morse code requirement for full HF access. The European radio societies' vote came June 23 during the EUROCOM Working Group meeting in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Morse Code Watch predicts that a decision by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) to universally adopt 5 WPM could come within a month.

During the EUROCOM Working Group session, the Deutscher Amateur-Radio Club successfully proposed a modification to CEPT Recommendation TR 61-02, to lower the Morse code examination speed from 12 to 5 WPM. Working Group delegates agreed to support 5 WPM "as an interim measure in recognition that the Morse code requirement is likely to be removed at the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003," Morse Code Watch said. The Hungarian Amateur Radio society--Magyar Radioamator Szovetseg (MRASZ)--was alone in its support for a 12 WPM requirement for CEPT licensing.

Morse Code Watch said a modification to the CEPT recommendation to implement 5 WPM "will result in a virtual worldwide adoption of the lower speed."

For more information, click on "Morse code watch" on the WIA home page, ***http://tbsa.com.au/~wiavic.***

[Jim Linton, VK3PC/WIA ARRL Letter]

ARIANE 5 Schedule Delay Could Affect Phase 3D Launch

Phase 3D project officials are attempting to determine the impact of an Ariane 5 launch delay. Arianespace has postponed the launch of Flight 130 (Ariane Flight 506), scheduled to launch July 25, while it looks into an "anomaly" uncovered during testing. Phase 3D--the next-generation Amateur Radio satellite--tentatively had been scheduled to launch aboard Flight 132 (Ariane Flight 507), the next Ariane 5 flight in line after 130.

"We don't know. We're asking the question right now," said AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF, when asked about a possible schedule impact on P3D. He said there's been no official word yet as to whether the Flight 130 delay will affect Phase 3D's launch schedule.

Flight 132 had been set for mid-September at the earliest and possibly as late as the end of October. Arianespace is expected to announce a new launch date for Flight 130 soon, with the mission now being targeted for the first half of September.

Arianespace said it was holding up the Flight 130 launch until an upper stage anomaly detected during endurance testing on Ariane 5 components in Europe could be resolved.

The Phase 3D satellite is at the European Spaceport in French Guiana awaiting the start of launch preparations. A launch contract accepting Phase 3D as a payload for the first suitable Ariane 5 launch vehicle was signed last October.

For more information about Phase 3D, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, ***http://www.amsat.org/.***

{ARRL Letter]

Ham Tracks Taunting Teens

According to news accounts, a group of Ohio teenagers have a local ham to thank for helping to land them in juvenile detention. Authorities report the youths used a pilfered police radio to taunt police over the air June 17, then bragged that they'd never be

caught.

With help from a local amateur, however, police in Amherst and Vermillion, Ohio, tracked down the young miscreants. The towns share a public safety communications network. The interference came while the two departments were dealing with a fish festival crowd in Amherst and a search for a burglary suspect in Vermillion.

Authorities report that one of the youths--all between 14 and 16 years old--had stolen three hand-held radios from the public works department, where he had a summer job. Using two of the transceivers, the teens reportedly commenced to badger the police over the air with obscenities and threats, at times calling the officers by name. The cops tried to enlist the aid of the FCC's Detroit field office, but Commission personnel reportedly said they couldn't get direction-finding gear out there until the next day.

Enter Todd Dunlap, KC8EDS, of Amherst, who was able to track the signals to a basement recreation room in his own neighborhood, a police spokesperson said. Within a few minutes, police were knocking on the door of the house, awakening the sleeping grandmother of the teenager who lived there and getting permission to search. According to news reports, authorities found the youths and two of the stolen radios. They later recovered the third at the home of the teenager who had allegedly stolen it. In addition to theft and harassment, the teenagers also were charged with possession of marijuana and disruption of public services.--from news reports

[ARRL Letter]

WRTC-2000 FINAL OFFICIAL RESULTS POSTED

The World Radiosport Team Championship 2000 referees have posted the final official results of the July 8-9 competition in Slovenia, and several team place standings have changed as a result. No scoring adjustments affected the rankings of the top three finishers--Dan Street, K1TO, and Jeff Steinman, N5TJ, operating as S584M, repeated as WRTC champions--but there were a few changes in the order of finish farther down the list. In addition, most team scores--including the top three--were minutely affected.

Most significantly affected by the change was the standing of Team Finland, OH1EH and OH1NOA, which moved up from 20th to fifth place in the standings. The team operated as S537L.

After the winners of WRTC 2000 were announced in Bled, Slovenia, July 11, Team Finland questioned why its reported score was much lower than the one they believed they had submitted. Chief Referee David Sumner, K1ZZ, says this occurred because the referees ended up having to rely on a binary file to score the results instead of extracting the log data from text files as originally intended.

Sumner explained that while Team Finland had submitted a complete text file of its log, the team's binary file turned out to be incomplete. The text-file log that Team Finland submitted earned them a fifth place finish, however.

"The referees' team apologizes for initially reporting a lower score," Sumner said.

In posting the final official results this week, Sumner also noted that several teams had said that their multipliers were lower than expected. Recoding the logs to accommodate the Team Finland problem, Sumner explained, not only eliminated some "not-in-log" score reductions for other contestants, but gave the referees an opportunity to correct some multiplier scoring and "to conduct a more complete review of the logged call signs, resulting in some changes to 'bad' calls."

Sumner said this was done "in order to provide the most accurate record possible of the results of WRTC 2000."

The WRTC 2000 referees let stand the final score of the S511E team of DL6FBL and DL1MFL. That score was based on the submission of a truncated log that was missing approximately one hour of operation. The problem occurred when the team copied its log to a floppy disk that was nearly full for submittal. The DL6FBL-DL1MFL team moved from fifth to sixth place as a result of this week's scoring adjustments.

The WRTC-2000 top 10 finishers represented world-class contesters from seven countries, including three from the US and two bi-national teams--UT4UZ from Ukraine and RW1AC from Russia, who operated as S523W, and DL6RAI from Germany and OE2VEL, from Austria, who operated as S533G.

[ARRL Letter]

Things For Sale

Butternut HF6V-X HF 6-band Vertical antenna, 80/40/30/20/15/10M. Good condition; works well. $175. Carl, K8CM,

Next Meeting

Our August meeting will feature "one of our own"; Mr. Harold (Dick) Callahan, W8GNV. Dick has promised a very exciting "show and tell"

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

August 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 **Voice of Aladdin** **Columbus, OH**	5
6	7	8	9	10 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	11	12 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
13	14	15	16	17 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	18	19
20 **Warren ARA** **Warren, OH**	21 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	22	23 **Ham License Examinations 7pm Verity Lodge**	24 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	25	26
27	28	29	30 **Technician License Classes Begin ... 6pm Verity Lodge**	31 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater		

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

September 2000

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6 **Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge**	7 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	8	9 OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt - 10am **BCVHFA License Exams - 9am**
10	11	12	13 **Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge**	14 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	15	16 **Ohio Section Conference EMA - Columbus**
17 *Cincinnati Computer Expo* Kolping Center	18 Dial Meeting Tonight - 7pm *Old Country Buffet* Dinner at 6	19	20 **Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge**	21 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	22	23
24 Hamfest Association Cleveland	25	26	27 **Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge**	28 Net Tonight at 9pm 146.61 Repeater	29	30

Dial Radio Club. Middletown. Ohio

DIAL RADIO CLUB

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

September 2000

Minutes of the August 21 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
Attendance: 34 members

Call to order by KD8W.

Dave read correspondence about a new state affiliated club coordinator for the ARRL.

Secretary's Report:
Motion to approve the May minutes as published by WA8AGQ, second N8NQF. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's report by K8CM covered the months of June and July. Our current membership stands at 139 members representing 91 families. Motion to approve by W8LKU, second John, approved.

Old Business:
Name badges were passed out.

Station report by W8EH: W8EH moved to amend the motion from last month that was to hire N8LRN to climb and repair the antenna at west Middletown, "to be a cost of $200 to $300", motion approved. That work will be done in September & a ground crew will be needed. We still need a work party to complete the painting and fix up the repeater shack at WPFB.

KD8W reported that the 7500 watt generator has been fixed.

KD8W reported that there is a test this Wednesday, with Technician classes to start August 30. This session will last 7 weeks and be followed by another 7 week session for General class. Dave also noted that we need to try hard to recruit students to maintain our classes with the University. If you know of potential students, please encourage them to sign up.

W8ULC proposed that we have some special interest classes on Wednesday nights that could include Dxing, antennas, VHF and etc. This could get the number of 'students' up.

New Business:
W8LKU presented the annual Silver Spoon award to Calvin Reynolds, WB8MYT,

Our speaker for the evening was W8GNV. Dick discussed some of his history with radio, displayed some old equipment pictures and showed an early radio receiver using a crystal detector.

Door prize drawing was held for two entry tickets to the Cincinnati hamfest on September 17th. These were won by N8NQF, and W8ULC.

Meeting Adjourned:
Motion to adjourn by WA8AGQ, passed.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary

Just Where are Those Guys??

Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager

Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid kept wondering who are those guys? So do I. More to the point, WHERE are those guys and gals and teens?

There is a gap between the 170,000 members of the American Radio Relay League and the 670,000 licensed hams in the

Next Meeting: Monday, September 18, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Federal Communications Commission's database. A gap of 500K hams. Or about 75 percent of the total. Where are they?

Yes, I know the 670,000 FCC figure is inflated since we do not know how many Federal licensed hams dropped out the last ten years to collect stamps or some other diversion. Or how many are silent keys not yet dropped from the FCC database. Or for that matter, how many never intend to use their license in the first place.

But despite the buzz about new hams coming into the hobby, we already have an impressive number of amateurs (those 500,000) we could again try to get excited about programs to help self-police our frequencies, or give more visibility of ham radio to the public through community service.

About nine years ago when as PIC, I was advising hams to become more VISIBLE by wearing handhelds. How silly is that advice today? Everyone, especially those who think ham makes cool sandwiches, now wears palm pilots, pagers, cellphones and beepers. Even tiny handhelds today look like dinosaurs on your belt.

Hams make up about 2 tenths of one per cent of the general population (only about two hams per thousand citizens - 670,000 against 260,000,000 U.S. population - you do the math). We're always going to be a small, distinguished, proud group even if restructuring doubles our numbers. Defending our privileges means doing community service and letting the public know what a valuable resource we are and continue to be. That type of public visibility is an important tool we use to defend our frequency privileges to today's society.

The ARRL supports numerous self promoting and public service programs we all know about. But it is time to remind all of us about these services just before we introduce these to the new hams sure to populate us soon. It may be old hat; but these programs are still useful and we all need reminding of this.

For example:

Emergency programs of ARES. Certainly our most popular appointment - Amateur Radio Emergency Service whether in emergency communications (and parades, charity events, marathon races, bicycle events) or SKYWARN programs in emergency weather spotting. (appointment of official emergency stations).

Message Handling and Traffic Nets. Yes, we have cellphones and beepers and E-mail plus sending messages by radio properly requires some instruction to learn and some discipline to appreciate. Phones, even the cell variety, can fail and this is why we keep this special area alive and why traffic nets are still important. (appointment of official relay stations)

Newsletters and Public Relations. Everyone wants ham radio on page one or the big story on the evening news. But the most important PR tool is making sure our people always know what's going on. So working with your newsletter editor is important. (admit it, at meetings all leaders ask for help but when the newsletter editor asks for suggestions; the room gets REALLY silent. I'm an ex-editor; I know). The more local variety (items of interest and news) in your club's newsletter; the more effective it is. (Appointment of public information officers).

Monitoring Bands to Self-Police. The Amateur Auxiliary is part of our tradition of self policing (clean up our own mess) our frequencies. Remember the past two decades when the FCC was downsizing and seemingly ineffective and the bands went to hell. Well, the FCC is back through the efforts of Riley The Enforcer but also renewed efforts of our official observers. Lets keep it that way. (appointment of Official Observers)

Specialty Items. If you like to solve thorny technical interference problems non-hams throw at us or maybe you find the local city council, county commissioners, or boards of zoning appeals a thrill. Then the Technical Coordinator (appointment of technical specialists) or the State Government Liaison (appointment of Local Government Liaisons) is available.

Of course you know all this. But when was the last time any of it was talked up at ham gatherings. Or we have started outreach programs to recruit new ARRL appointments among the missing 500,000. This is the new visibility program of the 21st century.

[Ohio Section Journal]

OHIO Section Conference Saturday, September 16

The annual Ohio Section Conference for 2000 will be 9 a.m. Saturday, September 16 at the Ohio Emergency Federal Management Agency (Ohio FEMA), 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in northwest Columbus, OH.

This is the same location as last year and will again feature a tour of the facility (known as the Governor's War Room) and a pizza party for lunch.

Announcements of the 9th annual Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter winners and the winner of the 2000 Allan Severson AB8P (sk) Awared for Ohio Amateur of the Year, will be made as well.

The conference is open to all Ohio Section Conference members and your participation is not only welcomed but encouraged.

[K8QOE]
[Ohio Section Journal]

Hams Have Stakes in Elections

Jeff Ferriell, K8ZDA
State Government Liaison
Ohio Section

In the midst of a national election little attention is likely to be paid to local races. This will be particularly true in Ohio, which because of its large number of electoral votes, is bound to be the centerpiece of both major party's presidential candidates'

campaigns.

The more immediate interests of amateur radio operators depend, however, on local races, particularly those for the Ohio House and Senate in Columbus. While issues related to school funding are probably more important to many of us than Ohio's adoption of RB-1, we cannot overlook the interests we have as amateur radio operators in the upcoming election.

The concerns of amateur radio operators do not even make it above the horizon of issues most state legislators are concerned abo4L11 In or: der to focus their attention on issues important to us, we need to make these lawmakers aware of our existence, knowledgeable about the contributions we make to the citizens of Ohio, and aware of the issues, related to amateur radio, that we consider important. To accomplish this, we must become at least marginally active in the political process.

So, during this state election cycle I want to encourage state, regional, and county ARRL officials to take an active role in local politics. The collective impact of a hour of your time will have a much bigger impact than anything I could accomplish working throughout the year.

Take the time to contact the campaign of the Ohio House or Senate candidate you want to see elected, attend a campaign even t, make a modest contribution, and when you have the opportunity to speak to the candidate, be sure to introduce yourself as an amateur radio operator.

If there's time, provide information to candidates about the activities of amateur radio operators in your area. In Columbus, COARES participates in a wide range of public service events, including the Columbus Marathon, numerous charity cycling, walking, and running events, and emergency preparedness activities which help public safety officials and community organizations. Your efforts in support of similar events in your hometown make a huge contribution to the local community. Be sure to mention them.

You should feel free to mention state enactment of **PRB-1,** but don't try to make a hard sell. It's more important to let candidates know something about us and our public service activities than to try to persuade them to vote for any particular piece of legislation. After members of the new General Assembly take office, we will make efforts to have PRB-1 adopted as state law.

For information about candidates for the Ohio House and Senate in your area, take a look at the Ohio Secretary of State's Ohio election web pages:

House Elections:
http : //www. state.oh.us/sos/2000GEohio_house.htm

Senate Elections:
http : //www. state.oh.us/sos/2000GEohio_senate.htm

To determine which Ohio House or Senate District you are in, look at:

House District Map: ***http://www.state.oh.us/sos/hdistmap.html***

Senate District Map: ***http://www.state.oh.us/sos/sdistmap.html***

These links can also be found on my Ohio Law and Legislation Web Page at:
http://users.law.capital.edu/jferriell/links/OhioLaw.htm

[Ohio Section Journal]

2000 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference Set

The 19th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference will be September 22-24 in Orlando, Florida--just minutes from the Orlando International Airport and not far from area attractions and vacation spots such as Disney World, Universal Studios, and Sea World.

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs in digital communications, networking, and related technologies to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques for discussion. The DCC is aimed at digitally oriented amateurs at all experience levels. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. Chairing this year's event is Steve Stroh, N8GNJ, recently named as CQ magazine's digital editor.

Beginning, intermediate, and advanced presentations on selected topics in digital communications will be offered. Topics will include APRS, Satellite Communications, TCP/IP, Digital Radio, Spread Spectrum and other introductory subjects. A symposium and a seminar will be held to allow those with additional time and interest to make the most of the Conference.

Papers on digital topics are invited for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Presentation at the Conference is not required for publication. Papers are due by August 7, 2000, and should be submitted to Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, or via the Internet to lweinberg@arrl.org. Information on paper submission guidelines are available at http://www.tapr.org/dcc.

Complete information and a registration form are available from Tucson Amateur Packet Radio, 940-383-0000; fax 940-566-2544; e-mail: ***tapr@tapr.org; http://www.tapr.org.***

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL Volunteers Find, Fix "THE DITTER"

ARRL staffers were greeted the morning of July 24 with reports of a continuous string of CW dits near 14.008 MHz--heard throughout North America over the preceding weekend. Initial reports gave conflicting beam headings of the offending signal, dubbed "the ditter." But when FCC staffer John Reiser, WQ4L,

called ARRL to report his observations, things started to happen.

Reiser facilitated an FCC DF trace to the San Diego area. The ARRL San Diego Section leadership was notified, and Section Manager Tuck Miller, NZ6T, coordinated local hams in a close-range DF effort. San Diego section Official Observer Coordinator Bill Sallee, K6TWO, took several field readings. At one point, when he'd narrowed the location to within two miles, the signal abruptly disappeared. The ARRL Monitoring System also was alerted. It was confirmed that this was a normal CW signal, not a "woodpecker"-type intruder.

Dialing around the bottom edge of 20 meters early on July 26, IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Martin Potter, VE3OAT, heard the ditter once again, this time near 14.026 MHz. Potter determined that the signal had an identical period and beam heading as the one heard earlier. He notified ARRL Headquarters, and the San Diego hams picked up where they'd left off.
Sallee's field strength readings drew him closer and closer to the coast, where the heading reversed. Sallee reports that he ultimately found the apparent source in the oceanfront community of La Jolla. He says the woman who answered the door said her husband was a ham and allowed Sallee to take a look at the station. Sure enough, a stuck dit paddle was keying a powered, unattended rig, which Sallee disabled.

Sallee theorizes that heating and cooling within the ham's uninsulated shack and a combination of corrosion in the keyer paddle's pivot mechanism and close dit contact spacing contributed to the contact's migrating to a closed position. He said the ham later told him that he'd been operating on 14.007.5 MHz on July 21 but did not return to the shack until Monday afternoon. "He remembers listening to a CW contact on 14.026 but did not transmit," Sallee said. "He then left the shack unaware that by leaving the rig on, he would fall victim to unattended transmission when the moisture and temperatures began to change."

Sallee says the ham, whom he did not identify, "was most embarrassed.". "I really felt sorry for him and assured him that public hangings were no longer in vogue," Sallee said. "He said he had learned a valuable lesson about disabling a rig that will be unattended."

Potter congratulated the ARRL Monitoring System and the San Diego field organization for what he called "a fine example of quick reaction and good, solid work" on tracking down the unintentional transmission.

[ARRL Letter]

Amateur Radio News Transmission QRMing Aircraft Band

Efforts are under way to locate the source of an Amateur Radio news transmission that's causing interference to AM aircraft communication at 134 MHz in the vicinity of Long Island, New York, and Southeastern Connecticut.

The interference is believed to the result of an unintentional spurious from a repeater or other transmitter. The transmission appears to be of the weekly Amateur Radio Newsline broadcast. The interference has been showing up only on Saturday evenings at around 10. *Newsline* has been asked by the Federal Aviation Administration contact stations in the Greater New York City area that air the weekly news feed to help track down the interference source. According to Newsline, commercial pilots flying between 17,000 and 24,000 feet report hearing the signals. Those having information on possible sources of this interference are asked to contact Guy Fisk of the FAA's Boston regional office, 781-238-7490, or Amateur Radio Newsline, ***newsline@arnewsline.org.***

[Newsline, ARRL Letter]

RAC Seeks Elimination of 12 WPM Morse Requirement

Radio Amateurs of Canada has asked Industry Canada--the Canadian equivalent of the FCC--to discontinue that country's 12 WPM Morse code requirement in favor of a 5 WPM test. During the past year, RAC says it has consulted with the Canadian Amateur community on the issue, and the RAC Board has concluded that a majority of Canadian Amateurs support dropping the 12 WPM Morse test--although RAC acknowledges that many are against the change.

"A decision by Canada to drop the 12 WPM test would be in harmony with what is happening in other parts of the world and would simplify the negotiation and implementation of reciprocal operating agreements," an RAC bulletin said this week.

In a recent letter to Industry Canada, RAC President Kennet Oelke, VE6AFO, recommended that full HF operating privileges be granted to amateurs who have passed a 5 WPM Morse test. At the same time, Oelke requested that the IC consider beefing up written tests to strengthen and expand the requirements for operator knowledge and skills in the areas of station setup and operation, on-air procedures and operating practices, and to include more questions on modern modes of communication employed by radio amateurs.

RAC says its proposal would give Canadian radio amateurs operating privileges similar to those currently accorded to US amateurs who successfully pass a 5 WPM Morse test.

[ARRL Letter]

New Amateur Satellites in the Offing

AMSAT News Service

New amateur satellites are reported on the way as payloads from Saudi Arabia and Malaysia are set to launch later this month from Russia. SAUDISAT-1A and SAUDISAT-1B, the first Amateur Radio satellites from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are under construction at the Space Research Institute in Riyadh. Tentatively set to launch August 25 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, the two satellites will be capable of 9.6 kb digital store-and-forward operation as well as FM bent pipe

mode.

SAUDISAT 1A will have a downlink on 437.075; SAUDISAT-1B will downlink on 436.775 MHz. VHF uplinks will be announced after commissioning. "Amateur Radio is in its infancy in Saudi Arabia," said Dr Turki Al Saud, director of the Space Research Institute. "With these satellites we hope not only to add satellites to the space resources available to hams worldwide, but to increase the awareness of the value of Amateur Radio in the Kingdom." The first Malaysian amateur satellite, TIUNGSAT-1, is also to be launched on the same vehicle. The new bird will offer FM and FSK (at 9.6, 38.4, and 76.8 kb) with uplinks at 144.46, 145.85, and 145.86 MHz and downlinks at 437.300, 437.325, 437.350, and 437.375 MHz. The package also includes the Multi-Spectral Earth Imaging System and Meteorological Earth Imaging system payloads. The Malaysian spacecraft is the result of a technological collaboration between Astronautic Technology and Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. An animation of the TIUNGSAT-1 launch is available at the SSTL site:

http://www.sstl.co.uk/missions/mn_tiungsat_1.html

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Turns Down CB DX Petition

The FCC has denied a petition that would have amended the FCC's Part 95 rules to permit DXing on the 11-meter Citizens Band. The petition sought to amend §95.413 of the rules that prohibits communications or attempts to communicate with CB stations more than 250 km away and to contact stations in other countries.

Designated RM-9807, the petition was filed by Popular Communications Contributing Editor Alan Dixon, N3HOE.

"Dixon's request is inconsistent with the purpose of the CB Radio Service and could fundamentally alter the nature of the service," the FCC said in turning town the petition.

The FCC action was adopted August 18. The Order was released August 21.

The FCC said CB operators generally supported the proposal and stated that the present rule was unenforceable. The ARRL commented in opposition to the petition. "The Amateur Radio Service is the proper forum for the desired long-distance communications sought by the Dixon petition," the League told the FCC.

The National Association of Broadcasters also opposed Dixon's petition. The NAB said that the restriction was necessary to deter CBers from operating at excessive power levels and that consumers must be protected from illegal CB transmissions that interfere with radio, TV and other consumer electronics.

The FCC agreed with the ARRL and said it did not intend to create a service paralleling the Amateur Service when it authorized the Citizens Radio Service. "Amending the rules to permit long-distance and international communications would undermine the purpose of the CB Radio Service rules and compromise one of the core distinctions between the CB Radio Service and the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC concluded.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

We do not have a speaker scheduled for this meeting.

The Y-2000/2001 Entertainment books are now available. They make excellent holiday gifts for family and friends, save you money, and, at the same time, earn the Club a small profit.

In addition to fine dining, numerous discounts are available for fast-food, car rentals, hotels, pharmacy purchases, and more. Please look over the last page of this Newsletter for more information.

Cincinnati Edition copies are available from K8CM. Price remains the same as last year; $35.



Please remember to check-in on the Net each Thursday evening at 2100 hours [0100 UTC]. This is your best source for late-breaking Club news.

ONLY: $35

Great Times & Great Savings!



Save at all of the great merchants above, plus hundreds more! Here's just a sample of the hot names you'll find in our

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- LaComedia
- Italianni's
- Whisky's Family Restaurant
- Tickets
- Seafood 32
- Habig's
- The River Saloon
- The Simmering Pot
- Black Forest Restaurant
- Johnny Rockets
- American Pie Cafe
- Milan Railroad Inn

INFORMAL DINING

- McDonald's
- Marx Bagels
- Auntie Annes
- Just Desserts
- Butternut Bread
- Bien's Coffee Haus
- TCBY
- Ameristop
- Mrs. Field's Cookies
- Domino's Pizza
- The Root Beer Stand

NORTHWEST AIRLINES

Drive Happy Alamo

AMERICA Online

BORDERS BOOKS, MUSIC, VIDEO, AND A CAFE.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS Escape

BUSCH GARDENS

Continental Airlines

ART LEISURE & SPORTS

- National Amusements
- 75 Years of Disney Magic
- Paramount's Kings Island
- Stars on Ice
- Cincinnati Reds
- Morgan's Canoes
- Putt-Putt Golf
- Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- Cincinnati Cyclones
- Turfway Park

RETAIL & SERVICES

- BP Gas
- Walgreen's
- Springdale Cleaners
- Petland
- Moto Photo
- Sears Optical
- Hollywood Video
- Kmart Corporation
- Jiffy Lube
- Meijer
- Johnny's Toys
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September 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ohio Section Conference - September 16, Columbus, OH					1	2
3	4	5	6 Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	7 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	8	9 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10 am
10 **Findlay ARC** Findlay, OH	11	12	13 Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	14 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	15	16 **Ohio Section Conference** FEMA - Columbus
17 **Cincinnati Computer Expo** Kolping Center	18 **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	19	20 Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	21 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	22	23
24 **Hamfest Association** Cleveland	25	26	27 Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	28	29	30

October 2000

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Dial Radio Club

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

October 2000

Minutes of the September 18 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
The meeting was called to order by President Dave Williamson, KD8W at 7:01pm EDT with 19 members in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve the minutes as published by secretary Ernest Howard, Jr., W8EH, by W8LKU and seconded by Ernie Howard, Sr. WD8DEZ. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl Morgan, K8CM, covered the report for August 2000. Our current membership stands at 139 members, representing 92 families. The only question about the report was related to a late club member's donation of equipment, which was sold at the last Dayton Hamvention, and the proceeds placed in the education account. No other questions.

President Dave said we would not publish in the newsletter a copy of the treasurer's report each month, however any member of the *Dial Radio Club* may ask the Treasurer to see a report at our monthly meeting.

New Business:

Treasurer Morgan gave a very detailed explanation of our income from all sources, and our expenses as well. All in all the club is in good financial condition and it will not be necessary to increase dues for 2001. Should we have a major repair, (i.e.: antenna or coax at WPFB) the club needs to have a sufficient amount of money in reserve to handle this expense. The sales of *Entertainment®* books by K8CM, is one of the ways we can bolster the club's treasury.

President Dave discussed the possibly of having classes for General and Amateur Extra. They will need to know how many members are interested in the advanced classes

Look for a special mailing detailing this special opportunity. We would need a sizeable number of people to do an Extra Class. On October 18, we will have the next test session and General classes will start on October 25.

Station Report:

President Dave reported that Ernie, W8EH, found the problem with the power amplifier and has repaired it. When W8EH returns from his second honeymoon we will schedule a day and time to complete the work on the "Shack" at WPFB, this time we'll use fast drying and rain proof paint that Dave has developed…we also have some work to do at West Middletown.

We did not have a speaker tonight…well, we did have Carl… and he's really special.

Bob Yauch filled us in on what in the planning stages for Jacot Park, we'll probably hear more in early October.

President Dave, once again indicated that there would be a change in the type of test that will be given for the 5 wpm code test…. 10 questions of blanks to fill in, no multiple choice, and this may come as soon as Jan. 2001. Some clubs in the area have already switched to the new format…I could editorialize, but I won't!!

Door Prizes:

Software CD's, courtesy of Frank Crabtree, went to George Sevt,

Barney Taylor, N8HP; Russ Bost, W8LQW, who walked away with a CD and an Old Country Buffet complimentary meal ticket.

Meeting Adjourned:

Moved by Ernie Howard, Sr. WD8DEZ and seconded by Ron, N8NQF. Approved

Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Secretary, ProTem

Ham Exams in October

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, October 18, 2000
at 7:00 p.m. in Verity Lodge,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the Dial Radio Club. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, and must arrive no later than Monday, October 16. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Ham Classes

Beginning on October 25 and continuing through December 6, the ***DIAL RADIO CLUB*** will offer instruction for the General Class amateur license exam. The Morse session begins at 6pm followed by the theory session, 7-9om. All classes meet on Wednesday evenings, in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of these classes, students are encouraged to purchase the training manual, ***General Class License Manual***, published by the *ARRL*. It would be well to read both the Introduction and Chapter 1 before attending the first class.

An amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, at the conclusion of the class (December 13).

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office at (513) 727-3200.

Hollingsworth Suggests Steps to Brighter Amateur Future

Looking "beyond enforcement," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has offered his ten personal suggestions to secure a sound future for Amateur Radio.

Speaking at the ARRL New England Division Convention August 26 in Boxboro, Massachusetts, Hollingsworth recapped the nearly two years since he took over Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth proclaimed the Amateur Service "fundamentally sound" today and said complaints now are decreasing.

With some major enforcement issues out of the way, Hollingsworth encouraged amateurs to "seize the moment" to ensure a bright future for Amateur Radio. "Look beyon enforcement," he urged, "because if I do my job right, in five years you won't even remember my name." Hollingsworth said that while no one can predict the future, amateurs must invent theirs in an era of converging digital and RF technology.

And he reiterated a phrase that has become a Hollingsworth mantra: "There is no reason why our Amateur Radio Service can't be the envy of the rest of the world." Getting there, he suggested, comes with each amateur's taking responsibility for his or her behavior on the air. Amateurs should encourage arrogant, negative operators to "take their anger and hate to the Internet," he said. "Every minute they are on the Internet is a minute they aren't on Amateur Radio."

Among other suggestions, Hollingsworth said hams should be proud of what they have accomplished. "Let the public know what you are, what Amateur Radio is, and why it's valuable," he said. He also urged hams to "operate as if the whole world is listening" and to never let ham radio "become the audio version of The Jerry Springer Show."

He also called upon veteran hams to take newcomers under their wing and teach them "all you know" about the hobby.

Hollingsworth also expressed his support for the ARRL, which has backed his enforcement initiative on behalf of the FCC. "Tak

Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

care of the one voice you have," he advised. "You must never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world. They just did."

"Enjoy ham radio," Hollingsworth told his audience. "Celebrate it. But realize it comes with responsibility."

The complete list of Riley Hollingsworth's ten suggestions is available on Web edition of The ARRL Letter for September 1 at ***http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/***. *[ARRL Letter]*

Some thoughts about the Middletown Intercom Net

I would like to take this opportunity to talk a little about the **Middletown Intercom Net**.

The Net meets every Thursday night on 146.610 at 9pm. Please bear in mind that your clock and the Net Control Operator's clock may show a slight difference in time. Also, the Net Control Operator may be unavoidably delayed for a minute or too. If your clock shows that it is 9pm and the Net hasn't started yet, please be patient. It will start momentarily.

When Net Control starts asking for a list of check-ins, mobile stations are checked in first, then all others. If you want to check in, but can't think of a thing to say, simply say "No comments" when checking in. This way , when Net Control acknowledges check-ins, you will be thanked for checking in, and Net Control will skip over you when they go back down the list and ask for comments.

If you are interested in becoming a Net Control Operator for the Middletown Intercom Net, please contact me by phone (743-9540) or e-mail (w8lku@arrl.net). I will be most happy to provide you with the Net guidelines and a bit of training.

Lorie Urschel
W8LKU

RF Safety Rules Now in Force For All Amateurs; ARLB037

Starting September 1, every US amateur is required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines.

The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation. "These regulations are not a major burden on the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation.

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site at ***http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/***. The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, ***ehare@arrl.org***

[ARRL Bulletin]

FCC Cancels License of "Captain Truth" Suspect

The FCC has cancelled the license of the individual it strongly suspects was "Captain Truth." The Commission notified John M. Yount of Newton, North Carolina, on September 5 that it was canceling his Amateur Extra class ticket because he failed to appear for re-examination. Yount had held the call sign K4QIJ.

The FCC zeroed in on Yount last spring as a prime suspect in its "Captain Truth" investigation into unidentified Amateur Radio transmissions and malicious interference. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote Yount on March 29, citing FCC and other close-in monitoring evidence that indicated Yount's station was the source of "malicious interference and jamming" on 20 and 75 meters.

Hollingsworth said this week that "Captain Truth" has not been heard on the air since the FCC's initial letter to Yount on March 29. After failing to get a satisfactory reply, Hollingsworth wrote Yount in July requesting that he retake his examinations under the supervision of an ARRL-VEC volunteer examiner team on or before September 1. "And he never showed up," Hollingsworth said.

The FCC says radio-direction finding bearings led to Yount's residence and antenna. Part of its monitoring evidence resulted from work done by the FCC's High-Frequency Direction Finding facility in Columbia, Maryland, the FCC said.

Yount suggested in his only reply to the FCC that there were a lot of vehicles and other houses on his property and that someone else could have been responsible for the transmissions the FCC had monitored and tracked.

Hollingsworth said he wrote Yount again on June 1 to seek clarification and additional information in the ongoing investigation before sending the retesting notice on July 17. "I never heard from him again," Hollingsworth said.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Denies Amateur Petitions

The FCC this week denied three petitions for reconsideration filed by Amateur Radio operators. All of the petitions were turned down because the FCC said they had not been filed properly.

In separate orders released September 11, the Wireless

Telecommunications Bureau, dismissed the petitions of Lawrence Gutter, ex-WA2YTO, and Richard E. Jamison, KG6ARN and ex-K1OTO. Both had sought reconsideration of the FCC's denial of their license renewal applications.

Gutter's and Jamison's licenses both expired in late 1997, and the two filed for renewal in late 1999. Both filed at or near the end of their two-year grace periods. Neither included their Taxpayer Identification Number--typically a Social Security Number for an individual--on his renewal application, and the FCC promptly dismissed both applications.

Citing their earlier ignorance of the FCC's TIN requirement, Gutter and Jamison sent second applications that included their TINs to Gettysburg after their grace periods had expired.

In an Order released September 12, the FCC also turned down the Petition for Reconsideration filed by Charles W. Heard, W4CO and formerly W2FLA. Heard had sought reconsideration of the October 1999 denial of his application for the vanity call sign W4FX. The call sign went instead to another applicant, Robert C. Williams, formerly KA4H. Both had filed electronic applications for W4FX on August 16, 1999. Heard contended that the FCC erred in assigning W4FX due to a handling error and because of misuse of the system. The FCC Order said Heard's allegations "lack merit" and that the ULS "processes mutually exclusive vanity call sign applications received on the same day in random order." The system selected Williams as the recipient on October 28, 1999.

But in the end, the FCC dismissed all three petitions as "improperly filed," because they were sent to the FCC's office in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, rather than to Washington, DC, and were not received by the FCC Secretary's office within 30 days, as FCC rules require.

In footnotes to the Gutter and Jamison rulings, however, the FCC strongly suggested that their petitions would have been denied even if they had been properly filed. The Commission said the fact that Gutter and Jamison were unaware of the TIN requirement was not sufficient justification for the reinstatement of their licenses.

The FCC also said Gutter and Jamison could have avoided problems by not waiting until the end of their grace periods to file for license renewal. Jamison got licensed again in March after taking the Amateur Extra-class exam battery over from scratch. Gutter, who had held a General ticket, remains unlicensed.

[ARRL Letter]

IARU Region III Conference Calls for Morse Exam Phaseout

The 11th International Amateur Radio Union Region III Conference ended September 1 by resolving to seek the ultimate removal of Morse code proficiency as an International Telecommunication Union licensing requirement for HF operation. As "an interim measure," the conference agreed to support the reduction of all Morse code testing speeds to 5 WPM. "IARU Region III strongly supports Morse code as an effective and efficient mode of communication," the resolution said in its preamble. "However, it believes that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is not relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio."

The resolution urged IARU Region III member societies to seek an interim 5 WPM Morse code testing requirement while looking toward eventually eliminating the Morse requirement altogether. "We recommend that, setting aside any previous relevant decisions of earlier Conferences, a policy of the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz be adopted by IARU Region 3," the Conference resolution declared.

Voting in accordance with ARRL Board policy, International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote on the League's behalf, although he voted in favor of an earlier motion to support 5 WPM as the top code speed for testing. The Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society abstained. The Asian and Pacific region's other member societies favored the resolution.

The Region III Conference, meeting in Darwin, Australia, recommended that the IARU Administrative council adopt its position as IARU policy. Meeting September 3-4 in Darwin, the Administrative Council declined to act on the policy recommendation, however, until after the Region II conference next October in Guatemala.

Conference delegates addressed another concern related to ITU Radio Regulation S25, which requires that applicants demonstrate Morse proficiency to operate below 30 MHz. Some delegates worried over wording in a preliminary draft recommendation that includes reference to "radio telegraphy" among amateur license operating skills. Delegates were told that the ITU defines "radio telegraphy" to mean all digital modes, not just Morse. In a motion proposed by the Radio Society of Great Britain and seconded by the ARRL, the conference requested that the IARU Region III representatives to the IARU Administrative Council propose replacing the term "operating skills" with "methods of communication."

The conference also reaffirmed the IARU's determination to obtain an exclusive worldwide allocation of no less than 300 kHz in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Region III IARU directors were instructed to "treat achievement of this objective as a matter of the highest priority." The conference also supported seeking an Amateur Radio HF allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz and a low-frequency allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz or 160 to 190 kHz.

In addition to Stafford, those attending the conference from the US included IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; ARRL Executive Vice President and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

ARISS Ham Gear Reaches Destination

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station initial station equipment plus supplies that the ISS Expedition 1 crew will need later this year were delivered to the ISS this week. After entering the station itself, astronauts and cosmonauts worked to unload the cargo--including the ham gear--from the shuttle Atlantis and from a docked Russian Progress rocket and to set the ISS up for its first crew.

There are three hams on the shuttle Atlantis mission. No Amateur Radio operation will take place from the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew arrives in early November, however, nor will there be any ham activity from the shuttle on this trip.

On September 11, US astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, and Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko completed a more than six-hour space walk. Lu and Malenchenko attached nine power, data and communication cables to the ISS's newest component, the Russian-built Zvezda service module, and to the Zarya control module. They also assembled a magnetometer boom on Zvezda's exterior. Other amateurs aboard include astronauts Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX, and Richard Mastracchio, KC5ZTE.

NASA reportedly located a small problem on the Zvezda--a jammed solar panel on one of its wings. The panel failed to unfold following the launch of the module, and NASA says it might have to repair the problem on a later mission. NASA also says one of eight Russian-made batteries used to power the ISS might be malfunctioning.

Atlantis blasted off on schedule last Friday from the Kennedy Space Center. It delivered amateur VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers for the multi-national ARISS program, as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables. The gear will be stowed aboard the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gaidzenko come aboard.

The ARISS initial station gear will be installed temporarily aboard Zarya and will use an existing antenna that's being adapted to support FM voice and packet on 2 meters. The gear will be re-installed in the Zvezda Service Module next year, and it will have both 2-meter and 70-cm capabilities. A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, has been issued for the ISS ham radio station.

For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site, ***http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/***.

[ARRL Letter]

AO-27 is Back on the Air

The AO-27 satellite has returned to analog Amateur Radio service. AO-27 ground controller Chuck Wyrick, KM4NZ, reports the satellite showed up on its first North American daylight pass on September 9.

Wyrick advises operators to wait until they hear the satellite in analog mode--ie, no data being sent--before transmitting on the 145.850 MHz uplink frequency. AO-27's downlink is 436.800 MHz.

Wyrick says the AO-27 analog FM repeater will be turned off for a few days at a time over the next few months so ground controllers can gather whole orbital data to verify the health of the satellite.

AO-27's computer crashed July 31, and it took more than one attempt to reload the software and get the satellite up and running again.
"A lot of work has saved AO-27 for many more enjoyable amateur QSOs," Wyrick said in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board.

[ARRL Letter]

Changeover to CORES Registration to be Transparent

When the FCC moves its Taxpayer Information Number/Social Security Number registration system for amateurs from the Universal Licensing System to the new FCC Commission Registration System, the changeover will be largely transparent to users.

Steve Linn of the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau says once the changeover is in effect, the CORES/FRN system will be linked from the ULS home page, http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls. In addition, those already registered in the ULS will--in most cases--still be able to use their ULS password to access CORES.

Amateurs will not have to start signing up in CORES until sometime next year, however, and those already registered in ULS won't have to do a thing. For now, Linn says hams should simply stick with ULS "TIN/Call Sign" registration until CORES registration becomes mandatory.

"Don't even worry about CORES," Linn said. "If you have a letter from CORES, hang onto it for your FCC Registration Number." The FCC recently sent letters to every licensee who was registered in the ULS as of June 22, 2000. The letter contains the individual's new FCC Registration Number--or FRN--and a few words about CORES. Linn says the FCC has suspended mailing out CORES/FRN letters for now.

Described as an agency-wide registration system for anyone filing applications with or making payments to the FCC, CORES assigns registrants a unique 10-digit FCC Registration Number. The FCC says it will modify its licensing and filing systems--including ULS--over the next several months to accept and use the FRN. The FCC says use of the FRN will allow it to more rapidly verify fee payment.

hams to register in ULS, which will continue to house the FCC's Amateur Service database even after CORES registration is implemented. Just when in 2001 that will happen Linn was not able to say. "There are a lot of factors involved," he said.

Individuals who register in CORES are not automatically registered in the ULS database (an individual does not have to be licensed to register in CORES). ULS TIN/Call Sign registration is eventually reflected in the CORES database, however, Linn confirmed.

The CORES on-line filing system and further information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC Web site, http://www.fcc.gov and clicking on the CORES registration link.

[ARRL Letter]

New Emergency Communications Web Page

An "Emergency Communications" Web Site now is available at ***http://www.arrl.org/field/emergency/*** . The page provides a ready-reference Web Site with links to the latest ARRL bulletins, The ARRL Letter, and weather reports as well as to other Amateur Radio organizations active in emergency operations, such as the Hurricane Watch Net, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Net (SATERN), and SKYWARN. There's also an Emergency Communications "Q&A" section, and a link to contact varioius ARRL Headquarters personnel during an emergency. Other linked resources include The Net Directory, IARU member societies, ARRL field leadership and club-search

[ARRL Letter]

Amateur Radio to the Rescue-Again

Amateur Radio operators in the Dayton, Ohio, area sprang into action August 10 to assist in the search for a missing boy in the suburb of Huber Heights. Rob Taylor, KC8LNO, an avid scanner enthusiast, monitored a police dispatch for a missing eight-year-old mentally challenged boy who was in need of vital medication. The boy, named Zachary, had last been seen pursuing an ice cream truck near his home. Taylor called Jim Ebner, N8JE, a fellow member of the Huber Heights ARC, who, in turn, called local authorities to offer Amateur Radio assistance. Police accepted the offer, and other amateurs in the area were summoned to the scene via a local repeater and deployed to assist in the search. A mobile amateur communication command post was set up using a mini motor-home provided by Bob Beach, W8LCZ, and communication was conducted on the Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club's 442.95 MHz repeater and on 2-meter FM simplex. The three-and-a-half hour search ended happily when Zachary telephoned from a residence a half-mile from home. He soon was reunited with his family. The family and the Huber Heights Police Department thanked amateur operators who assisted in the search for their quick response and for a job well done.--Phil Thomas, W8RMJ

[ARRL Letter]

Free Software ....
Adobe Acrobat Reader

If you've not already acquired ***Adobe Acrobat Reader***, you might like to do so. It may be used to open and read a number of documents appearing on the Web as well as numerous FCC forms and documents.

The most current version of ***Adobe Acrobat Reader*** is free, although you'll likely be asked to register it, and is available on the Web at:

http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

And, remember, I said it is free!

[K8CM]

Next Meeting

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown.

Scheduled speaker for October is Mike (Brownie) Brown, W8DJY. Topic, at the time of printing, is unknown; however, you may expect Mike to have an interesting topic and an intriguing delivery.

See you at the meeting!



The Y-2000/2001 Entertainment books are now available. They make excellent holiday gifts for family and friends, save you money, and, at the same time, earn the Club a small profit.

In addition to fine dining, numerous discounts are available for fast-food, car rentals, hotels, pharmacy purchases, and more. Please look over the last page of this Newsletter for more information.

Cincinnati Edition copies are available from K8CM. Price remains the same as last year; $35.

OCTOBER 2000

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	**2**	**3**	**4** Technician License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**5** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**6**	**7**
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NOVEMBER 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
HAPPY THANKSGIVING			**1** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**2** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**3**	**4**
5	**6**	**7**	**8** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**9** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**10**	**11** **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10 am
12	**13**	**14**	**15** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**16** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**17**	**18** **Grant County ARC** Georgetown, KY
19	**20** **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	**21**	**22** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**23** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**24**	**25**
26	**27**	**28**	**29** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**30**		

Dial Radio Club

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

November 2000

Minutes of the October 16 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
This meeting was called to order by Dave, KD8W, with 24 members in attendance.

Secretary's Report:
Motion by John, KC8IZF, second by Lorie, W8LKU, to approve minutes as published in the Newsletter. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report. Our membership continues at 139 members (92 families).

Station Report:
Dave, KD8W, Lane, KC8ECK, and Ernie, W8EH, completed exterior painting of the repeater shed at the radio station site.

Richard, KC8MVK, brought up the paging interference happening on the 147.315 repeater. Ernie said it comes and goes, has appeared on the Middletown Fire frequency and on the Hamilton 147.33 repeater. It appears to be coming from outside of the Middletown area.

The West Middletown antenna job may take place this Sunday provided a ground crew can be assembled.

Old Business:
Exams & classes. The next exam will be Wednesday. The next class session will start the following week and will be for the General Class license.

It was discussed that the class following the General session may be for the Amateur Extra class license. Those interested in an Amateur Extra class should let us know so we can judge interest.

Extra class study guides are in at R & L, Carl is going to purchase 3 for the instructors.

New Business:
Dave, KD8W, asked for volunteers to be on the nominating committee. John, KC8IZF, Barney, N8HP and Tom, WA8AGQ were appointed and will report a slate of officers at the November meeting. Anyone wishing to serve should contact a committee member.

Door Prizes:
The door prize drawing was held for a complimentary meal courtesy of the *Old Country Buffet*; winner was Richard, KC8MVK.

Meeting Adjourned:
Being no further business, motion to adjourn was approved.

Ernie Howard, W8EH
Secretary

From the Prez ...

Now that we are past the major discussions and opinions on restructuring, NOW is the time for those of you who felt it was going to be difficult to become General class have a truly GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!. Why not take the time on Wednesday evening's to join us at Verity Lodge, go thru the General Class sessions, and take your General test !!

If you would like to participate in the General class session, please register through the University as described in a following article..

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Should you be the holder of a General or Advanced ticket, please let us know that you would be interested in attending an 'EXTRA' class session in beginning in January. We only need the numbers to make it worthwhile.

Registration for the Extra class session will not occur until late November or December; however, it will be helpful if you will let Carl or myself know as soon as possible.

Oh.. don't forget to tell (or better yet, BRING) a friend, We have a great group of folks who devote freely of their time to this effort, and the fellowship is great

Dave, KD8W

Ham Exams in December

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, December 13, 2000
at 7:00 p.m. in Verity Lodge,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the Dial Radio Club. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson, and must arrive no later than Monday, December, 11. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Ham Classes

Beginning on October 25 and continuing through December 6, the ***DIAL RADIO CLUB*** will offer instruction for the General Class amateur license exam. The Morse session begins at 6pm followed by the theory session, 7-9om. All classes meet on Wednesday evenings, in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of thes classes, students are encouraged to purchase the training manua ***General Class License Manual***, published by the *ARRL*. It would be well to read both the Introduction and Chapter 1 before attending the first class.

An amateur radio operator license examinations will be available, at the conclusion of the class (December 13).

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

FCC Commends Band Plans in Enforcement Letter

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth used the occasion of an enforcement letter to commend the value of band plans. "Although band plans are not mandatory, they exist to enhance the required cooperation and sharing of frequencies in the Amateur Service," Hollingsworth said in an enforcement inquiry to a Connecticut ham.

The FCC wrote Advanced licensee Alan J. Koepke, K1JCL, on October 11, 2000, citing complaints received by the Commission alleging that Koepke was operating an uncoordinated AM-mod repeater on 144.65 MHz that was causing interference t coordinated repeaters in Massachusetts and New York using that frequency as an input. "Evidence indicates that you have been coordinated, but not for that frequency configuration," Hollingsworth wrote.

The ARRL Repeater Directory indicates that the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association coordinated the K1JCL 2-meter machine for output on 145.25 MHz and a 600-kHz negative offset input. The K1JCL 145.25 MHz repeater does not appear in a list of 144-MHz repeaters on the CSMA Web site, although a K1JCL machine is shown at 147.375 MHz.

Hollingsworth says Koepke apparently has flipped the input and output frequencies for which his 2-meter repeater was coordinated, contrary to the prevailing band plan. In addition, Hollingsworth said, Koepke has been using a non-standard spacing that may be contrary to its coordination. He has asked Koepke to explain.

"A repeater operating contrary to coordination is an uncoordinated repeater," Hollingsworth told Koepke. Citing °97.205 of the rules, Hollingsworth said that where there is interference between a coordinated and an uncoordinated repeater, "the licensee of the uncoordinated repeater has the responsibility to resolve the interference." According to report filed with the FCC, Koepke has been made aware of the conflict

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

but has declined to resolve it, Hollingsworth said.

"Band plans minimize the necessity for Commission intervention in Amateur operations and the use of Commission resources to resolve amateur interference problems," Hollingsworth wrote in expressing the FCC's position on band plans. "When such plans are not followed and harmful interference results, we expect very substantial justification to be provided, and we expect that justification to be consistent with Section 97.101."

Hollingsworth said he included the statement to reiterate where the FCC stands on the question of band plans. "You can't possibly have a rule for every circumstance," he said. Operating in according with prevailing band plans "minimizes the necessity of the Commission to get involved in these situations" where interference results. Last December the FCC dismissed an ARRL petition calling on the Commission to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." The FCC declined, suggesting that it was reluctant to expand its regulatory role beyond the existing limits on emission types that may be transmitted within a given subband. The Commission said defining band plans as the ARRL had proposed "would have the effect of transforming voluntary band plans into de facto required mandates," something inconsistent with current FCC policy.

In his October 11 letter, Hollingsworth asked Koepke if his repeater is coordinated and, if so, to furnish a copy of the coordination documentation for his repeater and to explain why his appeared to be operating in a "manner not consistent with the coordination."

He also asked Koepke to justify reversing the input and output frequencies from the band plan, to explain why he's using AM gear "with IF stages wider than the FM repeater channel spacing" the band plan provides, and to detail any interference complaints he's received and what steps he took to resolve them.

Hollingsworth also asked if the repeater identifies itself, and if Koepke operates any other repeater or auxiliary stations and whether they are coordinated. The FCC gave Koepke 20 days to respond. Hollingsworth said he had not heard back from Koepke as of today.

[ARRL Web]

TAPR Elects New Officers

John Ackermann, N8UR, is the new president of TAPR – Tucson Amateur Packet Radio. Ackermann was elected during TAPR's annual board meeting, held in conjunction with the 19th ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Orlando, Florida, September 21-24.

Ackermann, who had served as TAPR's vice president, succeeds Greg Jones, WD5IVD, who had served as president since 1993. Steve Bible, N7HPR, was chosen to replace Ackermann as vice president. Bob Hanson, N2GDE, was re-elected secretary, and Jim Neely, WA5LHS, remains treasurer. Ackermann credited Jones with leading TAPR through a period of growth and innovation. "His retirement leaves a void in TAPR that will be hard to fill."

An ARRL member, Ackermann, who formerly was AG9V, lives in Dayton, Ohio, and has served on the TAPR Board of Directors and as vice president since 1995. Bible, a League member who lives in Kingsland, Georgia, has been a TAPR Board member since 1996. He is leading TAPR's development of a road map to develop software defined radio technology for amateur use.

Ackermann said that his primary objective will be to ensure that TAPR remains on the cutting edge of radio technology, with a special emphasis on emerging concepts such as software defined radios. The annual Digital Communications Conference attracted 135 amateurs. The DCC includes a presentation of technical papers, hands-on demonstrations, and beginner's sessions.

Proceedings from the 19th ARRL/TAPR 2000 Digital Communications Conference are available from ARRL for $15. Order Item 8144. DCC 2001 will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 21-23, 2001.--TAPR

[ARRL Letter]

Two Hams Aboard 100th Shuttle Mission

After delays due to bad weather, a possibly problematic retracting bolt, a sluggish valve and a halted countdown to remove a stray tool, the shuttle Discovery lifted off from Cape Canaveral the evening of October 11. The launch was the 100th of the space shuttle program.

Two Amateur Radio operators are aboard Discovery. They include Mission Commander Brian Duffy, N5WQW, and Mission Specialist Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, who will represent NASDA, the Japanese Space Agency. No Amateur Radio activity is scheduled for this mission, however. Others aboard Discovery will include Pilot Pam Melroy, and mission specialists Leroy Chiao, Bill McArthur, Jeff Wisoff, and Mike Lopez-Alegria.

Discovery is on the fifth shuttle construction mission to the International Space Station and the last before the arrival of the ISS Expedition 1 crew in early November. Two new segments of the ISS are in the shuttle's cargo bay--a new docking port for use by future shuttle missions and a nine-ton exterior framework.

Shuttle mission STS-92 had been scheduled to launch on October 5, but inclement weather, concerns over a retracting bolt assembly, and a faulty engine valve delayed the launch until this week. Then, with the crew aboard and the countdown running Wednesday, NASA personnel spotted a stray metal pin apparently left behind by a worker on a support strut between the orbiter and the shuttle's giant fuel tank.

Launch managers decided to halt the countdown at T-minus 20 minutes and roll the launch tower back into place to retrieve the pin. An investigation is under way to determine how it was left behind and not accounted for.

The ISS exterior framework--called the Z1 truss--will be attached to the expanding station. The Z1 will house gyroscopes and

communications equipment that will provide future "balance" for the outpost as well as enhanced voice and television capability. A conical mating adapter called Pressurized Mating Adapter 3 will be attached, providing an additional shuttle docking port. During the 11-day mission, Wakata will use the shuttle's robotic arm to attach the framework and mating adapter to the station's Unity module.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station initial station gear was delivered last month by the shuttle Atlantis. The equipment has been stowed aboard the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko come aboard for a four-month stay. The Expedition 1 crew launch currently is targeted for October 30 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.--from NASA news releases and press reports

[ARRL Letter]

US Call Signs Issued for Space Station Operation

Two new call signs have been issued for US Amateur Radio operations as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. The FCC granted vanity call signs NN1SS and NA1SS to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club on October 11.

The ARISS initial station equipment plus supplies that the ISS Expedition 1 crew will need later this year were delivered to the ISS last month by the space shuttle Atlantis. The equipment includes VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers for the multi-national ARISS program, as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

The gear has been stowed aboard the ISS until the expedition 1 crew of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko come aboard sometime in early November.

The ARISS initial station gear will be installed temporarily aboard the ISS Zarya Functional Cargo Block and will use an existing antenna that's being adapted to support FM voice and packet on 2 meters. The gear will be re-installed in the Zvezda Service Module next year, and it will have both 2-meter and 70-cm capabilities.

A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, and a German call sign, DL0ISS, also have been issued for use aboard the ISS.

For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site

[ARRL Web]

FCC Questions Possible "Corporate Raiders" on Ham Radio

With complaints involving Amateur Radio licensees on the decline, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has been focusing more on unlicensed activity. In a few recent cases, he's questioned businesses about transmissions monitored on amateur bands.

In late September, the FCC sent a Warning Notice to Friendly Tree Services of Orange, New Jersey, after members of the amateur community there monitored what appeared to be business-related communications on 2 meters. Citing "information before the Commission," Hollingsworth dropped Friendly Tree a line on September 29 to inquire about transmissions monitored on 144.085 MHz. Monitoring information provided to the FCC indicated that an apparently unlicensed station was conducting business on 2 meters using a "base station and at least four trucks." The amateurs made the connection with the tree service after overhearing directions to a particular street address given over the air. The amateurs drove to the address and spotted one of the company's trucks and a worker at the site.

Another Warning Notice went out in late September to Inland Materials Inc of Casselberry, Florida. That Notice cited information alleging that the company was transmitting on 438.537 MHz without a license. According to Hollingsworth, amateur reports indicated that one channel of the company's business radio system transmits on an amateur frequency, but he said it was unclear if this was by design or simply an error.

Hollingsworth has advised the two companies that unlicensed operation is a violation of federal law that could result in a fine of up to $10,000 and jeopardize any FCC licenses the companies already hold. Hollingsworth requested both firms to contact him within 10 days to discuss the matter.

The FCC also notified AT&T Wireless PCS in late September to inquire about allegations that the PCS system's KNLF245 in Newport News, Virginia, may be causing harmful interference to the KA4VXR Amateur Radio repeater in nearby Hampton. The FCC requested that AT&T contact the repeater system's trustee to "explore a solution to the problem" and to advise the FCC of its findings.

The FCC is continuing to investigate allegations raised earlier this year that the Citipage Plus paging system in Las Vegas, Nevada, has been causing harmful interference to the N7OK repeater on 147.09 MHz.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Congressman Weighs In on CC&R Effort

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 19, 2000--A Connecticut congressman has written FCC Chairman William Kennard to urge "a favorable resolution" to the ARRL's efforts to extend the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 to restrictive covenants. Restrictive covenants--also called "CC&Rs" or "deed restrictions"--often impede or prohibit the installation of outside amateur antennas.

In January, the League asked the FCC to reconsider its denial of the ARRL's request to extend PRB-1 to include CC&Rs imposed

by private homeowners' associations or developers. The League has said it would like hams to be free to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with local homeowners' associations just as they do now with governmental land-use regulators.

Connecticut Second District Representative Sam Gejdenson supported that approach in an October 5 letter to Kennard. "As the number of planned residential communities continues to grow, it is imperative that the FCC provide thoughtful guidance that affords amateur radio operators reasonable accommodation in dealing with CC&Rs while recognizing the legitimate concerns of homeowner associations," Gejdenson wrote. His involvement in the issue followed a conversation he had with Connecticut SKYWARN members at an August hurricane conference Gejdenson sponsored in cooperation with the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management and
the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and a followup meeting with ARRL staff and volunteers at his Washington office on September 13.

Currently, CC&Rs are regarded as private contracts and do not fall under the PRB-1 federal preemption. Gejdenson noted that Amateur Radio has filled a public policy role by providing emergency communication in areas prone to flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, brush fire or other natural or manmade disasters. "As the nation's telecommunications infrastructure grows increasingly complex, it is likely that amateur operators will continue to be called upon in times of need," the congressman wrote.

In August, the ARRL began inviting narratives from amateurs who now are or have been denied the opportunity to install an antenna or support structure on a dwelling they own because of CC&Rs. The ARRL so far has collected more than 100 anecdotal reports detailing the experiences of individual hams around the US in coping with restrictions imposed by CC&Rs and other private limitations on the ability to put up antennas and towers.

"Many submissions included copies of CC&R language, and some included a bit of information on how the individual hams have managed to pursue their hobby in spite of eagle-eyed homeowner associations," said ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA. The ARRL continues to collect and analyze the information submitted. In some cases, the reports--with names, addresses, and call signs removed--have provided background information for recent discussions with the FCC.

Narratives should relate directly to situations involving restrictive covenants and should be no longer than one page for inclusion in the CC&R database. Submittals should include name, call sign, the address at which you were denied the opportunity to put up an antenna, and the basis upon which you were denied or would expect to be denied. Participants should include a copy of the contract language that would exclude your antenna or support structure and copies of any denial letters from a homeowners' association.

Submittals should be sent to ANTENNAS, c/o Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. E-mail submittals are welcome to *smansfield@arrl.org* with the subject line "ANTENNAS".

[ARRL Web]

Shared Amateur Allocations Unaffected by White House Order

A White House announcement directing federal agencies to work with the FCC and the private sector to identify spectrum for next-generation wireless services will not have any impact on amateur allocations. The Executive Memorandum issued last Friday by President Bill Clinton follows the path agreed to during the World Radiocommunication Conference earlier this year to make frequencies available for so-called 3G (third-generation) or IMT (International Mobile Telecommunications)-2000 portable wireless devices.

The announcement sparked alarm among some members of the amateur community that a government-industry spectrum grab was under way. Some expressed fears that spectrum amateurs now share with the US Government, primarily the military, could be lost. Breathless media accounts referring to the White House announcement as "extraordinary" didn't help matters.

"It's nothing for amateurs to get excited about," said ARRL Executive Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. Sumner points out that the memorandum merely implements previously announced plans to reallocate frequencies spelled out at WRC-2000.

As reported in August QST (see "World Radiocommunication Conference" starting on page 51), IMT-2000 proponents sought at least 160 MHz of spectrum for handset-to-satellite applications. Amateur Radio dodged a bullet at 2.3 to 2.4 GHz when delegates were able to find the needed spectrum elsewhere. The bands identified at WRC-2000 for IMT-2000 terrestrial use are 862-960 MHz in Region 1, 806-902 MHz and 928-960 MHz in Region 2, and 806-960 MHz in Region 3, in addition to 1710-1885 MHz and 2500-2690 MHz. Some mobile-satellite service bands also have been identified for the satellite component of IMT-2000.

According to ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, not all of the frequency bands identified at WRC-2000 are destined for reallocation for 3G users in the US.

The President's order called on the Secretary of Commerce to "work cooperatively with the FCC" to develop, by October 20, a plan to select third-generation wireless system spectrum. An interim report due by November 15, 2000, would spell out current spectrum uses and the potential for reallocation or sharing "of the bands identified at WRC-2000 that could be used for third generation wireless systems."

"Time is of the essence," Clinton said in a statement accompanying the memorandum. Spectrum reallocation plans are to be firmed up by next July, with auction licenses issued to competing applicants by the fall of 2002.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

In an unrelated matter, the FCC last week transferred government spectrum at 3.6 GHz to non-government commercial use. The FCC allocated 3650 to 3700 MHz for fixed and mobile commercial wireless services. The commission also proposed licensing and service rules for the spectrum and seeks comment on the possibility of being able to pair this 50 MHz of spectrum with 50 MHz available at 4940 to 4990 MHz.

The move was pursuant to provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The FCC says its actions will benefit the public by permitting and encouraging the introduction of new services, particularly in rural areas.

[ARRL Web]

Hams Sought to Track Rare Migrating Owls

The fall burrowing owl monitoring project is now under way. Amateur Radio operators and others with appropriate VHF radio monitoring equipment are invited to help in tracking their migration.

"I just got e-mail from a biologist that the last of the Regina Plains juvenile owls headed out southward last night," ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said this week. "Now is the time to monitor!"

The owls soon should be passing over the area stretching from Montana and North Dakota to Oklahoma, Texas and beyond. Scientists believe the birds fly all the way from Saskatchewan and Alberta to southern Texas and northern Mexico, but accurate data are scarce and difficult to obtain.

For the third year, hams and other spectrum-monitoring enthusiasts within the migration flight path are requested tune 172 to 173 MHz for the milliwatt-level pulsed transmissions from radio tags on these threatened birds. Amateur reports may help professional biologists to determine exactly where the owls spend the winter.

Unlike other owls, burrowing owls don't roost in trees. They prefer to roost in cavities on the ground in treeless grasslands. The best time to monitor is at night when the birds are on the wing or foraging.

Visit the burrowing owl page on the site of ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, http://www.homingin.com, for details. This site also tells how to join a new e-mail list for rapid dissemination of tag-heard reports and for coordination of direction-finding efforts.--Joe Moell, K0OV

[ARRL Letter]

Changes, Challenges Loom as 2000-2001 Contest Season Nears

As the "contest season" approaches, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, is reminding ARRL contest participants of changes that become effective this year. His department also is gearing up to face the challenges that lie ahead as the Contest Branch starts implementing new log-handling methods.

Starting November 1, 2000, the ARRL standard file format fo electronic submissions will be the Cabrillo format. ARR November Sweepstakes will be the first operating event to fall under the new electronic logging standard. The CW weekend is November 4-6 and the SSB weekend is November 18-20 this year. (Rules appear in October QST, page 102.)

First announced more than a year ago, the Cabrillo format will result in electronic logs that adhere to a uniform standard that allows them to be processed more expediently. Henderson says the change to the new format will mean the Contest Branch can post the list of "Logs Received" for a given contest much sooner--once the non-electronic logs have been processed into the database.

"Approximately 80% of W/VE logs and 65% of DX logs arrive in electronic format," Henderson said. "The Cabrillo format will allow us to verify entries and initialize the database more efficiently, with fewer data entry errors."

Henderson says that one of the most common questions his department hears these days is, "Where do I buy this Cabrillo program?" He points out that Cabrillo--pronounced kuh-BREE-oh--is not a program but an electronic file format that specifies what information is contained in certain fields in the file document. "The major contest logging software programs spent much of the past year incorporating the Cabrillo format into their products," Henderson said. "If you're using a current version o one of those programs, you should have the ability to generate the Cabrillo file already."

Henderson said those using older software versions of contesting programs should check with the software manufacturer or distributor to get the latest version.

Details on the format appear in the "General Rules for all ARRL Contests" in the November 2000 issue of QST. Specifications for the Cabrillo file format also are available on-line. In addition to the file specifications, there are sample templates for various ARRL contests, a history of any modifications to the format, and some insight into the development of the Cabrillo file format.

Faced with more 18,000 contest entries during the 1999-2000 contest season, Henderson says his department's biggest task is routine data entry. "Right now all data must be entered by hand--a very time-consuming process," Henderson said. "It becomes a larger challenge due to the number of entries that are received for each contest that are incomplete or inaccurate." Henderson says that Contest Branch staffers estimate that approximately one out of every five contest entries--electronic and paper--arrive incorrect or incomplete.

"The most common error is omitting required information that allow staff to properly code the entry, such as not listing a valid entry category, not listing power level, giving a state of residence

or ARRL division instead of ARRL section for location," Henderson said. Another common problem is the submission of the wrong log files for the contest being entered.

Henderson said each inaccurate entry requires a significant amount of staff attention. "We employ a wide range of tactics to ..y and resolve the problems internally," he said. "For example, other competitors' logs may be searched to try to determine what the entrant sent for an exchange. If a claimed score does not agree with the claimed QSOs and mutipliers, the log has to be searched to find the answer." Henderson says all of this must be done just to get the entry initialized into the contest database. "This occurs before any log checking of contacts takes place," he said.

Some problems are relatively easy to identify; others are more difficult. "When a problem can not be resolved in-house, we attempt to contact the participant to clarify the situation," Henderson said. "If the participant doesn't respond, then we revert to certain entry defaults to code the data."

Henderson hopes to use computer automation to reduce the time needed to score submitted contest logs. For example, to cut the time needed for initial data entry, the Contest Branch is developing a "robot reader" that will take information from the Cabrillo format header and initialize that entry into the database.

"It's important to remember that these changes are not a finished product but rather a work in progress," Henderson said. "There will be adjustments needed as the robot reader is used. As the needs arise, we will continue to work them out."

Henderson said non-electronic entries will continue to be done by ..and. "We will still need to deal manually with electronic submissions that contain errors and problems," he said, "but we're optimistic that as we refine the process, we'll reach the ultimate end result--providing accurate results for our contests in a timely manner."

Henderson also reminds contest participants that with the addition of West Central Florida this past January there now are 80 ARRL/RAC sections. "If you log by hand, please obtain current submission forms--an SASE with a note to the Contest Branch will do the trick," he said. "With great band conditions, we can all look forward to an outstanding contest season!"

Henderson says his department is always open for questions and comments about the ARRL Contest Program. Address them to Dan Henderson, N1ND, 860-594-0232 or n1nd@arrl.org or by US Mail to ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

[ARRL Web]

Supreme Court Hearing Unlikely in KV4FZ Renewal Case

The US Supreme Court has put the license renewal case of Herbert ..hoenbohm, KV4FZ, on its docket for possible consideration ..uring its current term, which began this week. Schoenbohm says he's not optimistic that his petition will ever be heard, however, since the high court already has chosen most of the cases it intends to hear this term.

In a last-ditch effort to retain his Amateur Radio license, Schoenbohm--who lives in , the US Virgin Islands--petitioned the US Supreme Court in August to request the record of his case from the US Court of Appeals for review. The Supreme Court can accept the case for hearing or decline to hear it with or without any comment.

Schoenbohm may continue to operate while his petition is pending. If, as expected, the Supreme Court declines to hear his case, Schoenbohm's interim operating authority immediately disappears without further notice from the FCC. His call sign no longer appears in the FCC database.

The high court hands down about 100 decisions each year. Schoenbohm says the Court will select "a few dozen" more cases for hearing over the next few months, but he concedes that his chances are "between slim and none."

Following Schoenbohm's 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges, the FCC set his Amateur Radio renewal application for a hearing in 1994. The FCC subsequently turned down his application, citing his conviction and character issues. Schoenbohm contends that he's arbitrarily being singled out for especially harsh treatment on the issue of character. The US Appeals Court turned down Schoenbohm's request for a rehearing by the full bench after it rejected his appeal of the FCC's decision in February.

Losing his US Amateur Radio privileges will not necessarily put Schoenbohm off the air entirely. He holds licenses on three of the Caribbean Leeward Islands as well as in Brazil. He may not use his foreign call signs on US soil, however..

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Cuts Deal in Texas Amateur Interference Case

A Texas amateur facing an $8000 fine in a malicious interference case instead will give up his Amateur Radio license for five years and make a voluntary contribution to the US Treasury. In exchange, the FCC will drop the fine. The FCC this week adopted a consent decree terminating the forfeiture proceeding against Technician licensee Robert L. Meyers, N5WLY.

Last spring, the FCC affirmed $8000 fines levied on Meyers and General licensee Paul E. Holcombe, K4TOF, both of Houston. The two were charged with causing malicious interference on a local repeater and with failing to identify.

The terms of the agreement call for Meyers to turn in his amateur license and to agree to not reapply for a period of five years. In addition, Meyers has agreed to make a voluntary $1000 contribution to the US Treasury. In return, the FCC will cancel its Forfeiture Order against Meyers--$7000 for malicious interference

and $1000 for failing to identify.

The consent decree only affects the case against Meyers, who has demonstrated to the FCC that he was financially unable to pay the fine. "We are proceeding to collection of the Holcombe forfeiture," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said. He indicated that Meyers now is cooperating with the FCC in its investigation.

Meyers and Holcombe each received a Forfeiture Order last May from the FCC's Houston office. The fines followed an FCC investigation last year that involved the use of direction-finding equipment to track interfering signals to Holcolmbe's and Meyers' vehicles. As part of the consent decree, Meyers agrees to not contest the findings of the Forfeiture Order, but he does not admit that he committed the violations either.

After the FCC first sent a Notice of Violation and then a Notice of Apparent Liability to each licensee, each responded by denying the allegations. The FCC was unconvinced by their assertions, and said their denials were contradicted by the observations of the FCC agent, who surreptitiously observed each vehicle while the Memorial Emergency Repeater Association's 145.47 machine in Houston was being interfered with.

[ARRL Letter]

FCC Set to Authorize MURS

With no fanfare, the FCC is set to authorize a new Citizens Band Radio Service to be called the Multi-Use Radio Service, or MURS.

The service, which came about as part of the biennial review of Part 90 of the FCC's rules, will deploy five former Private Land Mobile Radio Service VHF "color dot" channels for voice, data and imaging transmissions. The channels, 151.82, 151.88, 151.94, 154.57 and 154.60 – will be authorized for up to 2 W on an unlicensed basis under Part 95 of the FCC's rules.

The establishment of MURS was buried within a huge Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making released this summer as WT Docket 98-182 and PR Docket 92-235. The FCC said it will "revisit" the issue of allocating additional MURS channels "at a later date should additional support develop." The effective date to deploy MURS is pending completion of the FCC proceeding.– FCC

[ARRL Letter]

Next Meeting

Speaker for our November meeting will be Mr. James Sullivan, NG8T. Jim's topic will be his experiences, with radio astronomy in the New Mexico area.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown. ***See you at the meeting!***

Free Software .... Adobe Acrobat Reader

Just a reminder ..... If you've not already acquired ***Adol Acrobat Reader***, you might like to do so. It may be used to open and read a number of documents appearing on the Web as well as numerous FCC forms and documents.

The most current version of ***Adobe Acrobat Reader*** is free, although you'll likely be asked to register it, and is available on the Web at:

http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

And, remember, I said it's free!

[K8CM]

entertainment

The Y-2000/2001 Entertainment books are now available. They make excellent holiday gifts for family and friends, save you money, and, at the same time, earn the Club a small profit.

In addition to fine dining, numerous discounts are available for fast-food, car rentals, hotels, pharmacy purchases, and more. Please look over the last page of this Newsletter for more information.

Cincinnati Edition copies are available from K8CM for $35 (same as last year). Don't delay, our final day for sales will be November 31.

November 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
HAPPY THANKSGIVING			**1** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**2** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**3**	**4**
5	**6**	**7**	**8** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**9** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**10**	**11** **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10 am
12	**13**	**14**	**15** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**16** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**17**	**18** **Grant County ARC** Georgetown, KY
19	**20** **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	**21**	**22** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**23** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	**24**	**25**
26	**27**	**28**	**29** General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**30** **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R		

December 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL					1	2
3	4	5	6 General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	7 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	8	9 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
10	11	12	13 **Ham License Examinations** 7pm Verity Lodge	14 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	15	16
17	18 **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	19	20	21 **Net Tonight** 7pm W8BLV/R	22	23
24	25 **Merry Christmas**	26	27	28	29	30
31 **Happy New Year**	*Have a safe and enjoyable New Yea's celebration.*					

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

Dial Radio Club

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Packet Node: W8BLV-3 (MWO) 144.91 APRS Node: W8WMO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825

Web page: *http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/* e-mail: *dial@qth.net*

President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice-president:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary:
Ernie Howard., W8EH
Treasurer:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

Activities Manager:
Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ
Newsletter Printing
Ron Spaulding, N8NQF
Newsletter Mailing :
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Kathy Urschel

December 2000

Best Season's Greetings

Minutes of the November 20 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Members Attending:
N8NQF, KD8W, W8WLM, K8CM, N8HP, N8GGE, NG8T, N8IAX, W8AGQ, W8ULC & Marilyn, KC8CYP, WA8PRA, N8TFH, W8MVN & Bonnie, WB8DPZ & Lois, WB8MYT, W8GNV, KC8IZF, N8AEG, WA8DTU, KC8MVK, KE8OH & Tillie, KB8VSX, KB8WKL, W8LKU, KC8LDV, W3GP, N8TQG, Kathy, W8LQW, and WD8NKR (35).

Program:
Jim Sullivan, NG8T, presented a very interesting talk on the Astronomer's Radio Frequency Receivers in New Mexico.

Secretary's Report:
Motion made by George, W3GP, to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the newsletter and seconded by Barney, N8HP. Motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report:
Carl, K8CM, presented the Treasurer's report. Our membership continues at 139 members (92 families).

Station Report:
Everything is working.

Old Business:
Nominating Committee report- Barney, N8HP, reports that all current officers have been approached and are willing to serve again. At present, there are no other nominations.

New Business:
Carl, K8CM, reported that Mike Brown, W8DJY, is ill and would like visitors, but please call first.

Dave, KD8W, reported that plans are currently underway to have classes for Extra class license in Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown. Anyone interested should call the University to complete registration..

Door Prizes:
Door prize, a free dinner at the Old Country Buffet, was won by Roy, KDC8CYP.

Meeting Adjourned:
Being no further business, motion to adjourn was approved.

Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary ProTem

From the Prez ...

Dave would like to extend his best wishes for a Merry Christmas and

Next Meeting: Monday, December 18, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

a Happy and prosperous New Year to all Dial members.

As we all know, the Y2K bug turned out to be more a figment of the imagination than fact. As we enter the new year, lets all pledge to keep ourselves, and our equipment, in the same state of readiness that we achieved this time last year.

Dave would like to remind everyone of the upcoming Amateur Extra license preparation class being planned for next year. Beginning in January, this class will continue for fourteen weeks, concluding with an examination on May 2.. Instruction will be offered in the Morse code (Element 1) and Extra Class theory (Element 4).

Best Season's Greetings .... and ... we hope to see you in class next January.

Dave, KD8W
[ghost-writer K8CM]

Nominations for DIAL Officers for the Year-2001

The report of the nominating committee received at November's meeting lists the following as nominees for 2001. Additional nominations may be received from the floor at the regular December membership meeting.

President	Dave Williamson, KD8W
Vice President	Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Secretary	Ernest W. Howard, Jr., W8EH
Treasurer	Carl Morgan, K8CM
Activities Manager	Tom Snelling, WA8AGQ

Election of officers will be the focus of the December meeting and a great time for you to become involved in the management of your radio club.

Ham Exams in December

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on:

Wednesday evening, December 13, 2000
at 7:00 p.m. in Verity Lodge,
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed prior to the beginning of testing.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number, and the test fee of $6.65.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required ... walk-ins are accepted on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check ($6.65) made payable to the Dial Radio Club. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: David Williamson,

and must arrive no later than Monday, December, 11. ***Please include your telephone number on your check.***

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from David Williamson, KD8W

Ham Classes

Beginning January 17 and continuing through April 25, the ***DIAL RADIO CLUB*** will offer instruction for the Amateur Extra Class amateur license exam. Classes begin at 6pm and conclude at 9. Instruction will include 5WPM Morse instruction and Element 4 theory. All classes meet on Wednesday evenings, in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University.

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of this classes, students are encouraged to purchase the training manual, ***Extra Class License Manual***, published by the *ARRL*. It would be well to read both the Introduction and Chapter 1 before attending the first class.

An amateur radio operator license examinations will be available both midway through the class (March 7) and at it's conclusion (May 2).

Class enrollment will be limited to forty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Miami's Continuing Education office

15th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium

The Fifteenth Annual **Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium** will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2001; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The location is in Thesken Hall, Middletown Campus, Miami University, Middletown (OH) and the admission and parking is free.

Sponsored by The Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University-Middletown, DIAL Radio Club, and The Ohio Packet Council

If you have an interest in CW, RTTY, APRS, Packet Radio, AMTOR, etc., please plan to join us.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 18, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Program chairman for the Year-2001 event is Hank Greeb, N8XX.

Speaking of Band Plans ...

2M BAND PLAN FOR THE CONSIDERATE OPERATOR
(20 KHz spacing below and 15 KHz spacing above 146 MHz)

144.00-144.10	CW & EME operation
144.10-144.20	EME, Weak signal SSB operation
144.20	National SSB calling frequency
144.20-144.275	General SSB operation
144.275-144.30	Propagation beacon operation

(No FM below 144.31 MHz)

144.31-144.49	*	FM Simplex (144.34 ATV, 144.39 APRS)
144.51-144.89		FM Repeater inputs
144.91-145.09	*	Packet, digital & FM simplex operation
145.11-145.49		FM Repeater outputs
145.51-145.80	*	FM simplex, packet, experimental and misc.
145.80-146.00		OSCAR SSB & CW sub-band - SATELLITE USE ONLY
146.01-146.385		FM Repeater inputs
146.40-146.595	*	FM Simplex operation
146.61-146.985		FM Repeater outputs
147.00-147.39		FM Repeater outputs
147.405-147.585	*	FM Simplex operation
147.60-147.99		FM Repeater inputs

* FM simplex areas

Suggested FM simplex channels: (15 KHz spacing)

146.40	146.49	146.58	147.48	147.57
146.415	146.505	146.595	147.495	147.585
146.43	**146.52**	147.405	147.51	
146.445	146.535	147.42	147.525	
146.46	146.55	147.435	147.54	
146.475	146.565	147.465	147.555	

NOTES--
146.52 is the National calling frequency, make contact and move to another recognized simplex channel
147.45 & 144.34 are ATV repeater audio channels

Other optional simplex channels: (20 KHz spacing)
(you may find packet or other operations on these frequencies)

144.31	144.41	145.51	145.61	145.71
	144.43	145.53	145.63	145.73
	144.45	145.55	145.65	145.75
144.37	144.47	145.57	145.67	145.77
	144.49	145.59	145.69	145.79

(144.34 is used for ATV coordination & audio in Dayton)

NOTE:
Per FCC Rule 97.305, you may operate ONLY CW below 144.100 MHz.

[W8EH]

Supreme Court Ends KV4FZ Renewal Saga; ARLB043

The US Supreme Court has put an end to the high-profile license renewal case of Herbert Schoenbohm, KV4FZ, by denying his petition for certiorari. The petition was Schoenbohm's last avenue of legal appeal in the case, which stretches back to 1994. The Supreme Court's decision will put KV4FZ off the air and terminate Schoenbohm's legal efforts to get the FCC to renew his Amateur Radio license.

The Supreme Court announced its latest list of orders October 30. Schoenbohm's case had been on its docket for possible consideration during the court's current term.

Schoenbohm--who lives in the US Virgin Islands--petitioned the high court in August to grant a writ of certiorari calling on the justices to request the record of his case from the US Court of Appeals for review. The Supreme Court offered no comment in turning down Schoenbohm's petition.

Following Schoenbohm's 1992 felony conviction on federal fraud charges, the FCC set his Amateur Radio renewal application for a hearing in 1994. The FCC subsequently turned down his application, citing his conviction and character issues. The US Appeals Court turned down Schoenbohm's request for a rehearing by the full bench after it rejected his appeal of the FCC's decision last February. Schoenbohm has said he was the first amateur to face the loss of his license on the basis of character.

Schoenbohm holds the call signs VP2VFZ, VP2MFZ, VP2EFZ, and PY1ZAI, but he may not use those call signs from US territory.

[ARRL Bulletin]

Former California Ham Agrees to Jail for Unlicensed Operation

Former amateur Richard Allen Burton reportedly has agreed to serve three months in jail for Communications Act violations, pending pre-sentencing and medical reports. Burton, who has a long history of alleged unlicensed operation, was arrested August 5 after his indictment in May by a grand jury for the US District Court for the Central District of California. Sentencing will be in February.

Formerly WB6JAC, Burton faced six felony counts of violating the Communications Act of 1934. The FCC says he operated without a license on repeaters in Southern California after his license was cancelled.

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Burton's General ticket was revoked in 1981. The following year, he was convicted on four counts of transmitting without a license and two counts of transmitting "obscene, indecent or profane words, language or meaning." Burton initially was sentenced to serve six months of an eight year prison term, with the remainder suspended. Upon appeal, the US Ninth District Court of Appeals upheld the unlicensed operation conviction but threw out his obscenity conviction. The FCC says that Burton transmitted without a license while on probation in 1984 and again in 1990 and in 1992. After the second incident, he was fined $2000 and received a year's probation; after the third, he was sentenced to seven months in jail and a year's probation.

In 1992, Burton attempted to get his Amateur Radio license back, but the FCC refused to reinstate him. He was briefly successful in getting a ham ticket in 1996, when he passed a Technician exam at a VE session. The FCC granted Burton a new license and the call sign KF6GKS, which was promptly set aside as soon as the Commission realized its error.

Burton has been free on $20,000 bond. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. A trial had been set for October 3 but was postponed while the plea agreement was being worked out.

[ARRL Web]

Hams on 11 Meters an Enforcement Issue

Recent FCC reports suggest that the operation in and around the 11-meter Citizens Band by licensed amateurs continues to be an enforcement issue. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth thinks he knows why a few hams--who already have extensive spectrum privileges--are drawn to 11 meters.

"I think they feel they can do what they want to, whether it's to cut up or play," he said this week. In addition, Technicians lacking HF privileges may be attempting to skirt that restriction by resorting to 11 meters instead of taking the Morse code test. According to FCC enforcement reports, some Amateur Radio operators have operated on CB channels or between them (the so-called "freeband") using ham gear that is not FCC-licensed or approved for the purpose.

"They think it's not taken seriously," Hollingsworth added. But it is taken seriously, and at least one now-former ham has received a stiff fine as a result of his 11-meter operation.

On July 12, the FCC issued a Forfeiture Order telling Leonard D. Martin, formerly KC5WHN, to pay a $4000 fine for repeated unlicensed operation on 11-meter frequencies and for failing to allow the FCC to inspect his radio equipment.

Martin, a former Technician licensee, first ran afoul of the FCC two years ago. FCC agents using mobile automatic direction finding equipment tracked voice transmissions on 27.370, 27.535 and 27.545 MHz to an antenna at Martin's residence.

Last year, Martin voluntarily turned in his Amateur Radio license for cancellation but he apparently couldn't stay away from 11. Last fall the FCC again tracked transmissions on 27.535 MHz to his residence. He initially faced a $17,000 fine.

This month alone, Hollingsworth sent enforcement letters to am[illegible]r licensees in Georgia and California regarding unlicensed operation in and around 11 meters. Curiously, at least some of the alleged offenders have identified by using Amateur Radio call signs.

While some of the offenders may believe that operating on 11 meters is the functional equivalent of flying under the FCC's radar--thus offering greater freedom in choice of language and discussion topics--Hollingsworth says other amateurs seem to think it's great sport to QRM CBers and freebanders.

"Some are doing it because they don't like what they hear on 11 meters," he said. Hollingsworth says a few amateurs believe they can maliciously interfere with CB and freebanders and not get caught.

In one recent case, Hollingsworth cited "monitoring information before the Commission" alleging that one West Coast ham may have deliberately interfered with other operators by transmitting sound effects as well as using non-FCC-certificated gear or illegal amplifiers.

But whether or not the other stations are operating outside the law is immaterial, Hollingsworth says. "It doesn't matter why they're on there," he says. Hollingsworth points out that the 11-meter Citizens Band is allocated into 40 specific channels, each requiring the use of relatively low-power FCC-certificated equipment. Ham gear [illegible]y not be used on CB under normal circumstances.

Operating on the so-called "freeband" outside of the 40 CB channels raises other legal issues, since those frequencies already are allocated to government and industrial users or as so-called "guard band" channels that help fence off CB and the other services. Transmitting on those frequencies could result in harmful interference. Even worse, if a perpetrator is caught, the fines for unlicensed operation--as already noted--are steep.

The bottom line, Hollingsworth says, is that amateurs should resist any temptation to transmit anywhere on 11 meters unless they're using equipment that's FCC-approved and/or licensed for operation there. Otherwise, they risk fines and possible loss of their amateur tickets.

[ARRL Web]

President Signs CB Enforcement Bill

President Bill Clinton has signed legislation that permits the enforcement of certain FCC Citizens Band regulations by state and local governments. Amateur Radio operators are exempt from the law's provisions.

Congressional lawmakers saw the measure as a way to give a[illegible]

Next Meeting: Monday, December 18, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

to those experiencing radio frequency interference resulting from illegal CB radio operation. The FCC will not yield its authority to regulate Citizens Band or other radio services, however.

In short, the measure authorizes states and localities to enact laws that prohibit the use of unauthorized CB equipment--consistent with FCC regulations. This would include the use of high-power linear amplifiers or equipment that was not FCC-certificated (formerly called "type-accepted").

Specifically, the bill enables state or local regulation over the "use of Citizens Band radio equipment not authorized by the Commission" and "the unauthorized operation of Citizens Band radio equipment" between 24 and 35 MHz. FCC-licensed stations in any radio service--including the Amateur Service--are excluded from such state or local enforcement, and state or local laws enacted under this legislation must identify this exemption.

Anyone affected by the enforcement of such legislation could appeal to the FCC if they believed the state or local government had overstepped its authority under the new law. Any applicable state or local law would not preclude the FCC from enforcing regulations in a given case at the same time.

The new law also says the FCC shall "provide technical guidance to state and local governments regarding the detection and determination of violations" of any regulations localities might enact.

The bill--HR.2346 is the House version; it was S.2767 in the Senate--actually is the old Senate "Feingold bill" from several sessions ago. After introducing his original version a few years back, Wisconsin Sen Russell Feingold requested assistance from the ARRL to rewrite the measure to ensure that licensed hams could not be affected, that the bill featured a wealth of "due process" provisions, and that the concept of federal preemption over telecommunication activities wouldn't be compromised. The bill signed by the President is nearly identical to the Feingold bill.

The bill's sponsor, Rep Vernon Ehlers of Michigan said Amateur Radio operators encouraged him to introduce the measure in the House last year. Ehlers maintained that the local hams asked him to support the bill because of the bad rap they were getting from illegal CBers using high-power linear amplifiers that resulted in TV and telephone interference while the CBers involved hid behind federal preemption.

Ehlers says that when he was contacted initially by a frustrated constituent who had been experiencing TV, radio and cordless telephone interference, he thought the problem was an isolated incident. The CBer in question was using an illegal 100-W amplifier, he said, and the FCC told his constituent that it did not have the personnel to enforce CB lawbreakers around the country. Ehlers says he introduced his bill as a result.

As did Feingold before him, Ehlers asked the ARRL to review his measure to ensure that it would not unintentionally harm Amateur Radio. The bill was amended in the Senate, which made a specific change requested by the American Trucking Association.

The final version contains language with respect to CB gear aboard a "commercial motor vehicle" (as defined in Title 49, °31101 of the US Code) requiring that state or local authorities have probable cause that the vehicle or its operator was in violation of the regulations before they attempt to enforce such a statute. On the House floor, Ehlers said truckers were "worried about perhaps being harassed by improper use of the law."

During discussion of the bill on the House floor--as reported in The Federal Register--one member spoke of "rogue operators" whose routine CB radio operation at excessive power levels left victims "helpless" to defend themselves. "When these operators boost their CB power levels, it often causes bleeding into nearby frequencies," the congressman said.

The bill passed the House under suspension in September, and passed the Senate at the end of October under unanimous consent. The measure went to President Clinton for his signature on November 14.

A copy of the new legislation is available on the ARRLWeb.

[ARRL Web]

All-HAM Crew Settles in aboard ISS

The all-ham crew of US astronaut and ISS Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, now is aboard the International Space Station. After blasting off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan October 31, the crew arrived at the ISS early November 2 aboard a Soyuz vehicle that will remain docked with the space station.

"Give us a fast ship," Shepherd--a Navy captain--was quoted as saying before the launch. Shepherd, 51, is only the second US astronaut to go into space aboard a Russian launch vehicle. The Soyuz lifted off from the same launch pad where the space race began 43 years ago last month with the launch of the Sputnik 1 satellite.

Not long after arriving aboard the ISS, Shepherd asked for and was granted at least temporary permission to dub the new space outpost "Alpha." In a NASA interview, Shepherd said the ISS will give humans "unique access to the space environment where we hope we can do very interesting and productive research." But he and the other Expedition 1 crew members also say they view the ISS as a stepping stone on the pathway to human habitation of space.

"If we don't have this progress with this space station, it means that humans in space are pretty much destined to stay close to the Earth, and I don't think that's what humans are about," Shepherd said.

The Expedition 1 crew's four-month stay in the station will begin the permanent human habitation of space. NASA said the crew's first tasks would be to activate the station's food warmer, set up the sleeping quarters and perform communications checks with flight controllers in the US and Russia.
"This is a huge, huge event," said US Astronaut Frank Culbertson, who directed the joint US-Russia program to put American astronauts aboard the Russian Mir space station in the 1990s. Culbertson is set to command a space station mission of his own next year. Yuri Semenov, who heads the Russian Energia company that built the Russian ISS modules, called it "a historical, remarkable day."

The crew has a busy schedule that primarily involves getting the ISS up and running for future research activities. Amateur Radio operation is not expected to commence until mid-month, although the crew is said to be enthusiastic about firing up the initial Amateur Radio on the International Space Station--or ARISS--gear. Once installed temporarily aboard the Zarya module, the equipment will provide FM voice and packet capability on 2 meters.

Tentative operating frequencies are: Worldwide downlink for voice and packet, 145.80 MHz; worldwide packet uplink, 145.99 MHz; Region 1 (Europe) voice uplink: 145.20 MHz; Region 2 and 3 voice uplink, 144.49 MHz. Crew members may use their personal call signs or one of the "club station" call signs issued for ISS use--NA1SS, RZ3DZR, or DL0ISS.

The Keplerian elements bulletin from ARRL now includes data for the International Space Station.

Expedition 1 is scheduled to leave the station next February, when the three-member Expedition 2 crew arrives on STS-102. When it's completed in 2006, the ISS will be one of the brightest objects in the night sky and be as roomy as a jumbo jet.

For ARISS information and updates, visit the ARISS Web site, ***http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/.***

[ARRL Letter]

That's My Girl, my Whole World, but That Ain't my Call Sign

The call sign server on ***QRZ.com*** - -the Ham Radio SuperSite – burped on a bad call sign update file from the FCC October 24. As a result, call sign and licensee data often did not jibe.

Although requests for W1AW and K1ZZ returned the correct information, entering the call sign of ARRL Field & Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, for example, yielded another White altogether – and his name is Daryl who lives in Alabama (actually KD4OOA). The ***QRZ.com*** database showed that the call sign of ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, was assigned to a fellow named Aaron in Kentucky whose Novice license already had expired.

For the unsuspecting, it was an early Halloween scare. "We had an ARRL member call in a state of panic because he thought his call had been mistakenly issued to someone else," said ARRL Lab Test Engineer Michael Tracy, KC1SX.

QRZ.com's Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, said October 25 in a announcement on the site that the FCC database update his call sign server used "was totally scrambled and as a result some 140,000 call signs on the QRZ database were incorrectly modified." Once made aware of the problem, QRZ.com was able to restore its call sign database using a backup file. "In the meantime, however, we're not loading anything else from the FCC until they can explain what happened," Lloyd said. Spot checks of several other Web call sign servers turned up no problems.

ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said the FCC posted a full update file Tuesday morning that included October 23 transactions. The corrupted file, supposedly a daily update file with FCC transactions for Monday, October 23, was posted about an hour later. Jahnke said the ARRL call sign server ignored the second file because the system is programmed to first check to see that the file actually represents an update from the current file. Daily and weekend FCC updates and public data downloads had not run from last Thursday until Monday while the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau deployed the second phase of the Universal Licensing System for Land Mobile Radio Services.

[ARRL Letter]

Board to Consider Mores Code Policy Review

The ARRL Board of Directors will review the League's position on the Morse code as an international licensing requirement when it gathers for its annual meeting in January. Because the issue is expected to come up at the IARU Region 2 Conference next October, the ARRL Executive Committee decided at its November 11 meeting in Irving, Texas, to place the issue on the Board's January agenda.

The ARRL's Morse policy was formalized by Board resolution in 1993. It supports the retention in the International Radio Regulations of the provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. Consistent with that policy, ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote earlier this year at the IARU Region 3 Conference in Australia on a motion calling for the eventual elimination of Morse as an ITU requirement for HF operation.

In January, the Board may decide to reaffirm this policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of members has supported the policy.

The Executive Committee also proposed that the Board determine a process for soliciting membership input on possible re-partitioning of the HF bands in restructuring's wake. As part of its ori l

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restructuring package, the League had proposed "refarming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. The FCC has declined to take up any possible re-partitioning, however, until it's had a chance to gauge the effects of restructuring. Amateur Radio license restructuring became effective last April 15.

In other action, Stafford and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported briefly on preparations for WRC-2003. Stafford is focusing on developing support for the Amateur Radio 7 MHz position within Region 2. The IARU seeks a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner has been named to the core IARU delegation to that conference.

The Executive Committee also heard a wide-ranging update of other FCC matters, including the League's efforts to gain primary amateur status at 2400 to 2402 MHz and at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

Sumner observed during the meeting that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills--HR 783 and S 2183--were not likely to be enacted during the "lame duck" session of Congress that's just ahead. Principal sponsors of both bills are returning to Congress in January and may be asked to reintroduce the legislation.

The Executive Committee also briefly discussed legislative restrictions on the use of cell phones that have been popping up in various localities. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, noted that an effort is under way in New Jersey to exempt Amateur Radio operation from the effects of such legislation

[ARRL Letter]

ARRL VEC Anticipates $10 Test Fee for 2001

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the ARRL VEC plans to set its test fee for calendar year 2001 at $10. The current fee of $6.65 is based on a provision in the Communications Act, adopted in 1984, that established a $4 cap on reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs with an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. More recent legislation removed this cap. An FCC announcement of changes in its rules, reflecting the change in the law, is expected toward the end of the year.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the higher fee reflects the fact that the ARRL VEC is doing more of the work on behalf of the FCC than was envisioned at the time Congress set the original cap. "We're doing the data entry for all new and upgrade license applications that are handled by the ARRL Volunteer Examiners," Sumner explained. "Originally, we simply reviewed and organized the paperwork and the FCC staff did the data entry. The current system is better for the applicants because they get their licenses faster, but it's also more costly for us."

Jahnke said a $10 ARRL VEC test fee will be formalized as soon as FCC gives the word that it has made the necessary adjustments to Part 97 to bring it in line with the updated Communications Act. As soon as that happens, the ARRL VEC will make a formal announcement to establish the new fee. Until then, ARRL VEC volunteer examiners will continue to charge applicants at the 2000 test fee rate of $6.65.

[ARRL Letter]

New reflector at QTH.NET

There is a new reflector on-line; ***freebay@qth.net***

Why that name? Just an attempt at ham-geek humor and to make it easy to remember.<grin>

The rules for the list are simple every thing listed there is FREE. The only discussion of money allowed are shipping costs! Please pass this info on to your radio club or other reflectors to which you belong.

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Next Meeting: Monday, December 18, *Old Country Buffet*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

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This mailing list is sponsored by Al Waller (K3TKJ). Please refer to: ***http://www.qth.net/*** Please address any questions to: k3tkj@qsl.net

73, Al *[via e-mail from W8EH]*

Former Flash Comm Seeks to Expand HF Messaging System

The FCC is seeking comments by December 18 on a proposal to expand a nationwide, commercial two-way short-data messaging system it authorized on a conditional basis three years ago. Terion Inc--formerly known as Flash Comm Inc--has filed with the FCC to modify its conditional authorization. The company also seeks to obtain "a renewal expectancy."

The company earlier this year filed an application to modify station WPKU683 in the Business Radio Service. In July 1997, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau conditionally granted authority to Flash Comm Inc to construct and operate--on a secondary basis--a nationwide, commercial two-way short-data messaging system that operated in the 3-30 MHz range, subject to certain conditions. The system uses discrete channels between 3.170 and 25.037 MHz. The frequencies the system uses do not fall in any current ham bands, but some are close, and the ARRL strenuously objected to the plan when it was first proposed. The ARRL plans to file comments this time around as well.

According to its latest application, Terion wants to increase the amount of authorized spectrum from 2.862 MHz (954 channels) to 11.448 MHz (3816 channels). It also wants the FCC to approve increasing the total HF energy transmitted each day from 2 million to 8 million watt-seconds and to increase the aggregate transmissions per hour from one percent (36 seconds) to four percent (144 seconds).

The company says it wants to "obtain a renewal expectancy in the event it provides a showing of substantial service" prior to the expiration of its five-year conditional authorization in order to eliminate the need for a separate rulemaking proceeding.

Comments on the requests are due by December 18, 2000. Reply comments are due by January 2, 2001. Commenters should reference DA-00-2600. Under the Flash Comm/Terion system, so-called "intelligent transceiver units" are installed on vehicles and structures. Transmitted data enable the service to track the location or monitor the status of each "asset." Transmissions are in short bursts averaging two seconds on HF channels the system selects automatically as being unoccupied. Radiated power currently may not exceed 1 W, although individual transmitter outputs could be as high as 15 W. At the time it granted the conditional authority, it said authorizing the system would provide valuable data for the FCC to evaluate plans to establish permanent rules for these sorts of operations.

The original conditional go-ahead came despite objections from the ARRL and several other parties, including Globe Wireless, Aeronautical Radio Inc, and the Defense Information Systems Agency. The ARRL's primary objection stemmed from the fact that some of the frequencies the system planned to use fall within potential HF band expansions at 30, 20 and 17 meters and close to a potential new ham band at or near 5 MHz.

In granting the conditional authorization, the FCC said Flash Comm presented "a compelling case" that the new service "will be a unique and cost-effective way to monitor public and private property and infrastructure." The authorization, which involved some rules waivers, is for five years. Flash Comm/Terion has petitioned the FCC to establish rules to provide regular authorization of this type of service.

[ARRL Web]

Year-2001 Dues

2001 dues are now due. There was no change in the 2000 dues structure; annual dues remain at $26 for repeater and $12 for basic membership.

If you have paid your dues, thank you *and* your new membership card will be mailed soon.

If not, a renewal form is included with this newsletter; you may also refer to this issue's address label for your current membership year. ***Please complete and include this form*** with your dues payment; it will be retained as a part of the Club's records.

Next Meeting

There will be no speaker for the December meeting. The major business activity will be election of officers for the year 2001. Prior to voting, additional nominations may be taken from the floor.

Our meeting time is 7pm (6pm if you are coming for dinner) and will be at the *Old Country Buffet* on Roosevelt Avenue in Middletown. ***See you at the meeting!***

December 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL					1	2
3	4	5	6 General License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	7 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	8	9 **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
10	11	12	13 **Ham License Examinations** 7pm Verity Lodge	14 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	15	16
17	18 **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	19	20	21 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	22	23
24	25 **Merry Christmas**	26	27	28 **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	29	30
31 **Happy New Year**	*Have a safe and enjoyable New Yea's celebration.*					

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH

January 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 **New Year's Day**	**2**	**3**	**4** **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	**5**	**6**
7	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11** **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	**12**	**13** **BCVHFA** License Exams - 9am **OH-KY-IN** Fox Hunt - 10am
14	**15** **Dial Meeting** 7pn Old Country Buffet Dinner at 6pm	**16**	**17** Amateur Extra License Class Begins 6pm Verity Lodge	**18** **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	**19**	**20**
21	**22**	**23**	**24** Amateur Extra License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	**25** **Net Tonight** 9pm W8BLV/R	**26**	**27**
28	**29**	**30**	**31** Amateur Extra License Class 6pm Verity Lodge	***The 15th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium will be held in Thesken Hall, Miami University-Middletown, on Saturday, January 13, 2001, 0900-1600 EST. Parking and admission is free. Plan to attend and learn more about digital amateur communications techniques.***		

Dial Radio Club, Middletown, OH