

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

Vol. MCMXCIX No X Rptr: W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHz - Club Str: WA6NKK Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The October 1999 Meeting...

Where: SPACE SYSTEMS/LORAL
Bld 3 Auditorium

When: Thursday, 7 October 1999
High Noon

Subject: Business

REPEATER
REPEATER
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REPEATER

NEW AUTODIAL & AUTOPATCH OPERATION

When SPARK and SARS first started making the Emergency Autodial available to the general ham community, there was concern expressed that the phone line would be abused. The repeater controller has only ten slots designated as "Emergency Autodial", so we decided to try to make those ten slots available to the general public on a trial basis. That trial was a success. The ham community liked the idea that there was another machine in the area besides the 145.270 repeater where they could place emergency calls to CHP. Since the emergency autodial was used responsibly, we subsequently allocated 90+ slots of the controller's regular autodial for emergency numbers. We provided access to fire and police departments for most of the Bay Area cities on both sides of the Bay from San Jose in the south to San Francisco and Berkeley in the north, in addition to several sheriffs' offices, park rangers, college campus security services, emergency road service, and other useful agencies. To try to ensure that only licensed hams would use the phone patch, we required anyone who wanted a copy of the emergency autodial codes to send in a copy of their ham license along with a SASE.

This seemed like a reasonable approach to ensure responsible use of the phone line without abuse. Years ago, as I was driving into Palm Springs, CA to visit my parents who were wintering there, I needed to call them for directions. I gave a call on the local repeater and asked if someone could make a local call for me. To my surprise, I was told that I could do it myself on the repeater; simply hit * (star) to bring up the patch, and when I was finished, hit # (pound) to terminate the patch. It was a great system. The responsibility and trust of the ham community was obvious. It was a shame we could not do the same thing here, but we hoped that requiring the copy of the ham license would minimize potential problems.

This system worked well for many years. Trouble began when someone who did not identify dialed up various police agencies (in particular the jammer seemed to like #77) and either let the phone hang and/or used foul language, and did this repeatedly. That person ended up in jail due to other "anti-social" behavior not related to ham radio. All was quiet for a while. After serving his time, he was released. About a year ago, someone started dialing

911 and doing similar things. We tried various devices to trap the 911 calls and prevent them from going through. The best such a unit was able to do was to hang up the call AFTER it had already rung at the 911 switchboard. Since the jamming was apparently done via the autopatch, many months ago we were forced to turn off the autopatch capability.

On September 24th, I was in a seminar most of the day and was unable to monitor the repeater. I subsequently found out that someone had repeatedly dialed up #77 on the emergency autodial and either let the phone hang, played touch tones, or did other unacceptable things. The emergency autodial numbers take the caller directly to the 911 dispatch center. The center knows immediately what phone number originated the call. We needed to do something immediately to prevent losing our phone line, or having the FCC put restrictions on our repeater operation.

In an effort to prevent adverse effects to SPARK, SARS, or our companies, and to prevent further crank calls to emergency agencies, I have had to disable the emergency autopatch.

Until we come up with a better way of handling the situation, all patch activities will remain off unless turned on by a control operator who is able to actively monitor the repeater during the call and is ready at an instant's notice to terminate any bogus call. **So, effective immediately, any club member who wishes to place an autopatch call may ask a control operator on the air to enable the autopatch.** Similarly, any ham can request a control operator to enable the emergency autodial. IF there is a control operator monitoring, the phone connection will be enabled for the duration of the call, but then disabled to prevent disturbing emergency agencies.

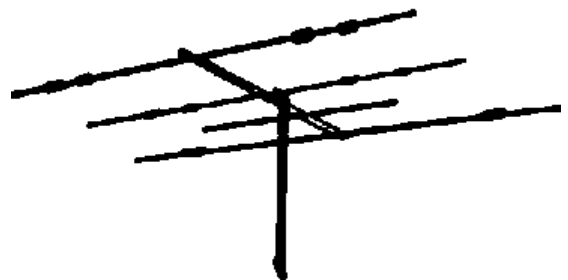
This is not the way I'd like to see our machine operate. I'd much prefer the open access we enjoyed for years, but until the FCC acts to stop the jammers, we need to protect ourselves and prevent crank calls to the 911 dispatch offices that might take their time from a real emergency. If anyone has a suggestion of a better way to prevent the crank calls, please contact me.

73 de, Rich, W6APZ, e-mail: w6apz@arrl.net

The Prez Sez...

No Report

73 de Jack



A Note From the Treasurer

Dues are due. In fact, dues are always due, unless you've paid them. Even so, they'll be due again soon. However, they are still value priced at US\$10.00. Though I would be most happy to see you at the meetings, you may also send them in to me at:

Rolf Klubo
3825 Fabian Way, MS G-16
Palo Alto, CA 94303

The Klub now has copies of the 1999 Northern California (repeater) Directory, compiled by NARCC, the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California. It also includes Band Plans and a Coordination Policy Manual. These Directories are available for free to all paid up members of SPARK. I can send them through the company mail or you can pick them up at the meetings. Just let me know.

I went through the equipment insurance list and reduced the insured equipment as was discussed at the July meeting. With the reduction, and the addition of our new 2-meter equipment, our yearly payment was reduced to \$135 from \$208.

Do you know about, or are operating on:
APRS?
PSK31?
Let me know.
Thanks and 73 de Rolf, N6NFI

FCC's ULS Social Security Number Usage May Be Unlawful

**Another HRO Exclusive Report
Reported By Ed Mitchell, KF7VY, <http://hamradio-online.com>**

On the heels of the revelation that most of the FCC's Universal Licensing System cannot be accessed with Microsoft's Internet Explorer or also versions of Netscape less than version 4.61), comes accusations that the FCC's demand for an applicant's Social Security number (SSN) in the ULS may be unlawful.

In the United States, a unique Social Security number is issued to citizens soon after birth. The SSN number is used to track collections of what are effectively tax payments to and from the Social Security system, tax payments to the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes. In many respects, the SSN has become a de facto national identification card, which is an issue of concern to civil libertarians and those that have concerns over personal privacy. Because of such concerns, The Privacy Act of 1974 forbids government agencies from denying services because a person refuses to provide a SSN. Congress must first pass a law authorizing the agency to demand the SSN before the Privacy Act can be set aside. And this is where, say some Amateurs, the FCC is violating the intent of Congress, in demanding an SSN number from Amateur licensees.

The FCC claims that the U.S. Debt Improvement Act of 1996 authorizes it to collect the SSN from anyone "doing business" with the FCC. The FCC claims that hams, by virtue of applying for or modifying an Amateur license are "doing business" with the FCC. But some Amateurs say the FCC is misreading and misapplying the Debt Act, and is improperly claiming that Amateurs are "doing business" with the FCC. The Debt Act states there must be a potential debt repayment responsibility - translated into English,

that means a business transaction involving payment of funds. While licensees and license applicants are assessed "fees", fees do not meet the Debt Act's requirement, they say, to collect a SSN number.

The FCC, on the other, says that it believes its use of the SSN meets the intent and purpose of the Debt Collection Act, and that it is authorized to collect and use the SSN as a universal identifier in its license database. The FCC claims that the SSN will appear only in an encrypted form (however, this is not reassuring since encryption codes today are often quickly cracked)...

You can also see the original wording in the official government statute available online through the Government Printing Office copy of the statutes at (will open in a new browser window): http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/toGPO/http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=104_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ134.104.pdf

Meanwhile, Amateur's using the new ULS, must register their SSN with the FCC or the license will not be issued or renewed. Those that oppose this measure - or which oppose the FCC's ULS not working with an estimate 4 out of 5 applicants, due to problems with their ULS implementation working on with Netscape version 4.61 - should contact their Congressional Representatives.

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FCC's Universal Licensing System Does Not Work With Microsoft's Internet Explorer

**Another HRO Exclusive Report
Reported By Ed Mitchell, KF7VY, <http://hamradio-online.com>**

You must use the FCC's online Universal Licensing Systems to apply for an Amateur Radio license or request a change of address. But, unlike commercial web sites, the FCC's system only works with the Netscape Internet browser and does not work with Microsoft's Internet Explorer, requiring Amateurs to spend up to 3 hours downloading Netscape before using the ULS.

Mark Schmidt, Director of Information Services for Heritage Broadcasting, wrote an e-mail to the FCC asking about problems using Internet Explorer with the new Universal Licensing System. The FCC replied, via e-mail, on September 15th, confirming that the ULS only works with the Netscape browser. Amateurs will thus be required to download the Netscape browser (which takes up to 3 hours using a modem connection) in order to process Amateur license applications and changes.

Currently, in a separate legal proceeding, the government's Department of Justice alleges that Internet Explorer is the dominant browser in use. Mark alleges that the FCC's favoritism towards Netscape could possibly be illegal.

The text of the letter received by Mark Schmidt, follows, and explains the FCC's rationale behind requiring the use of Netscape.

From: David Furth
Sent: Wednesday, 15 September, 1999 1:20 PM
To: Mark Schmidt
Subject: E-mail from Mark Schmidt re ULS

Mr. Schmidt:

Commissioner Powell forwarded your e-mail below to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Task Force for response.

In your e-mail, you question why ULS is accessible via Netscape but not via Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE). As you are probably aware, Netscape and IE have certain programming differences that require on-line service providers to set up a

separate front-end interface for each. At the time that ULS was initially designed several years ago, Netscape was the most widely-used browser in the market and was capable of supporting the Java-based features of ULS. Therefore, the Commission staff elected to make ULS Netscape-compatible. The staff further concluded that both budget limitations and technical considerations (particularly IE/Java compatibility issues beyond the Commission's control) precluded developing a separate ULS interface for IE. Therefore, while IE users can access ULS for certain purposes, such as license and application search, ULS does not currently support on-line filing by IE users. As browser technology improves, the ULS Task Force is continuing to explore ways to make ULS compatible with both Netscape and IE. In particular, the staff has initiated discussions with Microsoft to determine whether recent upgrades of IE could make development of a front-end interface in ULS easier and more cost-effective. We will continue to keep ULS users and the public informed of developments in this area.

I hope this is responsive to your inquiry.

David Furth

Co-Chair, ULS Task Force

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Federal Communications Commission

ARRL Pacific Division Update

October 1999

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL

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Pacific Division Hams Eat Smoke, Help Save Life:-

Hams in Northern California continue to assist US Forest Service and state fire fighters battling forest fires resulting from dry conditions. Plumas County RACES has been with three fires and is going on three weeks of continuous duty with just one day off. "We are still working with the Forest Service at the Fire Information Center at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy," said Bonnie van Bergen, KE6POO, who is among a group of RACES members on the scene. Among them is her husband, Chief RACES Officer Van van Bergen, WD6FGB. Quincy is located in Northern California west of Reno, Nevada, near the Plumas National Forest.

Earlier this week, the US Forest Service was mopping up the Bucks, Pidgeon, and Lookout fires. The Bucks fire alone burned more than 35,000 acres and was reported not yet totally contained as of Friday, September 17.

Besides praising the hams for their help in keeping open the lines of communication in difficult terrain, the Forest Service also credited hams with helping to save the life of a firefighter. During the Bucks Fire on September 4, the firefighter received multiple bee stings and went into anaphylactic shock. Firefighter Jim Monty, N6DVR, who was with the injured firefighter at the time, administered epinephrine and unsuccessfully tried to call for help on a hand-held radio and a cellular telephone. Monty, the Fire Marshal for the Manteca-Lathrop Rural Fire Protection District, then switched to the amateur repeater frequency - 145.47 MHz - that he'd thought to program into his fire radio. Back at the Fire Information Center, the van Bergens heard the transmission and relayed the message. A rescue helicopter was dispatched promptly to transport the victim to the hospital.

"It is quite possible that the radio operators helped save this firefighter's life," the US Forest Service report said. "Special thanks to Jim and the eight RACES hams who have volunteered so

many hours and helped fill the holes in our communications network."

Late last week, hams in the Shasta Dam area of Northern California wound up their support of fire fighting efforts there, according to Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Boyd, K6BZ. "A couple more fires broke out, and we still have temperatures near 100 with no break in sight, so we could be back," he said earlier this week.

Amateurs had been assisting the California Division of Forestry/Fire Protection with communications in the affected counties. Chief fire officers were "shadowed" by hams to insure they had communications capabilities. Fire emergency command and control centers used hams as did evacuation centers in several jurisdictions.

Boyd reports that more than 200 federal, state, and local firefighters worked the High Fire north of Shasta Lake and the Mammoth Fire west of Shasta lake with the help of National Guard helicopters and C-130 tankers.

Boyd reports that 86 ARES members from Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama and Butte counties assisted the firefighters.

At one point, more than 400 separate fires were raging in Northern California. The latest fires were a result of thunderstorms producing what's called "dry lightning" with numerous ground strikes and no rain to stop the fires the lightning started.

Great work!

Thanks to Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, Ev Gracey, WA6CBS, and Bonnie van Bergen, KE6POO

NOTE: Versions of this story have appeared in the Sacramento CA Bee and the Manteca CA Bulletin.

No Word Yet on Amateur License Restructuring:-

An FCC staff member says the Commission staff is "diligently working" toward getting a Report and Order on Amateur Radio license restructuring out the door. But beyond that, the FCC staffer - who did not want to be identified by name - said it was impossible to predict when that would happen. Rumors aside, the FCC official said that Commission rules prevent "revealing any information about internal thinking or scheduling" on the restructuring question.

The proceeding - known formally as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143) - must jump through a number of hoops within the FCC bureaucracy. The FCC's move last spring into consolidated offices at The Portals also disrupted routine work flow.

A year ago, the FCC proposed phasing out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place - Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements, but offered no specific recommendations of its own.

The previous month, the ARRL Board of Directors issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also called for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional spectrum for higher- class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license would remain unchanged, and the General would become the entry-level ticket for those interested in HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

"We are simply in that period of time when no information is available," the FCC staff member said. "This is a normal part of the Commission's quasi- judicial decision-making process and a necessary part of being objective and fair to all."

The FCC staff member said that although comments and reply comments are in - some 2300 comments were filed in the proceeding, mostly by individual amateurs more late-filed ones continue to turn up. He said the FCC staff "is working on resolving this docket" along with its other tasks.

Before the long-awaited Report and Order sees the light of day, the Wireless Bureau staff first must digest the comments. Then, the staff will circulate its recommendations to the Commissioners. The Commissioners and their staff will mull the WTB input and accept a plan that quite likely represents a compromise.

The ultimate FCC decision will come either at the Commission's monthly meeting or it will be handled "on circulation" - outside of an actual meeting. A Public Notice will be issued, and the actual Report and Order will follow. The bottom line is that Amateur Radio operators will have to wait a few weeks or a few months longer before the restructuring issue is resolved.

"No one wants this proceeding decided more than we do," the FCC staff member concluded. To which most hams would shout a resounding "Amen!"

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

ULS Slowly Smoothing Out Amateur Service Wrinkles:-

Good news! The FCC has processed a backlog of several hundred applications - some dating back to early August - transmitted by those Volunteer Examiner Coordinators able to file with the new Universal Licensing System. More good news: It appears that the various ULS Public Access Transaction files - commonly called ZIP or update files - now are available. Web call sign servers use the ZIP files to post current Amateur Radio licensee data on their sites.

Many hams are relishing their new call signs or upgraded privileges granted since the processing logjam brought about by the ULS implementation in mid-August was cleared. Adam Kittle, KD5IBG, of Converse, Texas, had to wait three weeks from exam session to the day his new call sign was granted on August 27. Many more new call signs were granted recently and this week as the FCC caught up with the remaining backlog. Floyd Brown of Norcross, Georgia, snagged his snazzy KG4EME call sign on September 1. Once the ULS is running smoothly, the FCC hopes to process applications nearly as soon as they are received, cutting the typical wait to just a few days.

No vanity call signs have apparently been issued since August 4, and there is still no word from the FCC as to when vanity call sign processing will resume. The ULS accepts vanity applications, however.

Although it's not nearly as convenient to use as the typical Web call sign server, applicants can obtain their new call signs or upgrades from the ULS, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, by clicking on "License Search" and inputting their name - as it appeared on their application - or call sign. To confirm license class and reveal additional data, users must click on the pulldown menu labeled "License Options" on the bottom of the screen, click on "Amateur Administration" and click "Go." Amateurs may have to wait a bit longer before doing a Web call sign lookup on one of the Web call sign servers such as UALR, QRZ.com, WM7D.net, or the FCC Transaction Search on ARRLWeb. The FCC first attempted to post a full update ZIP file three weeks ago, but the file was corrupt. Another attempt two weeks ago to post a complete update appears to have been successful, however. The FCC has issued a revised file specification for the ZIP files, however, so call sign servers may have to modify the program routines they use to grab the data each day from the FCC's server.

The ULS Task Force says it's tackling issues like these that are being brought to its attention. "We are good at taking criticism and at making improvements," a spokesperson said. The Task Force said ULS Public Access Transaction files will be created each day.

The FCC now has requested that applicants needing to obtain an Assigned Taxpayer Identification Number or having other "administrative" questions about the ULS contact the FCC Call Center, toll-free, at 888-CALL FCC (225-5322) and press menu item 2 (those calling from outside the US should dial +1-202-418-

0190). Club station trustees must continue to file on Form 610B, and hams who are trustees for more than one club station need to obtain a separate ATIN for each club.

Users with technical questions dealing with the mechanics of ULS registration or access, or having browser problems, should continue to contact ULS Tech Support at 202-414-1250; ulscomm@fcc.gov.

The FCC says the ULS dial-up access has been upgraded to support 56k modems. In the wake of comments and criticisms about the difficulty of having to configure a dial-up connection with a particular browser to file an application, the ULS Task Force says it's planning to convert to electronic filing via the Internet "sometime after the first of the year."

NOTE: September QST carried information on ULS in the Washington Mailbox column on page 85. There is an update in Happenings on pages 68 - 69 in the October QST.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

Year 2000 Brings New Pacific Division Leadership:-

As announced publicly several weeks ago, I am retiring as ARRL Pacific Division Director on Dec. 31, 1999, at the end of this term. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, the current ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director, was nominated for Director for the new term starting Jan. 1, 2000. As he was the only candidate nominated, he has now become the ARRL Pacific Division Director - Elect and will become the Director starting Jan. 1, 2000.

There are three nominees for the Vice Director position (in alphabetic order by last name): Jettie Hill, W6RFF, John Ronan, K3ZJJ, and Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

ARRL Pacific Division Full Members will be mailed ballots from HQ not later than Oct. 1, 1999, and, to be valid, must be received at HQ by noon Eastern Time on Friday, Nov. 19, 1999.

FCC Relaxes Rules for Spread Spectrum:-

The FCC has relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs and opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication. The Report and Order in WT Docket 97-12 adopted August 31 concludes a proceeding that originated with an ARRL petition in December 1995 and has been pending since 1997.

The FCC adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio stations to transmit additional spread spectrum emission types. Once the new rules become effective November 1, hams will be able to use techniques other than frequency hopping and direct sequence spreading. In addition, the new FCC rules will permit US hams to use spread spectrum techniques to communicate with amateurs in other countries that permit SS. Spread spectrum communication has been limited to stations within FCC jurisdiction.

The new rules require that spread spectrum stations running more than 1 W incorporate automatic transmitter power control. Amateur stations using SS are restricted to a maximum power of 100 W.

The Commission also amended the rules to eliminate what it called "now-unnecessary record keeping and station identification requirements" that apply only to stations using spread spectrum. The FCC agreed to let SS stations identify themselves using conventions developed by the Amateur Radio community.

Roanoke Division Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, who has followed the League's Spread Spectrum initiative through from start to finish was pleased with the outcome of the proceeding. "I'm very happy," he said. "The League got everything it wanted and more - all of which, I believe, will help to promote this mode on the amateur bands."

Stations employing spread spectrum techniques will remain secondary to - and must accept all interference from - stations employing other authorized modes. The FCC declined to authorize the use of spread spectrum techniques on additional bands or frequencies.

A copy of the FCC's complete Report and Order is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt97-12>.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

ARRL Task Force Seeks Future Technology Proposals:-

The ARRL Technology Task Force wants to hear from hams with ideas and proposals for new technology to carry Amateur Radio into the next century. The ARRL Board of Directors created the Task Force and the companion Technology Working Group last January, and ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has appointed a number of leading amateurs to serve on both panels. The Task Force and the Working Group will work hand-in-hand to identify, evaluate, and promote the most promising 21st Century technologies for Amateur Radio.

The Task Force consists of members of the ARRL Board family and the Headquarters staff. Chairing the Task Force is ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Other TTF members are Roanoke Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF; Hudson Director Frank Fallon, N2FF; New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; Southwestern Vice Director Art Goddard, W6XD; Pacific Director-elect (and current Vice Director) Jim Maxwell, W6CF; International Affairs Vice President Larry Price, W4RA; and Rocky Mountain Director Walt Stinson, W0CP.

The Technology Working Group will evaluate technical proposals and make recommendations to the Technology Task Force, which, in turn, will make specific policy proposals to the ARRL Board of Directors.

The Working Group is an expert panel selected from among League members representing a broad spectrum of Amateur Radio interests and activities. Chairing the Working Group is CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Other members are AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF; Peter Coffee, AC6EN, a computer industry analyst; Mike Cook, AF9Y, Engineering Director of Communications Systems Engineering, ITT Aerospace/Communications Division; Gene McGahey, NR0NR, Deputy Manager of Communications Technology, NLECTC (NIJ/DOJ); ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; Dennis Silage, K3DS, a Temple University professor involved in digital communications; and QEX Editor Doug Smith, KF6DX.

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, will serve as ARRL HQ staff liaison to both committees.

The Task Force invites information and concepts on a wide range of technologies with the potential to improve Amateur Radio and to promote what the FCC calls "continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The Task Force invites the submission of ideas and proposals from all parts of the amateur community, and will use the input to help formulate League policy recommendations on a wide range of technical issues.

Amateurs are invited to complete the form on ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ttf/>, send e-mail to the Task Force at tffinput@arrl.org, or offer your ideas by mail to the ARRL Technology Task Force, c/o Ed Hare, W1RFI, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Suggestions are requested by November 30, 1999.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

FCC Sets Sights on Beefed-up 10-Meter Enforcement:-

The FCC's Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says hams can expect more rigorous enforcement on 10 meter issues next year. Over the Labor Day weekend, Hollingsworth told visitors to the Shelby Hamfest in North Carolina that the next area of enforcement would be the encroachment of unlicensed individuals into the 10-meter band and a crackdown on illegal RF amplifiers. His announcement drew loud applause from the Shelby crowd.

Hollingsworth elaborated on the comments this week in an interview concerning this and other enforcement issues.

"We're coming on to ten months of rejuvenated amateur enforcement now, and two issues are clear - two areas we need to really crank up on next year," Hollingsworth said. "One is the incursion into 10 meters by unlicensed operators - CBers and so forth. The other is sales of illegal equipment on the Internet and at hamfests."

At Shelby, Hollingsworth told the crowd that he'd spotted more illegal equipment at Shelby that he'd seen last May at the Dayton Hamvention. At the Hamvention, FCC Field Office personnel from Detroit warned several vendors about potential violations involving RF amplifiers.

The Shelby Hamfest, held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, is best known for its flea market, not for its forums, but Hollingsworth still managed to draw a standing-room-only crowd for his Sunday morning presentation. After addressing the overflow forum audience, Shelby Hamfest organizers hastily scheduled a second forum and rearranged the room to gain more seating. Hollingsworth was scheduled to appear at the Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach September 18-19.

Hollingsworth says his recent enforcement initiative aimed at call sign hoarders has met with some success. "I appreciate the people who have come in on their own and either turned in or trimmed down the number of club call signs that they had," he said this week. During a two-week period in late August, Hollingsworth said 43 call signs voluntarily were turned back to the FCC without any prompting.

Hollingsworth says he's received replies from all of the letters the FCC has sent to multiple call sign holders, including members of the Tucker family in La Mirada, California. On June 30, the FCC requested that family patriarch Roy T. Tucker, N6TK, and other licensees in the Tucker family provide justification in writing for the two dozen or so club call signs held by various family members.

"I have about a half a dozen cases in the hopper," Hollingsworth said of the call sign inquiries initiative, but added that he's deferring judgment on whether the message has gotten across to the amateur community. "I would like to think so," he said, "but I won't know until I've seen these responses." His stack includes replies from the Tucker family, who have hired an attorney to handle the FCC inquiry.

Hollingsworth says he's optimistic that an anticipated FCC internal reorganization that will create a new Enforcement Bureau will occur no later than the end of the year but could be as early as October 1--the start of the new federal fiscal year. Hollingsworth has assured that the change will have no effect on Amateur Radio enforcement efforts.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin and John Kanode, N4MM, ARRL Roanoke Division Director.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Log:-

The following is a representative listing of recent reports on Amateur Radio enforcement-related actions in the Pacific Division from the files of the FCC Compliance and Information Bureau:

NOTE: Enforcement actions taken by FCC outside the Pacific Division can be found at the ARRL website (http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement_logs/) and for the very latest news, on the ARRL members only website (<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/extra/>)

NOTE: Issuance by the FCC of a Warning Notice indicates that the FCC has what it believes to be reliable evidence of possible rules infractions and not necessarily that the recipient has violated FCC rules. The FCC has the authority, pursuant to Paragraph 97.519(d)(2) of the rules to readminister any examination element previously administered by a volunteer examiner. This Enforcement Log is representative of recent Warning Notices, Notices of Violation, calls for retesting, and other FCC communications to licensees involving possible serious rules violations. It is not a comprehensive listing.

MENLO PARK, CA: The FCC on Aug. 18, issued a Warning Letter to William A. Eitner, KD6TAS, for recent apparent deliberate and malicious interference with the K7IJ repeater.

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa: The FCC on Aug. 18 requested Leonard J. Pringle, KH8A, to justify the nine club call signs granted to him. The FCC said it will cancel all of the listed call signs if Pringle does not respond satisfactorily within 30 days. The FCC also requested that Pringle list any other club station call signs assigned to him.

OAKLAND, CA: The FCC on Aug. 30, notified Chris D. Risher, KD6INK, to retake the Technician Class license test at the San Francisco office of the FCC by Sept. 30, 1999. If he does not retake and pass the examination on time his license will be cancelled

Thanks, ARRL.

Latest News on Spectrum Protection:-

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep. Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23. As of Sep. 15, the bill had received 109 co-sponsorships including Pacific Division Congressman Mink (HI - 2), Delegate Underwood (GU), Congressmen Farr (CA - 17), Miller (CA - 7), Campbell (CA - 15), Abercrombie (HI - 1), Stark (CA - 13), and Congresswoman Lee (CA - 9). [in order of co-sponsorship] Nationally, we now have more co-sponsorships than we had for the 1998 bill - but we need to obtain some 218 co-sponsorships to have a majority of the House as co-sponsors. Keep up the good work!

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. Rep Frank Pallone Jr., a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

A copy of the measure is available via the THOMAS Web site, <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Thanks, ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletin and THOMAS Web site.

Pacific Division Section Managers Re-elected:-

Congratulations to Jettie Hill, W6RFF, the Section Manager for the Sacramento Valley Section; and John Wallack, W6TLK, the Section Manager the San Francisco Section, on their re-elections for another term starting Oct. 1, 1999.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

New US 144 GHz Record Set in Pacific Division:-

On Aug. 18 Bob, KF6KVG and Will, W0EOM, set up their 144 GHz (2 mm band) stations at the same locations used to extend the record previously set on Aug 12, which erased the previous record held by WA1MBA. Receive margins were over > 8 dB so W0EOM moved to Saddle Mountain Road in Los Altos CA. Contact was established in about 10 minutes and calls exchanged. This is a record of 7.31 miles and appears to be near the limit of the present setup. Plans are to retune to 120 GHz. (2.5 mm band) but trouble with one of the multipliers is causing this retuning to take longer than expected.

Thanks, Will, W0EOM

A New VHF Record Set in Pacific Division:-

Paul Lieb, KH6HME, in BK29go (Mauna Loa volcano) on the Big Island of Hawaii reported working Clint Walker, W1LP/mm in DL51ce on 144 MHz SSB to claim a new world distance record of 4754 km (2954 miles). Signals reportedly peaked S1. An unsuccessful attempt was made on 432 MHz. W1LP had been hearing beacons for several hours prior to the contact.

Thanks, Chip Angle, N6CA

STENSAT to Launch:

Stanford University's OPAL - Orbiting Picosatellite Automated Launcher - experiment is scheduled for launch October 4. The experiment includes the small (12 cubic inch) StenSat Amateur Radio picosatellite. The package is a crossband repeater that will operate much like the popular AO-27 satellite. StenSat will uplink on 145.840 MHz and downlink on 436.625 MHz. The spacecraft's designers are looking for volunteers to monitor and help control the picosatellite. They are especially interested in getting AX.25 telemetry reports in the hours and days following launch. Interested hams should contact Hank Heidt, N4AFL, hheidt@erols.com to be added to the StenSat mailing list. For more information, visit <http://www.erols.com/hheidt>.

Thanks, Space News/ANS

Coming Events:-

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Cliff Kibbe, KF6EII, (209) 835-6715, e-mail: larkswap@usa.com.

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.

- ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Long Beach, CA, Oct. 1-3. Contact - Nate Brightman, K6OSC, (562) 427-5123. WWW - <http://www.qsl.net/arrlsw/hamcon/>

- 17th Space Symposium and AMSAT-NA Annual Meeting, October 8-11, 1999, Hanalei Hotel San Diego, CA. Hotel reservations for the Hanalei Hotel in San Diego can be made by calling 1-800-882-0858 (U.S.) or +1(619)297-1101, or fax +1(619)277-6049. The local contact for the AMSAT event is Duane Naugle, KO6BT, who can be reached at ko6bt@amsat.org.

- Bakersfield ARA Hamfest (Lake Costerisan), Oct. 8-10. Contact Robert Gerner, KB6JBL, (661) 588-7065, e-mail - w6bar@hotmail.com. WWW site - <http://members.tripod.com/~w6bar/bar.html>.

- ARRL Pacific Division Convention (PACIFCON99), Concord, CA., Oct. 15-17. Contact Dick Brown, KT6X, (925) 676-9048, e-mail - paccon99@pacbell.net. WWW - <http://www.pacifcon.org>.

Hoo's Hoo...



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 Rolf Klibo, N6NFI, Tom Holden, KN6KL; Gregg Schlaman,
 WA6ECQ

Repeater Technical Committee:

Committee Chairman: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ
 N6NFI - Rolf Klibo and KN6KL - Tom Holden

Other appointed positions

Club historian: To be announced.
 Retiree Representative: John Gibson, N6OM
 Club emergency comm coordinator: Randy Bassett, N6RUR
 Club ARRL Coordinator: To be announced
 Club swap meet coordinator: To be announced.
 Club Project coordinators: To be announced

Officers:

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