

# LORAL

# S.P.A.R.K.

## South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

Vol. MCMXCVI II No V Rptr: W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHz - Club Str: WA6NKK Friday, June 4, 1999

### The May 1998 Meeting...

**Where:** Space Systems/Loral  
Bld 3 Auditorium  
3825 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

**When:** Thursday, 7 May 1998  
High Noon

**Subject:** Business, Show & Tell.

report the fact in this column. Even though the patch is not currently operational, if people ask, it is OK to tell them that they can get a copy of the free autodial codes by sending a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope (SASE) AND a photocopy of their license to: 523 Repeater, P.O. Box 391288, Mt. View, CA 94039-391288.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org

### April Meeting Minutes

No Report

de Rolf, N6NFI

REPEATER  
REPEATER  
REPEATER  
REPEATER

#### AUTOPATCH / AUTODIAL UPDATE

As frequent repeater users are aware, the phone interconnect with the 523 repeater has been disconnected for several months. This inconvenience to all was necessitated by crank calls that ended up on the host's emergency line. Trying not to reinvent the wheel, we searched for an existing solution to block such calls. We thought we had found the ideal "black box" to do the job, but the supplier was concerned about the legal implications of our use of their box. After many weeks of promising to ship, they decided not to sell us the box.

Another search for an alternate "black box" resulted in delivery of a neat, compact, unit with a lot of flexibility. When tested, the box's internal timing was too slow, so back it went for reprogramming. Finally (?) the week of April 19th, the box was returned to us. We expected it to work, and had hoped we could announce reconnection of the patch in this May Newsletter. Unfortunately, upon connecting the reprogrammed box, the dial tone did not come through. So, more calls to the company and the saga continues.

Definition of terms: Autopatch is the ability to dial any number at random within our calling area. Autodial is the ability to dial pre-stored numbers using a quick, few-digit number instead of dialing the number 1, the area code, and the seven digit number. The autodial is divided into two sections: the emergency autodial which contains the seven digit equivalent of the 911 numbers for fire, police, paramedics, etc. and the personal autodial which contains members' home phone numbers or whatever number they choose that they call frequently.

When the autopatch/autodial are up and running, paid up members will receive new access codes for the autopatch. Autodial slots will be reactivated ONLY for paid-up members.

At that time we will run the announcement telling people how to obtain the emergency autodial codes. That will communicate to club members that the patch is working. Of course, we will also

### SPARK Web Site

SPARK now has a very impressive World Wide Web site located at <http://www.macscouter.com/SPARK>, or <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/4024/>. If you have photo's, anecdotes, or anything that would show the world what SPARK is all about, please send it to the SPARK Webmaster Collin Lim, [lim.collin@ssd.loral.com](mailto:lim.collin@ssd.loral.com).

### The Prez Sez...

About one-third of our members are retirees. They are the best represented group at our meetings. They provide lots of interesting 'show and tells'. But they are not eligible to serve as club officers.

This state of affairs prevails because it was thought that each elected officer should have standing as an SS/L employee to interact easily with Human Relations, Security, securing meeting rooms, etc. Maybe it is time to change this. Would it work if only one officer provided the liaison with the Company; or maybe two for redundancy? In these days of stressful working conditions (can't remember the other days), many volunteer organizations rely heavily on their retiree members, and they aren't disappointed.

The Klub is in the market for a Vice Prez. And then, Rolf Klibo might want to retire in 20 or 30 years. All officers are elected for only a one-year term (reinscription optional). (Lucky, I guess, since during my last incarnation our dues were increased to \$10).

Let's debate the idea!

73 de Jack

# ARRL Pacific Division Update

May 1998

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL  
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## Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Introduced in House of Representatives:-

On March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9th) and Ron Klink (D-PA-4th) introduced HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

The operational portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which, if passed, would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the Commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies.

You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

The bill has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. While it is too early to offer any prognosis, the House only has about fifty days left actually in-session before the proposed October adjournment.

Our strategy must be very straightforward - a simple numbers game of gathering as many House cosponsors as we can.

Here is Section Three:

"SEC. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM.

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(y) Notwithstanding subsection (c), after July 1, 1998--

(1) make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;

(2) not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and

(3) make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement spectrum to the amateur radio service."

Here is a draft sample letter to send to your Congressman to enlist him/her as a cosponsor:

The Hon. (congressman name)  
 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (congressman name):

As one of the nation's more than 650,000 licensed radio amateurs, I urge you to sign on as a cosponsor to HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

This bill, introduced by Representatives Bilirakis and Klink on March 27, is a non-partisan, non-controversial measure designed to afford a measure of protection to Amateur Radio frequencies used by radio amateurs in (state name) and elsewhere to provide emergency communication, technical experimentation and recreation.

The bill would require the Federal Communications Commission to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" in the event it becomes necessary to reallocate radio frequencies currently allocated to the Amateur Service.

This is a matter of fairness, and is in the national interest.

The bill would help ensure Amateur Radio's continued public service role to the people of the State of (state name).

Sincerely,  
 (your signature)

## FCC News Relating to Amateur Radio:-

-- Lower fee levels proposed for Vanity Calls: In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making released March 25 (MD Docket 98-36), the FCC proposes, among many other things, to change the fee for an amateur vanity call sign to \$1.29 per year for Fiscal Year 1998 (that is, \$12.90 for the ten-year term of the license instead of the current \$50). The details are in section 13 of Attachment H. Fiscal Year 1998 starts Oct. 1, 1998. It is also proposed that there will be no refund from the current fee amounts to the new level for current Fiscal Year 1997 applicants.

Comments are due April 22, 1998, and reply comments by May 4. Comments must be in hard copy format. No e-mail comments will be accepted.

The entire document, which is fairly large because it deals with regulatory fees for all services, not just amateur, may be downloaded from: <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Notices/1998/>

-- Proposed new licensing procedure: On Mar. 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services." Comments must be filed by May 7, 1998, with reply comments by May 22. Comments must be in hard copy format. No e-mail comments will be accepted.

The NPRM apparently proposes no changes in privileges or qualifications for any class of license. Key goals appear to be:

1. Replacement of the venerable Form 610;
2. Elimination of the Form 610-A, thus providing paperless reciprocal licenses;
3. Proposed privatization of club licensing.
4. Require use of Taxpayer Identification Numbers (usually Social Security numbers).

The document is available at the FCC Web site, [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov). A link to the document can be found at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/).

-- Electronic filing of documents in rulemaking proceedings: In GC Docket 97-113 amended its rules to allow the public to file comments and other pleadings electronically via the Internet using the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The ECFS is currently available in proceedings specifically designated by the Commission, but will be available generally when the rules adopted on April 2 go into effect in "early June 1998". The Commission will issue a Public Notice indicating when the ECFS will officially be available for general use and how to use the new system.

## ARRL Asks FCC To Support Voluntary Band Plans:-

On April 3, based on action taken at the January ARRL Board meeting, the League formally asked the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice."

The League requests the Commission "at an early date" declare that good amateur practice "anticipates compliance with the accepted voluntary international, national, and regional band plans adopted by cooperation and coordination" within the Amateur Radio Service.

The League's filing builds on a 1983 declaration by the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau that simplex operation on a recognized repeater frequency was contrary to good amateur practice.

A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>.

### Pacific Division Ham Published in Scientific American:-

There was a great article in the April 1998 issue entitled, "Spread Spectrum Radio" by Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, Assistant Director, and David Hughes. Congratulations, Dewayne and David!

### McGan Silver Antenna Award Nominations Open:-

Nominees are welcome for the seventh annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, a chance to honor the ham who did the most to promote Amateur Radio in 1997. The McGan award was named for journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MGQ (SK), the first chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee. It goes to the ARRL member who demonstrates volunteer public relations success on behalf of ham radio at the local, state or national level, and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the award's namesake.

Public relations (as opposed to public service) activities are those specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light--typically through the media (newspapers, TV, radio).

Nominations for the seventh annual award are due May 29, 1998 at ARRL Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Entry forms for the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award are available from Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, e-mail [jgagne@arrrl.org](mailto:jgagne@arrrl.org) or call 860- 594-0328.

Send completed forms and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, care of Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

### Call for Applications for 1998 Scholarships:-

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D. C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1998-99 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their WWW pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998, from FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave., College Park MD 20740.

### 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 Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447- 3857 eves.

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

- Fair Oaks swap meets (near Sacramento) - Bella Vista High School, 8301 Madison Ave., on Madison Ave. east of Sunrise Blvd. - April 18, May 31 and Aug. 15. 6:00 AM to noon.

- Placerville, every third Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd #3 Placerville. 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Talk-in on 146.865- PL 142.2, 440.700+ PL 88.5. No fee, free parking. Hwy. 50 East take Missouri Flat off-ramp. Go over Hwy. to 2nd light, into shopping center in front of Radio Shack. See <http://www.inforum.net/h&h/radioswap.html>; e-mail [jwilson@inforum.net](mailto:jwilson@inforum.net), Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

- The Valley of the Moon ARC is holding its annual hamfest Saturday, April 25, 1998, at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Bldg., 126 First St. West, Sonoma. Talk in 145.35- PL 88.5, Contact Darrel Jones, WD6BOR at [wd6bor@aol.com](mailto:wd6bor@aol.com) or (H) (707) 996-4494.

- The International DX Convention, sponsored by the South Samoian, W6SR, (714) 993-0713 or (310) 616-3912.

## Hoo's Hoo...

### Officers:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Jack Nawrocki</b>
<b>Vice Pres:</b>	<b>Mike Spate</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Rolf Klibo</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Open</b>

**SS/L Shack Trustee:** Mike Spate

**Newsletter Editor:** Gary Hendra, W6NOE -- SS/L  
3825 Fabian Way, MS-G84, Palo Alto 94303  
E-mail to 'Hendra, Gary' on the Loral Network, or via Internet to [hendra.gary@.ssd.loral.com](mailto:hendra.gary@.ssd.loral.com)

### Repeater Trustee/Control Operators(Primary):

Repeater Trustee: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ  
Control Operators: John Buonocore, KD6ZL, Dan Connell, W6ASD, Robert Reiling, W6JHJ, Rolf Klibo, N6NFI, Tom Holden, KN6KL; Gregg Schlaman, WA6ECQ

### Repeater Technical Committee:

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

**SS/L Training:** Vacant

### Picnic Committee:

Picnic Co-chairman: To be announced

### Field Day Committee:

Chairman: To be announced.  
Members: To be announced

### Other positions to be filled:

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

For Address Changes, or If Undeliverable, Return to:

Gary Hendra            MS-G36  
**SPACE SYSTEMS/LORAL**  
3825 Fabian Way  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4604