

LORAL

S.P.A.R.K.

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

Vol. MCMXCVI II No VII Rptr: W6APZ/R 145.230(-.600)MHz - Club Stn: WA6NKK Thursday, June 3, 1999

The July 1998 Meeting...

**Where: SPACE SYSTEMS/LORAL
Auditorium
3825 Fabian Way, Palo Alto**

**When: Thursday, 9 July 1998
High Noon**

**Subject: Fred Dietrich, NM6J, will talk
about the GlobalStar satellite system.**

REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER
REPEATER

Why Aren't They Ignoring the Jammer???

You've heard it here before; when there is a jammer on the repeater, IGNORE him. If you have a strong enough signal to override the interference, continue with your QSO. If not, choose another repeater or make use of your OFF switch.

But that has not been happening lately on 523. Don't these people know any better? Yes, they do. Unlike a normal fox hunt where the fox transmits at regular intervals until found, a jammer frequently uses the hit-and-run technique. Even with the sophisticated equipment in use today for fox hunting, short, infrequent transmissions are hard to find.

Certain hams who are working with the fox hunters are intentionally not following the normal advice in order to keep the jammer transmitting long enough to take bearings.

Should you do the same? No, not unless specifically requested to assist by one of the fox hunters. If you have DF equipment and want to help locate and identify the jammer, contact Andy, VE3FZK, who can frequently be heard on 145.230 during the morning commute and on Monday evenings during the PAARA net which is at 8:30 P.M. on our repeater.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org>

June Meeting Minutes

No Report

de Rolf, N6NFI

The Prez Sez...

Would you believe that at our June meeting a small gaggle of hams sat down for food and brew at Harry's Hofbrau and exchanged barely a word about hamming? It was an evening of good fellowship but the central topic was transportation; road, air, rail and water. Lot's of stories about the idiosyncrasies of our venerable 'wheels'; the wonderful competition of who had it worse under what deteriorating circumstances. Then it spilled over to the vagaries of air travel, finally lapsing into tales of the rails and the sea. Indeed a good evening! You should have been there.

As for the proposed survey, it still languishes in rough draft. Where did our good intentions go?

Our own Fred Dietrich will reveal to us the mysteries of GlobalStar at our upcoming meeting. Since he's being so darn accommodating, shouldn't we reward him by offering him the post of Prez next time around? He has experience.

73 de Jack

News from Our Treasurer

I am trying to upgrade to General Class, and need to (greatly) improve my code speed. I am presently using SuperMorse, a shareware program, to build my code capability. But I was thinking that it would be nice if someone would take on the "Training Person" role for the Klub, not necessarily to do actual training, but to be a source of information about where to get training, training aids, etc. This would not be a big time buster, so please consider if you could help here.

And we still need a Secretary.... think about that one, too!

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.

News

Bliss, K6III, was elected as Secretary of the NCDXC (Northern CA DX Club) for 1998-99 term. Congratulations!

Other new officers are W6JD-President, N6VAW-Vice President, K6XN-Treasurer, AA6G-Director, K6JJ-Director, W6KM-Director.

Jerry Bliss Bio

Jerry Bliss has been part of SPARK and The Company for a very long time. If you would like to know a bit more about Jerry, check out the Bio he provided to NCDXC recently.

Jerry Bliss, K6III,

First licensed in 1953 at the tender age of 13 as KN4AHC (Novice), later moved to CA and became KN6JHO (Novice). Dad had a ham radio he had purchased from some ham in Canal Zone (KZ5), but he wasn't licensed. It was home brew and had all kinds of knobs and switches. I fooled around with the receiver (an HRO-7) and discovered the wide world of radio. Dad finally got his license (WB6LOS) about 1970 or so, after he retired.

My license lapsed after a year. In 1957 join the US Navy and was trained as a Radio Operator where I really learned my CW and technical radio stuff. While in USN, licensed as K6SMH (General). Did a bit of operating at club stations during my USN days (3 years). Most operating was Ship-to-Shore CW aboard Submarine (USS ROCK an old WW2 Diesel powered job) around San Diego and Pacific.

After 3 years active USN, joined USNR and went to San Jose City College for an Associate Degree in Electronic Technology. While working at Ford Aerospace, joined the SPARK club and served as Secretary and later President. There I upgraded to Extra class. During my USNR days, you would occasionally find me on from Hawaii (KH6SP) or Guam (KG6AA), both USN club stations, or even from a Navy P3 Orion airplane. I'm now retired from USNR having made it all the way up the ranks to Master Chief Radioman (Submarine Qualified, I hasten to add!).

I joined NCDXC some 20 years ago and just stayed in the background working DX, mostly on CW. Not far up the ladder, about 250 or so. Tried to work most of the expeditions, but mostly rag chew and lately contesting. Yes, I'm also a member of NCCC too (joined up this year at the joint NCDXC-NCCC meeting). Gotta couple of operating awards to wall paper the shack. The rig is a ICOM-751a plus the ICOM IC2-KL linear (400w) radiating from wires and a Force-12 C3 at 45 feet, all down in the flat lands of the Santa Clara Valley (a pretty competitive section). You'll find me on the TI-Repeater sometimes; usually in the background, but sometime quite outspoken and noisy. Also on the DX Packet cluster.

While working in England for several years (Software Engineering), I was active as G0CLY and did a lot of operating at the club station G0FOS (and a few other special event calls, GB5DX, GB75USA, GB4JUL). I worked a lot of NCDXCers with that call. I even held the special event call GB1ISS... with a little imagination, you can make the "1" into a lower case "L" and walla... you have my name! Also went back to University and collected my BS in Information Systems Management at night school.

A couple of years ago, I changed my call from K6SMH to K6III. I took a bit of flack on the TI-Repeater about that "III" business, but I gotta tell you, it really works busting the pile ups! Oh, the "III" bit is from the end of my name; I'm G. D. Bliss, III - I just couldn't resist (lot of ego, here, you know!).

Well, in 1994, I retired from Ford Aerospace after 27 years. I laid low for a couple of years before I went back to work at Landis & Gyr in San Jose as a Quality Assurance Analyst. This job came through a chance ham radio contact.

As for the family, XYL Betty Ruth (we call her BR), 3 kids, 4 grandkids. Son is KE6WHD, Daughter is KE6TNX, Son-in-law is KQ6LQ. XYL, well she just tolerates all this ham radio jazz. But she has just discovered e-mail and the Internet! Since the PC also occupies the station, I have to schedule my time on when she isn't.

OK, thanks for entrusting me with the NCDXC Secretary job; I hope I do a creditable job; I'm sure I will get lotsa support from Venerable Goat.

Jerry
k6iii@juno.com

ARRL Pacific Division Update

July 1998

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL
18400 Overlook Rd. #5, Los Gates CA 95030-5850
(408) 395-2501 (Phone and FAX)
Packet: K6WR@N0ARY.#NOCAL.CA
E-mail: K6WR@arrl.org
Pacific Division Home Page: <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Needs Cosponsors:-

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>:

Our strategy is very straightforward - obtain as many House cosponsors as we can before the end of the legislative session and elections later this year. To date we have the following cosponsors in the Pacific Division -- Patsy Mink (D-HI-2) and Tom Campbell (R-CA-15). Let's get more of the Pacific Division House Members to be cosponsors! Cosponsors don't vote against their own bills! 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 Congressperson to enlist him/her as a cosponsor:

The Hon. (congressperson's name)
 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (congressperson's 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)

- On April 3, the League asked the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." The League requested 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. All that was wanted was the current Commission to say that this declaratory ruling was still policy.

Unfortunately, contrary to the League's procedural request and without informing the League, the FCC made this request into a Rule Making process (something entirely different); this process itself apparently caused considerable confusion in the ham community as to just what was being requested. Also many used this matter to comment on unrelated issues.

A complete copy of the League's petition, RM 9259, may be found on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>. The ARRL Comments and Reply Comments can be found there also. Other details are in the Special Edition of the Pacific Division Update issued April 26.

Comments were due on May 21.

Because of what has happened to date, it is not clear what happens next.

New Santa Clara Valley Section Manager:-

Effective July 1, Geoffrey Ellis, KD6MFM, will assume the position of SCV Section Manager, replacing Kit Blanke, WA6PWW. Thanks to Kit for his years of service as SM, and welcome to Geoff!

Brief Summary of Some of the Many FCC News Items 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.

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/>

The deadlines for Comments and Reply Comments has passed.

- 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 were due by May 7, 1998; Reply Comments deadline has been extended to June 16, 1998. 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 at www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/.

The ARRL Comments are available on the ARRL WWW site at arrl.org.

- RM 9267, a Petition requesting access to the 70 CM Amateur Band and other non Amateur Radio spectrum was submitted by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), released for public comment by FCC on April 30, 1998.

The ARRL believes that the LMCC proposal is incompatible with continued amateur use of the band. RM-9267 is only a proposal. Many hams and others commented to FCC and to the groups making up the LMCC (including the American Automobile Association) opposing this petition. Several organizations in and outside the Federal Government have filed in opposition.

Detailed information on this Petition and Comments are available on the Pacific Division WWW site, pdarrl.org, and the ARRL www site, arrl.org. Many more details on RM 9267 were covered in Special Editions of the Pacific Division Update on May 8 and 12. The deadline for Comments on the Petition in hard copy format was June 1, 1998. Reply Comments deadline has apparently been extended to July 16, 1998, at the request of one of the LMCC members. No e-mail comments are permitted.

- The FCC has several items (undefined and unpublished so far) in process under the name of the "1998 Biennial Review." Congress mandated in the Communications Act a "review aimed at simplifying, eliminating or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest." This review is across all services including the Amateur Radio Service. At this writing it is not known what may be proposed or when.

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..

- Placerville, every third Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd #3 Placerville. Talk-in on 146.865 (-) PL 142.2; 440.700 (+) PL 88.5. 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, Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

- ARRL Field Day is June 27 - 28. See p. 108 May QST for rules.

- The Calaveras ARS flea market is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 at Utica Park, Angels Camp. Talk in 145.170 (-) PL 100. Call: Steve, KD6CNU, (209) 878-3829 or Susan, KE6HVR, (209) 795-0618.

- The Reno Hamfest is scheduled for Aug. 1, 1998. Contact John Petersen, KJ7EE, at (702) 853-8452 or kj7ee@aol.com.

- The Humboldt ARC (Eureka, CA) hamfest is scheduled for Aug. 1, 1998. Contact Wayne & Cynthia Carlson, KF6AAP and KF6CMC at (707) 668-4396 or e-mail carlsons@saber.net.

- ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in San Diego, August 14-16. Contact Sybil Allbright, W6GIC (619) 278-4284 and <http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/lakes/8400/>

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

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'

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

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

President:	Jack Nawrocki
Vice Pres:	Mike Spate
Treasurer:	Rolf Klibo
Secretary:	Open

SS/L Shack Trustee:

Mike Spate

For Address Changes, or If Undeliverable, Return to:

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