

The August 1998 Meeting...

Has been canceled! Hope you are having a great summer, and a restful vacation when you can take it.

The Prez Sez...

Have a great vacation. Next meeting will be in September.

73 de Jack

REPEATER
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MICROPROCESSOR DESIGNERS & BUILDERS NEEDED

We have tried everything reasonable that we could think of to stop spurious 911 calls, but nothing has proved to be fast enough. One approach we have been discussing is a means to block the call BEFORE the phone line is connected to the controller. Another approach is to scrap this controller and buy a more modern Link controller that has call-blocking built in. This latter approach is expensive and not trouble free. We have a number of add-ons to our RC-85 controller that would have to be adapted to a new controller, e.g., our digital voice announcer and the S-Meter. Basically, our present controller does what we normally need to do. Jammers can potentially cause some kind of trouble with any controller.

One approach to stop a call before the phone line is connected is to add a microprocessor with a programmable look-up table of numbers to be blocked. The inputs to this microprocessor could come directly off the built-in DTMF decoder chip's 4 digital output lines, corresponding to the DTMF codes. Upon receipt of any DTMF tone, the phone relay would be inhibited until the microprocessor does its job, then permitted calls would be passed to the phone line.

This is but one approach to the problem. We are open to other, possibly simpler design concepts. In any case, we need people who have the knowledge to design this type of circuit and we need people who can build the circuit given the design and list of parts. The designer need not feel that they must actually build the design, and the builder need not necessarily have the knowledge to design the circuit. If we can get several people working on this project, we can get the phone patch back on line quickly.

If you can help, please contact either Rolf, N6NFI, @ 852-7633, or Rich, W6APZ, @ 650-494-0128.

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org

Why Radio Amateurs are Called "HAMS"

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911, ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM"

July Meeting Minutes

No Report

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.

International DX Convention

The International DX Convention will be held in Fresno, CA at the Holiday Inn, April 9-11, 1999. Sponsored by the NCDXC (Northern CA DX Club). Visit the NCDXC.ORG web site for information and hotel reservations

ARRL Pacific Division Update

August 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.pdarrrl.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); Tom Campbell (R-CA-15); John Doolittle (R-CA-4).

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 (name of state) 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)

Brief Summary of Some of the Many FCC News Items Relating to Amateur Radio:-

- Lower fee levels for Vanity Calls: The vanity call sign application fee will drop to \$13 effective September 14, 1998, according to Terry Johnson in the FCC's Office of Managing Director. The new fee will be for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewed, or reinstated license. The current vanity call sign application fee is \$50. Earlier this year, the FCC had proposed dropping the fee to \$12.90. The actual fee was "rounded up," Johnson said.

The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before the new fee schedule goes into effect in September.

- 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 and Reply Comment dates are now well past. 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, pdarrrl.org, and the ARRL www site, arrrl.org. See also the Editorial on page 9 of July QST.

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 was 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.

- Electronic filing of documents in rule-making proceedings: In GC Docket 97-113 FCC 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. Apparently no such notice has been issued to date.

- There are two current proposals before the FCC which could change the Amateur Radio usage of the 5GHz band. One is Docket 98-95 (RM 9096) by ITS America to create a coprimary allocation for the Intelligent Transportation System. Comment deadline is Sept. 14, 1998; Reply Comment date is Oct. 14, 1998. Details are available on the FCC web site.

In another ruling on June 24, FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order (Document No. 98-21) to increase power and antenna gain in this band for U-NII entities. These changes are over the objections of ARRL and not what the U-NII entities wanted, either. Details are available on the FCC WWW site.

- By letter, FCC, on May 22, 1998, refused to grant a waiver to EDAP Technomed, Inc., to allow them to sell unshielded Part 18 medical devices to operate in the Amateur Radio 1.2 GHz band. This decision is a distinct victory for Amateur Radio.

- At the FCC Forum in Dayton in May, note was made of FCC sites concerning Amateur Radio - <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur> and hamcomm@fcc.gov. It was suggested that this latter address may be used to offer comments to FCC on topics other than specific numbered dockets, petitions and rule makings. Please label all comments as "Amateur Service Review".

Geoffrey Ellis, KD6MFM, Takes Office as Santa Clara Valley Section Manager: -

On July 1, 1998, Geoffrey took office as the new Santa Clara Valley Section Manager. Welcome, Geoffrey!

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.

- Ohlone Elementary School Ham Radio Swap Meet - Hercules, CA - 3rd Sunday through October. Address - 1616 Pheasant Dr., Hercules - from I-80, exit Hercules. Contact: Frank Bianchi, KE6EUA, (510) 799-0889 or www site - <http://www.jps.net/ai3x/harc>.

- 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), Aug. 15. 6:00 AM to noon at the Bella Vista High School, 8301 Madison Ave., on Madison Ave. east of Sunrise Blvd.

- Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Hamfest - Sept. 19 in Sebastopol. Holy Ghost Hall, 1/2 mile north of Sebastopol on Hwy. 116, corner of 116 and Millstation Road. Contact James Dean, KF6DHB, 5324 Huckleberry, Santa Rosa CA 95403. Phone - (707) 578-4098.

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

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

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

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