

# LORAL

# S.P.A.R.K.

## South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

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

### The November 1998 Meeting...

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

**When:** **Thursday, 5 November 1998**  
**High Noon**

**Subject:** **Jim Maxwell, "The New RF Safety Regulations; What They Mean and How to Comply"**

Jim is the ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director and has presented to the Klub several times at past meetings. Please make room for this one on your schedule.

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REPEATER

#### SNOWMEN & SLEIGH RIDES - December 3

Have Fun & Provide a Public Service

On Thursday evening, December 3, the City of Palo Alto will have its annual Snowmen and Sleigh Rides event, to which the whole community is invited. In past years, several tons of snow have been dumped on the street (Hamilton Ave) in front of Palo Alto's city hall. At the designated signal, all the kids (and sometimes grownups) plunge into the snow to play. If you have young children, they will enjoy the snow.

While this is going on, about six or seven horse-drawn sleighs make their way through the downtown area, giving people rides along the route. Downtown stores and eateries are open and a festive time is had by all.

The 523 repeater will be used that evening from about 4:30 to 6:30 PM to provide talk-in for the hams who will be covering this event. Please keep this in mind when using the repeater on Dec. 3. After 6:30 PM, event communications will switch to a simplex frequency.

When I last participated in this event, one ham was assigned to ride "shot-gun" on each sleigh. All hams who wished had a turn to ride while providing communications for the driver. Some hams provided health and welfare communications, helped find lost children, etc.

If you are interested in helping provide communications for this event, call KD6LHO, Gordon Baillie, at 650-691-1200 during working hours. If he is not there when you call, state that the message is for Gordon, and leave your name, phone number, and call sign on the answering machine.

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

### The Prez Sez...

#### NOMINATIONS !

We need volunteers for the offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary for 1999. Rolf Klibo has agreed to serve again as Treasurer if elected.

Failing nominations at Thursday's meeting, the 'draft board' will convene. The election (including further nominations) will be at the December meeting.

73 de Jack

### 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).

### ARRL Pacific Division Update

November 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/>

#### FCC States Amateur Enforcement to be Emphasized:-

Things may be changing for the better on the Amateur Radio enforcement front. The FCC announced late last month that all Amateur Radio-related enforcement investigation, evaluation, and processing has been transferred to the Compliance and Information Bureau. The change, effective September 1 but not announced until more than three weeks later, was made "by internal arrangement" between the CIB and the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The Wireless Bureau handles amateur licensing and, for the past several years, has coordinated enforcement with the CIB.

The FCC said the main objective of the change was to "facilitate the Commission's pursuit of compliance," especially in the area of resolving interference complaints, a hot-button issue within the amateur community.

"Amateur enforcement should have gotten more direct attention over the last few years," conceded Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the CIB's legal advisor for enforcement. "A lot of people think the FCC doesn't care."

Hollingsworth will be the FCC's point man in handling the complaints. He says FCC Chairman William Kennard "wants greater respect with respect to enforcement" at the FCC. Putting enforcement in the CIB's hands should mean "a much faster, more effective response," he said.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, says he's "cautiously optimistic" that the change will improve the dismal amateur enforcement situation. "Now, CIB doesn't have to just gather evidence and forward it to another bureau," Imlay said. "It can act on it when it is ready. That's a good situation compared to where we were."

The FCC's public notice said the CIB staff now handles Amateur Radio enforcement matters "from initiation to resolution." That includes complaints, amateur testing issues, warnings, monetary penalties, revocation hearings, and "in extreme cases" equipment seizure and prosecution through the Department of Justice.

The Wireless Bureau continues to handle Amateur Radio licensing, including new applications and renewals, as well as all Amateur Radio policy and rulemaking matters. The change is expected to have no impact on the Amateur Auxiliary. Hollingsworth said the change could, in fact, mean that the FCC will work more closely and more effectively with amateur volunteers in dealing with enforcement issues.

Under the new arrangement, all amateur enforcement questions and complaints should be directed to the Compliance and Information Bureau, Compliance Division, Attention: Amateur Complaints, 1919 M St., Mail Stop 1500E1, Washington, DC 20554.

The FCC also has instituted an "Amateur Enforcement Line" at 202- 418-1184. The automated system prompts callers to leave a name, a number, and a brief message. The CIB will return the call within the next business day.

Thanks, The ARRL Letter.

### **Major Amateur Radio License Restructuring Proposals Announced:-**

Starting in July, two major US Amateur Radio License Restructuring proposals have been announced - one, the most recent, by the FCC and an earlier one by the ARRL. Because of the current complex US license structure and these announcements, it is probably inevitable that there will be a major restructuring. It is now YOUR turn to express your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics in the US!

#### **FCC Proposal:-**

As part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress mandated a "Biennial Review," -- "aimed at simplifying, eliminating or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest." Reviews are to be carried out for all services regulated by the FCC. The Biennial Review process for the Amateur Radio Service resulted in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), WT Docket 98- 143, made public August 10, 1998. The FCC, in the NPRM, has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. They also asked for comments on the written examinations and on how to improve enforcement of rules.

Comments on the NPRM are solicited by the FCC and are due no later than Dec. 1 of this year. This is an unusually long comment period for a NPRM. Also unusual is that comments will be accepted via the World Wide Web, or via e-mail, as well as by submitting the conventional hard copy comments by normal USPS mail. The long comment period, as well as the flexibility in the method that may be used to comment, provides a unique opportunity for ALL amateurs to give their opinions on a wide range of topics vital to the future of Amateur Radio.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC said "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." The FCC also said that Technician and Tech Plus

operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination Elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new Element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200 W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The Commission asked for comments on Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system--and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations." Referring to ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

In other matters the FCC went along with another ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The FCC also proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations by not renewing their licenses. The FCC also took the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit to operate in the US if the individual also holds for a foreign amateur license.

Significantly, the FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC is encouraging electronic comments via the WWW at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>; by e-mail at [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov).

For instructions on how to file using the ecfs address, send an e-mail to ecfs with the words "Get form <your e-mail address>" in the body of the message. Of course, written comments prepared in the traditional way and sent by US mail will also be accepted.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>, and at the Pacific Division web page at <http://www.pdarrl.org>. The FCC NPRM can also be downloaded from the FCC Web site in Word Perfect 5.1 and text versions at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp> and <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt> respectively.

October QST carries the full story starting on page 56 plus an excellent editorial on this matter on page 9. Please read both articles.

#### Latest Developments on the FCC NPRM:-

In a mid September announcement, the FCC issued some corrections and clarifications to the NPRM. The Errata document (available on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/98-143/Errata.html> and on the FCC WWW site) addresses most of the questions and confusion raised by the original announcement.

The FCC said the corrections were issued "to conform the proposed rules to the proposals discussed in the text of the Notice." The FCC noted that in some instances the NPRM included sections of rules they did not propose to change. These have been deleted, and only sections of the rules where changes have been proposed remain.

A major change from the original rulemaking proposal was to effectively reinstate the language in Section 97.505(a)(10)--the provisions for a physician's certification that an applicant is unable to pass a 13 or 20 WPM telegraphy examination. In the NPRM text, the FCC invited comment on this issue and on an earlier ARRL proposal, RM- 9196. The ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before getting exam credit.

The Errata also clarify the Commission's intention to retain the current 365-day time limit for a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid.

The FCC also has added the words "Element 1(A), 1(B) or 1(C)" to Section 97.301(e), referring to the 5, 13, and 20 WPM code examination elements, respectively. While this clarifies the need to at least have credit for the 5 WPM Morse code examination to gain Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges, neither the original NPRM nor the Errata list Element 1(A)--the 5 WPM code test--as a specific requirement for any license class. The FCC appears to be proposing to provide that a Technician licensee could gain HF privileges by passing a 5 WPM code test, but how this would actually be done in practice remains unclear. The FCC describes elsewhere in its proposed rules how applicants may claim credit for Element 1(A), however. A proposed change at Section 97.507(d) that would have substituted the words "no less than 5 WPM" has been dropped. The current wording says "no less than the prescribed speed."

The FCC also addressed apparently inadvertent rules changes in the NPRM to Section 97.305. Under the Errata, no changes are proposed. Language in the NPRM would have eliminated Extra class phone and image privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class phone sub bands and data privileges in the 20 and 15-meter Extra class CW sub bands. In addition, the NPRM would have dropped data privileges from Novices and phone privileges for current Tech Plus operators on 10 meters. The FCC also eliminated all proposed changes to Section 97.307, including wording that seemingly would have limited Novice CW operation to "only messages sent by hand."

The FCC's Errata also indicate that the Commission intended to retain the current 200 W PEP power limit on the current Novice/Tech Plus HF bands (and on the 30 meter band and on 7.050-7.075 MHz within Region 1 or 3) in Section 97.313. The NPRM had proposed imposing the 200 W PEP power restriction on HF only when the control operator is a Novice.

The FCC also made it clear that someone holding a Technician class license granted before February 14, 1991, could get examination credit for written Element 3(A). The Errata also add Element 1(B), the 13 WPM code test, to the elements that may be prepared by an Advanced class Volunteer Examiner.

The Errata also correct several apparent typographical errors and make other relatively minor changes to the original NPRM.

The Errata fail to address another discrepancy in the NPRM that was raised by the ARRL. The NPRM gives an applicant who held a Technician license (expired or otherwise) granted before March 21, 1987, examination credit for written Element 3(B). But the proposed rules do not extend similar credit to an applicant who had held a General or higher class license, once the grace period is past.

There is an article dealing with the Errata on page 76 in the Nov. QST.

#### ARRL Proposal:-

The full story of the ARRL Plan, "License Restructuring for the Future," appears on page 48 in the Sept. QST. An excellent editorial on "Restructuring" by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President, is on page 9 in the same issue. Please read both articles.

#### Now it is YOUR Turn:-

To try to help you in commenting on the questions raised by the FCC, here is an outline covering the key points of the FCC NPRM WT Docket 98-143:

- Number of License Classes and Privileges.
- Morse Code Examination
- Enforcement
- Written Examinations
- Greater Volunteer Examiner Opportunities
- RACES Station Licenses

I believe that the new NPRM from the FCC provides a unique opportunity to express our views on the direction that Amateur Radio will take in the US in the years ahead. I urge all of you to write and send your constructive comments to the FCC at one of the addresses noted above. To be effective, you should not only include your suggestions for change (or no change) in your letter, but should also include the rationale behind your suggestions. If you wish, please also send a copy to me at [k6wr@arrl.org](mailto:k6wr@arrl.org) or at the address on page 10 of any QST!

Thanks to the ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletins and other sources.

#### PACIFICON '98 -- A Great Success:-

The 1998 Pacific Division convention was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Concord CA on the weekend of Oct. 16-18. Thanks to Greg Estep, KE6VTA, and Vicki Zumwalt, N6KLS, co chairs, and some 125 Mount Diablo ARC members who worked on the convention, it was a great success! See you at Pacificon'99!

#### FCC Issues Universal Licensing System Rules:-

The FCC has issued its long-awaited Report and Order on the Universal Licensing System, which affects all Wireless

Telecommunications Bureau licensees. Among other things, the ULS will result in replacing Amateur Radio's familiar FCC Form 610 series with a new Form 605. The new rules become official 60 days after publication in The Federal Register-sometime around the end of the year. The FCC said it expects to have the ULS fully operational by next April. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees

will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Access to the ULS is via <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>.

The FCC's action consolidates approximately 40 existing forms into four ULS applications, including the new Form 605. All WTB application and filing procedures have been consolidated. Electronic filing in the ULS will not yet be mandatory for individual amateurs. Hams will have the option of filing electronically or on paper. However, electronic filing via the ULS will be required for Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the Amateur Service.

Under the ULS, amateurs will use Form 605, the Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services for all purposes. Applicants may continue to use the old forms for six months after the new rules go into effect, however.

Responding to comments from the ARRL and the W5YI Group, the FCC said it would include the Physician's Certification of Disability (Physician's Certification) on the new Form 605 in Part 2 of Schedule D.

As part of its Report and Order on the ULS, the FCC also issued amended rules (in WT Docket 96-188) to authorize visiting foreign hams to operate in the US pursuant to recent international reciprocal operating agreements. "We conclude that all alien amateur radio reciprocal operation should be authorized by rule," the FCC said. This means that foreign hams holding a CEPT radio-amateur license from a CEPT country or an International Amateur Radio Permit issued by a participating CITEL country may operate while visiting the US without having to apply for permission. Additionally, it will be easier for US hams to operate in participating countries in Europe and the Americas. The authority would not extend to US citizens claiming second citizenship and an amateur license from another country, however.

Against ARRL objections, the FCC eliminated the one-year term for an alien reciprocal permit and will not require an FCC license document. The FCC noted that the new system is similar to the one already in place for US and Canadian hams to operate in each other's countries.

The FCC said it will require the submission of a Taxpayer Identification Number by applicants and licensees using ULS, "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996." Some commenters, particularly amateur operators, argued against the requirement, saying that disclosure of a TIN - typically a Social Security Number - raised privacy concerns and was unnecessary to the Commission's regulatory goals. But, the FCC said its security measures will limit access to TIN data both online and to FCC staff. "Once data has been entered into ULS, sensitive data such as TINs will not be accessible to the public," the FCC said. The FCC has not addressed how it plans to handle applicants who do not have a TIN, such as foreign nationals who hold FCC licenses.

The FCC stood by its plan to use certain eligible private sector entities, on a strictly voluntary basis, to issue club and military recreation station call signs. The FCC said it plans to accept the services of any qualified organizations to issue club and military recreation call signs.

Both text and formatted versions of the complete Report and Order, WT Dockets 98-20 and 96-188, are available on the FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov>.

Thanks ARRL Bulletin Oct. 22, 1998

**Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Dies When Congress adjourns:-**

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. Unfortunately, the bill died when Congress adjourned, but be assured that the bill will be

reintroduced in the 106th Congress in 1999. Many thanks to all of you who worked to get cosponsors to sign on!

At last count we had 84 cosponsors nationally including the following cosponsors in the Pacific Division: Patsy Mink (D-HI-2nd); Tom Campbell (R-CA-15th); John Doolittle (R-CA-4th); Barbara Lee (D-CA-9th); George Miller (D-CA-7th); Neil Abercrombie (D-HI-1st); Sam Farr (D-CA-17th).

**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.

- Placerville swap meet, 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](mailto:jwilson@inforum.net), Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

**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'

**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