

LORAL

S.P.A.R.K.

South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

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

The December 1998 Meeting...

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

**When: Thursday, 3 December 1998
High Noon**

Subject: Nominations for 1999

REPEATER
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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.

PHONE PATCH

As repeater users are aware, the patch has been off the air for some time. We have been trying various methods to prevent a jammer from dialing 911, with only limited success. To prevent losing the line, we have temporarily terminated usage of the phone connection.

Even with the proliferation of cell phones, there have been many times when someone has made use of the repeater to alert emergency agencies of accidents or road hazards. In addition, members have used the autodial to call home as well as the autopatch to make other necessary calls. The phone access has been an important service to our clubs' members as well as to the community.

In the near future, we hope to reconnect the AUTODIAL feature on a trial basis. This will enable repeater users to call emergency agencies using the pre-programmed seven digit numbers as well as call home using the pre-programmed numbers in the repeater controller. We hope this will prevent a jammer from dialing 911. If the trial is successful, the autodial will continue to operate. If not, we will have to terminate the autodial.

Even if the above is successful, the AUTOPATCH will not be enabled until such time as we can prevent a 911 call from going through. The AUTOPATCH enables club members to dial any number within our calling area at will, whereas the AUTODIAL allows calls only to preprogrammed numbers.

One possible solution to the whole problem is to install our own phone line. Based upon my home phone bills, basic service would run about \$16/month BEFORE any "out of area" phone calls. Even limiting the repeater phone to only Bay Area calls would probably yield a monthly bill of about \$30. If SPARK and SARS split the phone cost, that would be a cost of about \$180/year/club. This money could come from the club's treasury, from a special repeater users' fee that each club member would pay, from a fee for an autodial slot that only members with autodial numbers would pay, or from some other source that the membership might suggest.

Please let me know what your thoughts are on the subject of installing our own phone line. Among other things, as a repeater user, is it worth, say, \$10/year to you to have full access to the phone via ham radio?

73 de Rich, W6APZ <w6apz@svpal.org

The Prez Sez...

The subject of the December meeting will be the nomination and election of Klub officers. The offices of Vice President and Secretary are wide open and the nominations committee hasn't a very big field to draw from. Bill Jimenez, Ed Lam, Brad Morris and Paul Trainer are potential 'draftees' so it would behoove you fellows to show up at the meeting.

Anybody else?

Rolf Kliibo and I are reluctantly standing for re-election but could easily be talked out of it by any willing volunteer.

Y'all come, you hear now!

73 de Jack

ARRL Pacific Division Update

December 1998

by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL
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Last Chance to Comment on Major Amateur Radio License Restructuring

Proposals:-

The Comment deadline on FCC WT Docket 98-143 is Dec. 1, 1998. The implementation of this Docket will set the framework for the Amateur Radio Service in the US for the next several years. The Docket and the ARRL "constructive suggestions" to the FCC on this Docket have been widely discussed in the Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. QSTs as well as the recent issues of the Pacific Division Updates. Already several hundred Comments are on file at the FCC on this matter and are available on the FCC WWW site. For those of you who have not sent in your Comments, it is now YOUR turn to express your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics in the US!

For your consideration, following is a capsule summary of the ARRL plan that will be covered in the ARRL's Comments that will be filed.

- Number of License Classes and Privileges.
 - 4 classes - Technician, General, Advanced, Extra.
 - No one to lose any privileges.
 - Novices and Tech Plus licenses become Generals immediately.
 - Return the Novice HF bands to better uses.
 - Technicians to have CW privileges on HF in General segments to help broaden their scope of Amateur Radio.
- Morse Code Examination
 - 5 wpm for General; 12 wpm for Advanced and Extra.
 - Solid copy or fill in the blanks examination.
- Enforcement
 - FCC Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB) to have full enforcement capability.
 - FCC/CIB to enforce all Amateur Radio Service rules.
- Written Examinations
 - Modify topics and questions to be more relevant to class of license.
 - Enlarge the total number of questions in the question pool.
 - Questions to be more difficult for higher level of licenses.
 - Retain the syllabus in the rules to maintain national uniformity.
 - Explore newer techniques for distractor generation.
- Greater Volunteer Examiner Opportunities
 - Advanced Class to have greater opportunities as VEs.
- RACES Station Licenses
 - Special RACES licenses no longer relevant, but keep RACES.

Of course, you may have a different approach than the ARRL Board has taken.

This NPRM provides a unique opportunity to express your views on the direction that Amateur Radio should 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 in the following paragraph. To be effective, you should not only include your suggestions for change (or no change) in your message, but should also include the rationale behind your

suggestions. If you wish, please also send a copy to me at k6wr@arrl.org or at the address on page 10 of any QST.

Several hundred Comments have already been filed with FCC on this Docket. These comments range from very simple comments such as "I like it" or "I don't like it" with little or no rationale for the points made to very extensive Comments with accompanying rationale. Suggestions have been made for as few as three license classes (one no code VHF; one with 5 wpm code for current General class HF privileges; and one with 5 wpm code for all current Extra class privileges). Others have asked the FCC to "leave it all as it is." Most Comments are from individuals, but some are from organizations. All the Comments can be found on-line at the [fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) WWW site.

The FCC is encouraging electronic comments via the WWW at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html> or by email at ecfs@fcc.gov. For instructions on how to file using the ecfs address, send an email to ecfs with the words "Get form <your email address>" in the body of the message. Of course, written comments can be sent by hardcopy by US mail to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington DC 20554. Be sure to include reference to WT Docket 98-143.

Reference and Background Information:-

How and why the FCC started this "Biennial Review" of all services they regulate has been well documented previously. The recent issues of QST have documented the ARRL Plan and the FCC WT Docket 98-143 in great detail. The last several issues of the Pacific Division Update have been devoted to this very important matter. The specific references are as follows:

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.pdarrrl.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 carried the NPRM story starting on page 56 plus an excellent editorial on this matter on page 9. Please read both articles.

The FCC issued some corrections and clarifications to the NPRM in September. 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 November QST deals with the Errata on page 76.

The ARRL Plan, as developed by the ARRL Board at its July 22 meeting is described in detail in "License Restructuring for the Future," 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.

The ARRL Special Board meeting on Oct. 24, which reaffirmed the original plan, and added some modifications is described in detail in the December QST pages 49 - 51.

Since August, the Pacific Division Update posted on the Pacific Division Web site ([pdarrrl.org](http://www.pdarrrl.org)), and many ARRL Bulletins and ARRL Letters have dealt with this matter in detail.

2000 Meters and Up? ARRL Petitions for LF Bands:-

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to create two low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and at 160 kHz. "These allocations will permit experimentation with equipment, antennas, and propagation phenomena in a small segment of the radio spectrum that has not been available to the Amateur Service for many years," the League's petition declared. The petition was filed with the FCC October 22.

Specifically, the League has proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions for amateurs in a 2.1-kHz "sliver band" from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and in a 30-kHz segment from 160 to 190 kHz. The 135.7 to 137.8 kHz band adheres to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) band plan.

The ARRL has proposed allowing a transmitter output in both LF segments of 200 W PEP, but in no case greater than 2 W EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power). The League's petition points out that poor antenna efficiencies and ground-loss characteristics likely would keep EIRPs at less than 1 W. The two bands would be available to General and higher licensees.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/lf-pet.pdf>. Thanks ARRL Letter, Nov. 6, 1998

Discovery Launches PANSAT Spread Spectrum Amateur Satellite:-

PANSAT, the Petite Amateur Navy Satellite, was launched over Australia October 30 from the space shuttle Discovery. The 150-pound Amateur Radio satellite carries a spread-spectrum communication package fabricated by student officers and faculty members at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey CA, as an educational project and a means of demonstrating spread-spectrum communication. It was launched from Discovery as part of the third International Extreme Ultraviolet Hitchhiker (IEH-3) experiment.

The NPS says the spacecraft will provide store-and-forward digital packet communication using direct-sequence spread-spectrum modulation with a center frequency of 436.5 MHz, a bit rate of 9842 bps and 9 MB of message storage. According to the NPS Web site, "Amateur Radio ground stations will be able to utilize PANSAT via a bulletin-board type user interface." PANSAT's Dan Sakoda, KD6DRA, says the team is doing initial assessments and has heard a reply signal from the spacecraft. But the ground crew has not yet been successful connecting via modems. "We've still got some bugs to shake out of our ground system," Sakoda said this week. He explained that the satellite does not have a beacon and only transmits when commanded to do so from the ground. "The fact that we saw PANSAT's response means that the satellite is working properly," he said. Sakoda does not expect PANSAT to be available to the Amateur Radio community for another couple of months.

For more information, visit the official PANSAT Web site, <http://www.sp.nps.navy.mil/pansat/> or see <http://131.120.25.103/pansat/danspans/dspansat.html>.

Thanks ARRL Letter, Nov. 6, 1998

Pacific Division Congressional Election Results:-

Changes to the House and Senate resulting from the recent election are not great. Following is a summary of the results.

-- In the Senate all incumbents were reelected.

-- In the House, all but three incumbents were reelected. The three new house members are

CA - 1 Mike Thompson (D) North Coast
CA - 3 Douglas Ose (R) Yolo and Tehama counties
NV - 1 Shelley Berkley (D) Las Vegas.

We need to contact the new members of the House and recontact the reelected House and Senate members to tell them about Amateur Radio.

All QSTs Now Available on CD-ROM:-

Now you can see every issue of QST on CD-ROM! The 1915-29 QSTView CD-ROM sets have arrived. Each page--all the ads, articles, columns and covers--has been scanned to provide a black-and-white image that can be read on your computer screen or printed. Easy-to-use software (included) allows you to search for articles by title and author, select specific year and issue, and browse individual articles or columns. Each set of CDs has an index to aid in finding the page or section of the issue you want to view or print. Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher is required for running the software. The new 1915-1929 set is ARRL Item No 7009. Each set is \$39.95. Visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog> for details or call, toll-free, 888-277-5289.

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 evs.

Hoo's Hoo...

Officers:

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

SS/L Shack Trustee: Mike Spate

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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

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