



the RARR RAG

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VOL. 48

June 1996

NO. 10

ANNUAL RaRa PICNIC JUNE 29th, Noon to ?

In order to enjoy more of the beauty of the Monroe County Parks system, the Board of Directors has selected the site for this years picnic to be at idyllic Ellison Park. You can find Ellison Park by taking the Blossom Road exit from RT 590 North. The exit is just north of the old can 'o worms. Blossom Road also intersects with Winton Road, in case you prefer not to take the expressway. Take Blossom Road to the East, away from downtown. Ellison Park has several entrances, please use the second entrance on the right (as you travel Eastward) for easy access to the picnic site. Once in the park, follow the signs to the South Lodge.

Ellison Park provides a lot of shade trees, a flowing stream, and plenty of places to re-fill water guns. It is common to see wild animals if you go for a quiet walk away from the lodge. Bring your baseball gloves, bats, and balls and we'll get a ball game going too.

Nourishment and soft drinks are provided by RaRa.

Anyone NOT bringing at least one legal minor MAY be subject to being assigned garbage detail!

The Prez Sez

by Art DeBruycker W2YGW

Talk about writers cramp. I have stared at this computer screen now for about an hour and still nothing has appeared on it, except the screen saver, which I can't print.

This is a period of transition from the leadership of Chris Reich, to mine. I plan to continue to direct the club in those pursuits that have made it what it is today, and perhaps, if opportunities present themselves, initiate some new activities which will be pleasurable and advantageous to all.

One of the prospects is for our meetings to be videotaped and the tape be made available to those who may derive some benefit from the taping. Shut-in amateurs and potential amateurs are some of the possible beneficiaries of this activity. It will

RaRa SUMMER MEETING

June 29th, 1996

12:00 P.M. - till?

Ellison Park

Blossom Road

SUMMER PICNIC

also provide training in the use of TV as a medium for public service.

George Lloyd has proposed to do the taping, and all things considered, if we can get a signal to the TV repeater on 111 Westfall, we can even transmit it live. Not sure how a live presentation of our meetings will impact the attendance rate. Would you rather watch meetings on TV be there in person? It is hard to socialize or interact with a TV camera.

I thank you in advance for your having elected me president and will do all I can to make it a satisfactory experience for all of us.

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

by Michael J. Eeckhout

The Amateur Radio volunteer exam testing sessions that the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club sponsors is very successful! Over the past year we have administered over 100 exam elements to both new and upgrading amateur radio operators!

As you know, we meet on the first Thursday of every month (except July, which is on the second Thursday due to the Holiday) after 5:30pm in Building 28.

SILENT KEY

Craig C. "Sonny" Shurtleff

ex - W2RMR

May 4, 1996

the **RARA RAG**

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Amateur Radio News Service

1996 ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARD WINNERS

Gene Pressler W3ZXV, from Maple Glen, PA, is the 1996 Atlantic Division "Amateur of the Year." Among his many contributions to

Amateur Radio, Gene was the first president of the Amateur Radio News Service. He serves as an Assistant Director in the Atlantic Division and was formerly ARRL's Public Information Coordinator for Eastern PA. He is the author of the League's Public Information Officer's Handbook. He has been president of the Delmont Radio Club and the Telford Area Repeater Association. Most recently, Gene took a leading role in the effort to reform FM repeater frequency coordination in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey and is one of the founders of the new ARCC-TPARC coordination group.

Dwight Hill K2KWK, from Rochester, NY, is this year's "Grand Ole Ham." This lifetime service award recognizes Dwight's contributions to the community through public service communications for sailboat races on Lake Ontario and to ham radio through his twice-weekly bulletin transmissions. His "Hill Top Bulletin" service, which has been on the air for 20 years, is a familiar feature on area FM repeaters. Dwight's careful research and clear delivery have made his bulletins both enjoyed and respected. He is ARRL's Bulletin Manager for Western New York Section.

Bob Bruninga WB4APR, from Glen Burnie, MD, receives the "Technical Achievement" award. In recent years, few technical innovations have received more widespread notice than Bob's Automatic Packet

Reporting System (APRS). Even before he wrote the APRS software, Bob was recognized as a packet radio pioneer and innovator. For example, he set up the first HF/VHF packet gateway, wrote the first shareware packet BBS program for the C-64 computer, and helped get packet added to SAREX. He has also experimented in the field of Amateur TV, including applications of that mode to public service communication. Bob serves as ARRL's Technical Coordinator for Maryland/DC Section. He will conduct forums on packet radio and on APRS at the 1996 ARRL National Convention in Peoria, Illinois, later this year. 73, Kay WT3P

WANTED TO BUY: Old pinball machine. Call Neal, WB2EKP, 359-2672

THE FIRST "WIRE ANTLER CONTEST"

The first annual *** WIRE ANTLER CONTEST *** will be held on 20 July, 1996. Basically, the Test is in two parts:

1- Build a 10 Meter antenna, using ONLY wire and rope. The maximum length of wire to be used shall not exceed 140 Feet, excluding the feedline and any length necessary for insulator wraps, solder joint & other mechanical connections. Designs could be Dipole arrays, Collinear and/or Broadside arrays, Wire Beams, either Yagis or Quads, Long Wire arrays [within the 140' total], Wave antennas or unique designs of your own! Pre-existing antennas may be used, providing they meet the definition above. Stations operating with Antlers outside of the definition(s) above will be listed as Check Logs, and their participation will be acknowledged in the final results.

2- The OPERATING phase will be a Sprint-style operation, on 20 July, 1996, from 1900 GMT to 2300 GMT on TEN meters, SSB, from 28.300 28.500 MHz. Maximum output power shall not exceed 150 Watts PEP. Scoring will be QSO's x Multipliers, with Multipliers being States, Canadian Provinces & DXCC countries, per the ARRL DXCC list. QSO's are of equal value (1-point each), and logs shall be reviewed by the Brockport Amateur Radio Klub, [BARK], and the Contest Committee's decision shall be final.

Contest submissions shall include the Operator's Name, Call, full QTH, equipment list and a DETAILED SKETCH of the ANTLER, including the installation elevation, (height above ground), with all dimension delineated clearly. Sketches shall become the property of the Brockport Amateur Radio Klub, and will not be returned. The top 5 stations will receive, in addition to the Certificate, a copy of ALL the antenna designs, with credit given to the Originators, and a copy of the submitted designs will be made available to all participants for a nominal fee, plus our shipping costs.

Logs shall be postmarked no later than 31 August, 1996, and shall be mailed to the address listed below. A Certificate of Participation will be issued to all Entries, and shall indicate individual Standing in the CONTEST. Please include either a LARGE SASE, or \$ 2.50 for postage & handling.

Mail entries to :

BARK Wire Antler Contest
C/O... W. Keith Hibbert, KE2DI
41 N. Lake Ave.
Bergen, NY 14416 USA

E-Mail your entries to: John Hysell, KF2XC
[hysell@kodak.com]

Packet Inquiries to Keith, KE2DI
[KE2DI@WB2VPH.#WNY.NY.USA.NOAM]

>> or << John, KF2XC

[KF2XC@WB2WXQ.#WNY.NY.USA.NOAM]

Phone inquiries to W. Keith Hibbert (716)
494-1239

NOTE: No logs will be accepted via Packet!!

FCC ISSUES FEMA HAM CALL SIGNS

from The ARRL Letter

The FCC has issued Amateur Radio call signs to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA Frequency Manager Paul Reid, N4EKW, says FEMA will use the call signs only in emergencies to communicate directly with ARES, RACES and other Amateur Radio operations. The FEMA call signs all have the same format. For example, the Region I call sign is KF1EMA, while the FEMA Headquarters at Mt Weather in Berryville, Virginia, has been issued NF1EMA.

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AMATEURS MOBILIZE AGAINST THREAT TO 2 METERS, 70 CM

The American Radio Relay League is asking radio amateurs across the United States to help defeat a threat to the two most heavily used amateur VHF and UHF bands.

An industry working group known as IWG-2A that is preparing draft US proposals for the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference has before it a list of "candidate bands" for low-earth orbit mobile satellites ("little LEOs") that includes, among a number of others suggested for consideration, the 144 and 420 MHz bands. Little LEOs are intended mainly to offer commercial paging and other low-data-rate messaging services.

The list of candidate bands was submitted by little LEO industry representatives at a meeting of IWG-2A on May 7. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, was present and objected strongly to the inclusion of these two bands. He was told that objections should be submitted in written comments, and the ARRL did so on May 15. At the same time the ARRL advised the industry participants in IWG-2A along with its chairman, Warren Richards of the Department of State, that if we did not receive assurance that the bands would be dropped from the list of candidate bands we would have no choice but to advise members in July QST that the bands were under threat. No such assurances were forthcoming. Instead, we were told that as long as little LEO allocations requirements remained unsatisfied, everything had to remain on the table.

This response was not acceptable. Accordingly, when July QST went to the printer on Tuesday, May 28, it included the following editorial. The editorial speaks for itself, but it is worth emphasizing that there is no reason for panic. What we are dealing with is an ill-considered industry effort that is in its early stages; there is no reason to believe there is any government support for any move against these two amateur bands. Our mission is to quash the idea before it goes any further. An outpouring of thoughtful comment by amateurs, explaining why the public interest would not be served by the introduction of commercial services into these bands, will go a long way toward ensuring the desired outcome.

The following editorial is "Reprinted with permission from July 1996 QST."

It Seems to Us, July 1996 QST:

Write Now! Get out a pen and paper, or boot up

your computer. There's work to be done! Your help is needed to defend two meters and 70 cm. Yes, that's right--the two most popular and crowded amateur VHF/UHF bands! But don't panic, and don't "go ballistic." Here's what's happening, and what you can do about it.

The United States is preparing for the 1997 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-97. In the past, the public has been able to participate in the preparations for such conferences by responding to FCC Notices of Inquiry. In March, the FCC announced a streamlining of its International Bureau's preparatory processes for WRCs. Under the new scheme, the NOIs have been eliminated in favor of increased emphasis on WRC Advisory Committees.

For WRC-97, a series of Informal Working Groups (IWGs) of the Advisory Committee has been created to address specific agenda items. The output of each IWG will go directly to a joint FCC-NTIA-Department of State Steering Committee of the Advisory Committee. There, draft proposals as received from the IWGs will be reviewed and forwarded to the FCC for possible release as preliminary U.S. proposals for public comment.

In announcing the streamlined WRC preparatory process, the FCC tried to reassure those who might be concerned about reduced opportunities for public participation: "Interested parties should note that input to the Advisory Committee may be sent at any time directly to the Chair of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee; the Chairs of the Advisory Committee's Informal Working Groups; Cecily C. Holiday, the FCC's federal officer of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, or to Damon C. Ladson, the alternate federal officer." Hold that thought while we shift gears to the substance of the issue.

One of the WRC-97 agenda items includes consideration of possible additional frequency allocations for the mobile-satellite service. So-called "little LEOs," low-earth orbit satellites below 1 GHz, already have allocations. Their proponents claim these are inadequate and are trying for more. The needs of little LEOs are being addressed in IWG-2A, chaired by Warren Richards of the Department of State. The ARRL technical relations staff participates in IWG-2A to represent Amateur Radio interests. At the May 7 IWG-2A meeting, an industry representative proposed a list of "candidate bands" for little LEOs. The list includes a number of bands that would negatively impact existing services, and does not include others that would be technically more feasible but to which strong objection from incumbents could be expected--the point being that some political, rather than purely technical, judgment already has influenced the list. Incredibly, 144-148 and 420-450 MHz were

included on the list! This is the first time in memory that another service has been proposed for the two-meter amateur band. We must make sure it is also the last time.

We do not need to explain to ARRL members the extensive use that is made of these bands by amateurs. The two bands provide the backbone of our local public service communications effort. Voice and data, mobile and fixed, even television--the list of present amateur uses is a long one, and of future uses is even longer. Both are already used for satellite services and for moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power.

Apparently we did need to explain all this to the little LEO industry representatives, so we did just that--both at the meeting and in a followup letter on May 15. We also explained that we had to regard the matter as extremely serious. No one with the slightest background in radiocommunication could possibly believe that a mobile-satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future amateur operations. Therefore, we said, if we did not receive assurance that they would be taken off the list of candidate bands by the deadline for this issue of QST, we would have no choice but to bring the matter to the attention of the entire membership.

The response we received was unsatisfactory. In effect, we were told the little LEO industry would consider our views but that until their spectrum needs are satisfied, all bands must remain under consideration.

So, this is a call to action. We must get across to the industry and government participants in IWG-2A that the 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz bands cannot be considered as candidates for mobile-satellite services. We need to drive the point home so forcefully, with so many grassroots responses, that no one is ever tempted to try this again. Which brings us back to that invitation for "interested parties" to send input "at any time." There's no time like the present! Here are the key addresses, including those of the mobile-satellite industry folks who seem to have started the ruckus:

Cecily C. Holiday, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; e-mail choliday@fcc.gov; fax 202-418-0748.

Warren G. Richards, Chair, IWG-2A, Department of State, CIP 2529, Washington, DC 20520; e-mail richardswg@ms6820wpoa.us-state.gov; fax 202-647-7407.

Tracey Weisler, FCC Rep, IWG-2A, International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554; e-mail tweisler@fcc.gov; fax 202-418-2824.

Mary Kay Williams, Final Analysis, Inc, 7500 Greenway Center, Suite 1240, Greenbelt, MD 20770; fax 301-474-3228.

Leslie Taylor, President, LTA, 6800 Carlynn Ct, Bethesda, MD 20817; e-mail ltaylor@lta.com; fax 301-229-3148.

Do comment. But be civil. Don't abuse people who are simply doing their jobs. We have to get across that casting covetous eyes on amateur bands is counterproductive, and contrary to the public interest. To accomplish this we need a lot of comments, including yours. But remember that the objective is to educate and persuade, not to intimidate. We don't need to. The facts are on our side.

To monitor the FCC's ongoing WRC-97 preparations, visit its WRC-97 home page at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc97/>. Write now. Right now!--David Sumner, K1ZZ

FCC BUSTS WASHINGTON HAM BACK TO NOVICE CLASS

Arthur P. Baumgarden of Bingen, Washington, won't be K17CW much longer. In a case that hinged in part on Baumgarden's claimed driving skill, the FCC concluded that he obtained his Advanced class license improperly and refused to review that decision. Baumgarden, 62, said he successfully upgraded to Advanced during a 1991 test session in Carson, California, a round trip of more than 2000 miles from his home. According to the FCC, however, he later told a Commission informant that he obtained his upgrade "through payment of money, without passing the required examinations." When the FCC questioned Baumgarden, he denied the allegations. The FCC asked Baumgarden to take the test again under another Volunteer Examination team, but he refused and appealed.

FCC records indicate that Baumgarden changed his story after the FCC first took issue with his version of events and especially with the travel times he supplied. In part, the Commission expressed disbelief that Baumgarden could have driven to Carson, California, and back in the times he claimed and called the alleged travel schedule "impossible to achieve within the speed limit." Baumgarden said he made the journey in his RV. The fact that Baumgarden later changed his story "damages rather than enhances his credibility, the FCC said." The Commission also noted that Baumgarden failed to corroborate his tale or to adequately explain why he provided two versions of events.

Although Baumgarden continues to deny he obtained his amateur license improperly, the FCC concluded on March 18, 1996, that "his denials are not credible" and refused to review the case on both procedural and substantive grounds. The Commission ordered that because Baumgarden declined to appear for retesting, his operator license would be reduced to Novice and his call sign changed to one appropriate for that license class.

FCC via The ARRL Letter

FCC ESTABLISHES FAMILY RADIO SERVICE

The Federal Communications Commission amended Part 95 of its rules May 10 to establish a new, unlicensed personal radio service, to be called the Family Radio Service. This service was created in response to a petition filed by the Radio Shack Division of Tandy Corporation, requesting that the Commission establish a new radio service aimed at providing small groups with an affordable and convenient means of direct, short range (up to one-half mile), two-way voice communication. FRS radios would use 14 channels in the 462 to 468-MHz band. Transceivers would have to be FCC-certified.

The Commission suggests the FRS could be used by hunters, campers, hikers, bicyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts to keep in contact with one another during outings. It could also be used by parents to keep in touch with children playing in the neighborhood, or families or friends to keep in contact with one another while at shopping malls, sporting events, amusement parks and similar locations.

FCC via The ARRL Letter

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LEAGUE SEEKS STRONGER FEDERAL PREEMPTION POLICIES

from The ARRL Letter

The ARRL wants the FCC to go further in compelling state and local governments to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio and apply the least restrictive means to regulate amateur antennas and activity. The requested rules changes would expand and clarify PRB-1, the Federal preemption of state and local regulation. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the petition is based on the League's years of experience with PRB-1, which the FCC issued in 1985, and to deal with "things that frustrate the intent of PRB-1 or tend to run up the cost" for hams. "We want the Commission to say flat out that localities must find the least restrictive means" to deal with ham radio, he said.

In a Petition for Rulemaking filed February 7, the League calls on the FCC to amend Section 97.15(e) to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable," unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions were necessary for health, safety or aesthetic reasons.

Sumner said the League also hopes the FCC will "at least assume a neutral stance" on the issue of so-called restrictive covenants sometimes imposed as part of a homeowner's deed. The League wants the FCC to acknowledge that the Commission "has no less interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio Station" in an area regulated by deed restrictions, covenants, or condominium regulations, rather than by zoning ordinances. The ARRL asks the FCC to clarify that local government's role in applying PRB-1 is to accommodate ham antennas rather than to balance local interests against Federal interest in "effective public service amateur communications." State and local governments also could not impose substantial costs on amateur service licensees local approvals.

The petition further asks the FCC to narrow local government's ability to use zoning ordinances as a sole basis to deny ham radio antennas. Denial of conditional-use permits and special exceptions "does not relieve a municipality of the basic obligation to make reasonable accommodation for amateur communications," the League said in its petition. Even safety-related land use restrictions that effectively limit or restrict ham antennas could be invalid "unless there is no less-burdensome alternative."

The League's filing says clarifying PRB-1 would help guide municipalities to enact provisions that fairly accommodate Amateur Radio and avoid highly divisive litigation between hams and localities. Under the suggested changes, local governments could apply to the Commission for a full or partial waiver of the amended rules. The jurisdiction would have to demonstrate that "local concerns of a highly specialized or unusual nature" override the Federal interest.

The FCC has not yet assigned a rulemaking (RM) number to the ARRL's petition. Here is the suggested wording of Section 97.15(e) the ARRL's petition requests:

(1) State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications; it must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose; and it must not impose substantial costs on amateur service licensees.

(2) Any state or local antenna restriction or regulation which, on its face or as applied, would limit amateur station antennas to heights below 70 feet is presumed unreasonable unless the promulgating authority can demonstrate that such regulation is necessary to accomplish a clearly defined, and expressly stated health safety or aesthetic objective; that there is no less burdensome alternative to the regulation; and that the Federal interest in efficient amateur radio communications from the amateur station at issue is otherwise reasonably accommodated.

(3) Any state or local authority, or other entity that wishes to maintain and enforce zoning, land use or other regulations or restrictions inconsistent with this section may apply to the Commission for a full or partial waiver of this section. Such waivers may be granted by the Commission in its sole discretion, upon a showing by the applicant that local concerns of a highly specialized or unusual nature create an overwhelming necessity for regulation inconsistent with this section. No application for waiver shall be considered unless it includes the particular regulation for which waiver is sought. Waivers granted according to this rule shall not apply to later-enacted or amended regulations by the local authority unless the Commission expressly orders otherwise.

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KENWOOD ANNOUNCES NEW DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

Longing for a new Kenwood TS-870S or maybe a TM-733? Soon, you might find them in your local CB shop or truck stop. Citing concerns about the future of Amateur Radio and a changing business climate, Kenwood Communications Corp announced to its dealers on May 21 it's taking "some bold steps" to turn things around. Kenwood has appointed three new companies (as yet unnamed) to wholesale Kenwood Amateur Radio products "to CB radio stores, truck stops, 2-way radio stores, and electronic re-sellers," according to a letter to its dealer network.

Kenwood says it believes its new distribution strategy will benefit the hobby by increasing the visibility of its Amateur Radio line through small dealers to help draw newcomers into the hobby.

The company also says it plans to offer a new pamphlet or "primer" about Amateur Radio to introduce people to the hobby. The primer will be free. In addition, Kenwood will start selling Amateur Radio study guides and has urged its authorized dealer network to help distribute the new materials. In conjunction with its Kenwood Report-distributed to ham radio clubs--the company also plans to offer "incentives for local clubs to gain new members using the Kenwood Amateur Radio primer and licensing materials." In a May 28 letter to authorized dealers, Kenwood described the moves as "our first stage of activities to promote Amateur Radio."

Kenwood says the extra step in the new distribution chain will guarantee that existing authorized dealers always have a price advantage over the smaller resellers. The company also denied rumors that it plans to exit the Amateur Radio market.

Tnx ARRL Letter

Patrick C. Moyer, N2AIW
Attorney & Counselor-at-Law

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Next RaRa Meeting

September 6th 1996

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