



SIGNAL

August 1995 Volume 4 Number 8

From The President's Desk

By the time this issue comes out summer will be almost over. Even with time off I didn't accomplish the things I wanted due to the heat and humidity.



Maybe with some cooler and dryer Fall weather some of those antenna projects will get finished. The hot dry weather was probably the best time for running my receiving antenna (Beverage)

across the swamp (no mosquitos or mud) but I just couldn't take the heat.

Several people helped out on the repeater enclosure so that project is getting finished up.

As listed elsewhere some members helped out with communications at the Harvard Bicycle Race.

Stan KD1LE

ARRL Convention (Manchester)

The convention was the weekend of July 29-30. I didn't get to see any this year since I took on the job of working at the VE session. It was a great session, and with the improvements Jim WW1Y has made in the software used to run it everything went smoothly. Two years ago we had 124 ex-

aminees go through and we were extremely busy with the paper work being the biggest problem. This year we had 140 people come through, taking a total of approximately 300 test elements and we could have handled many more. It was a great job by about 30 VE's giving up their time to make the session happen. One more VE note. The Lunenburg sessions start again the 20th of September. The contact is Tom K1JHC 508-534-9377

Stan

At The Last Meeting

The last meeting was 20th of July and was a cookout and pool party. A number of members and their families attended. The party was held poolside at KD1LE's residence and ran from 6:00 till the mosquitos drove the last of us away around 9:00 PM.

This Month and Beyond

This month's speaker will be Bill Santelmann N1AU. He will speak about "Contest Operating". Bill is the Eastern Mass Coordinator of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

See you there

Stan

Upcoming Events

MIT Flea	Cambridge	Aug 20
Mohawk	Gardner	Aug 26
Pearlfest	Brewster NY	Sept. 10
9:00		

\$The Treasurer's Report\$

Well, I'm physically back from gallivanting around the country (to quote Stan's last month's report) but not really mentally back yet. Anyhow, June and July membership renewals, split-the-pot, and ARRL renewal rebates brought us an income of \$88.00. Expenses for newsletter postage and the July meeting refreshments totalled \$73.36. We have 57 members, including members of families.



Current fund balances are
 General Fund: \$749.00
 Education Fund: \$207.34

73 de Ralph KD1SM

Public Service

NVARC Members supported the Harvard Bicycle Race in July, Coordinated by Duane KD1JY the following people provided communications support for the race. W1XP Bob, KA1JVU Karen, N1OTR Ed, KD1PI Jim, KD1JY Duane, NZ1B Ian. The race went off safely and the United States Cycling Federation thanked us for our support.

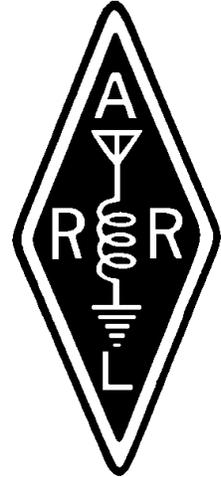


ARRL/FCC

>From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT July 17, 1995
 To all radio amateurs
 ARLB071 ARRL supports changes

The ARRL has filed comments on FCC WT Docket 95-57, a notice of proposed rule making on five items of importance to amateurs. These items, described in detail in page 82 of July 1995 QST, are:

1. A lifetime amateur operator license, originally proposed by the League in a petition filed January 6, 1994. The ARRL said in its comments that it believes a "relatively substantial" number of amateurs would benefit from such a lifetime license. However, the



League said that the Commission's proposal is not quite what the 1994 petition requested, but, rather, that former licensees be given credit for examinations passed in the past. This would create an unnecessary burden for volunteer examiners, the League said, and would assign to them a function contrary to the Communications Act.

2. On April 4, 1994, the League petitioned the FCC to change the number of bona fide members necessary to constitute an Amateur Radio club from two to four, for the purpose of applying for a club station license. The FCC has recently resumed issuing of club station licenses after a 15-year hiatus, and the League said that since the FCC no longer requires the filing of organizational documents from clubs, that increasing the required number of members to four (as the FCC has proposed in WT 95-57) is more important than ever.

3. The League strongly opposed the creation of a "session manager" for volunteer examiner test sessions, as proposed by the FCC based on a petition by the Rules Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. The League said, among several arguments, that there is no reason why the (required) three VEs should not be held jointly responsible for the proper conduct of an examination, and said that the FCC's plan would undermine the

integrity, both perceived and actual, of the VE program.

4. The League supported a proposal that the FCC issue special one-by-one call signs for certain special event stations.

5. The League also supported allowing portable indicators to be sent before, after, or both before and after the station call sign, as the operator chooses.

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 75 ARLB075
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 26, 1995
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB075
ARLB075 Hemispheric permit sought

The ARRL has asked the Federal Communications Commission to implement US participation in an "International Amateur Radio Permit" covering countries in the Western Hemisphere. The IARP would allow, in conjunction with an amateur's home-country license, temporary operation in any other country in the Americas that has signed the agreement.

Commission (CITEL) by Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union, and after approval by CITEL it was presented to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, where The Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit was adopted on June 8, 1995. (The US Communications Act permits the FCC to allow foreign radio amateurs to operate in the US and its territories through both bilateral agreements--the familiar "reciprocal operating agreements" between two countries--and multilateral agreements, such as the IARP.)

The IARP, the League said, would eliminate paperwork for both the FCC and for US, as well as foreign, licensed amateurs. Countries signing the agreement will not be allowed to levy a fee or tax on a visiting IARP-holder. IARPs would be issued in two categories: Class 1 (in the US, Amateur Extra Class privileges), and Class 2, Technician class privileges).

ARRL Bulletin 73 ARLB073
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 25, 1995
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB073
ARLB073 New RFI book from the FCC

The Federal Communications Commission has released a new Interference Handbook for consumers. The 24-page, full color book will be stocked by FCC field offices around the country to provide people experiencing interference to home electronic equipment with information and solutions to interference problems.

The book deals not only with interference to televisions from radio transmitters, but also illustrates and describes interference caused by poor antennas (weak signals, ghosting); electrical interference from home devices such as hair dryers; electrical interference from power lines; and interference from home computers and low power radio devices such as garage door openers.

In addition to interference to televisions, the handbook describes solutions to interference to hi-fi systems, telephones, and video cassette recorders. Techniques for solving problems include the use of ferrite cores, improving receiving antenna systems, checking cabling, and isolating interconnected units to find the one that is at fault.

The book lists addresses and phone numbers for sources of high pass filters, common mode filters, band reject filters, ferrites and beads, ac line filters, telephone filters, and interference resistant telephones, as well as an extensive list of manufacturers

Page one of the new FCC Interference Handbook says "Many interference problems are the direct result of poor equipment installation. Cost-cutting manufacturing techniques, such as insufficient shielding or inadequate filtering, may also cause your equipment to react to a nearby radio transmitter. This is not the fault of the transmitter and little can be done to the transmitter to correct the problem. If a correction cannot be made at the transmitter, actions must be taken to stop your equipment from reacting to the transmitter."

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV, says, "This is the statement from the FCC that hams have been waiting for. The book takes a fair and honest approach to explaining responsibilities and cures for interference problems. The FCC team that put this together has done a fine job with a complex technical and emotional subject."

VE Exam Info

As I noted elsewhere, the exam fee for VE sessions is a maximum of \$5.92 since the beginning of this year. ARRL VE's charge \$5.90 and I haven't heard of anyone bothering with the other \$0.02.

On July 1, 1995 the new Advanced Class (element 4A) question pool went into use.

A new Extra Class Syllabus was released February 1995 and the question pool will be revised later this year.

The FCC has dropped a proposed temporary licensing proposal. The current system with electronic filing and the resultant one to two week turnaround has made it unnecessary. Commenters on the proposed action had been unfavorable. Also as mentioned elsewhere the Lunenburg VE sessions start up again in September.

Stan

DX Report

HEARD ISLAND, VK0. The Australian Antarctic Division has issued a permit allowing a full-scale amateur radio operation, so plans are in place for this all band, all mode operation, including RTTY and satellite. A multinational team will sail from western Australia November 1, 1995, and expect to arrive at Heard on about the 12th. Departure from Heard will be on December 1. DXpedition organizers are 3Y0PI veterans K0IR, KK6EK and ON6TT. Other team members include HB9AHL, N6EK, PA3DUU, K5VT, DJ9ZB and JH4RHF.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Press, N6SS, is planning a 4 month stay on Diego Garcia and operating from club station VQ9SS. A 160 meter antenna is in the works. QSL via N6SS.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. AL7EL, WB2DND, KC7V, K4HQI, and possibly others, are planning a DXpedition scheduled for some time this fall. Three stations are planned and some action in the CQWW SSB Contest in October is possible.

COCOS ISLANDS, TI9. Jose, TI2JJP, may return to Cocos for about 15 days starting about October 9 or 10.

ANTIGUA, V2. Doug, N3ADL, reports members of the Frankford Radio Club, FRC, will be active in this year's CQWW DX Phone Contest October 28 and 29 as V26B. QSL via WT3Q. Doug plans on being active before and after the contest as time permits on the RS12 satellite as well as on 12 and 17 meters as V26DX. QSL via N3ADL.

Msg #21210 From: DL9GOA Date: 21-Jul 0944Z Subj: DXNL951 German DX Newsletter

Editor: Uwe, DL9GOA

(PR: DL9GOA @ DB0HRO.#MVP.DEU.EU)

translated into English by: Bob, DL7VOA

(PR: DB0GR.#BLN.DEU.EU)

PACIFIC

FO: F5JWW plans to activate OC-066 and OC-131 (French Polynesia) on 20m SSB/CW from Oct 6-20.

H44: Nigel, G3TXF, will be QRV as H44XF in the IOTA-Contest (July 29/30)

ASIA

XW: Andreas, DK9LM (ex TA1ZE), goes eventually to Laos for 20 months and tries to get a license there.

AFRICA

5A: The four Ukrainian expeditioners UT2UA, UT3UY, UT3UX and UX4UM started their announced activity from Libya from a newly built station of the Radio Club Tripoli with the call 5A1A on July 13. This could be the beginning for more activities from Libya. If the calls 5A3UY or 5A/UT3UY which were active before July 13 are genuine is not clear yet. The 5A1A activity shall last for about 10 days. The OMs are active with two stations simultaneously and are working the huge pile-up's in a very good QRQ-style. QSL NOT via W4FRU but via LZ2UA!

Editor's note:

Sorry but on the last weekend the call of Franz, DJ9ZB, and my call DL9GOA were abused by a disturbing station on the transmitting frequency of 5A1A (nearly 30 minutes). I want to say all those gentlemen on the bands who called me a lid that after 17 years of amateur radio I do know what split operation means!

TY: Sigi, DJ4IJ, will stay in Benin for 3 to 4 weeks starting on July 28. He tries to become QRV as TY1IJ. QSL again via DK8ZD.

FCC Rules

A number of FCC rules changes took effect December of 1994.

One that has had a very positive effect allows the VEC to electronically file form 610's. The VEC has to maintain the original Form 610. This (along with some other changes) has reduced what was sometimes a 12 or 14 week wait for new licences to a week or so.

Another is the stipulation that the FCC will only accept renewals during the 90 days prior to the license expiration date.

Also, persons who do not keep the FCC advised of their current address in a timely manner may be subject to license suspension. This one is particularly interesting to me since I get between 5% and 10% of my U.S. QSL's returned due to "Forwarding Order Expired". That means the old address (the one the FCC has) has been incorrect for at least one year. (There really isn't any excuse for that and some lost licenses and publicity about them would be a good thing. I hate wasting stamps--ed)

If you haven't been to a VE session lately remember that another thing last years rules changes did was raise the test fee. The maximum fee is \$5.92. ARRL VEC's charge \$5.90.

Board Meeting Notes

This months board meeting was held July 10.

Some of the items discussed or acted on were;

Bills, club financial status, and the schedule of regular expenses. We also discussed the possibility of looking for another meeting place. The VFW has been generous in allowing us to use the current room, but it is often noisy and difficult to give presentations there.

NVARC QSL BUREAU

Last month no cards were sent to the QSL Bureau. My stack is starting to get up there and I've received some from Jeremy,

so if there are a few more people with cards we can do a shipment in August after the meeting. If anyone is sending cards to the Bureau themselves (I hope not) remember that the charge is now \$3.00 per pound of cards. Anyway, bring your cards to the meeting or to breakfast and the club will take care of the shipping. Stan

Windows 95

I read an article in the Boston Globe suggesting that instead of spending the \$100 to upgrade to Windows 95 you should spend it on other things. The author suggested spending \$200 to do a processor upgrade, \$200 to do a 4 megabyte RAM upgrade, \$150 to do a modem upgrade to 28.8Kbps (doesn't that add up to \$550?). I guess that all of those things are good and the RAM and processor upgrades are permanent improvements that will help whether you choose to upgrade from your Windows or not. But I'm seeing a lot of the same type of journalism on Win95 as I do in the evening news. Bad news, incompatibilities, bug scares. Most of it is around the incompatibilities with existing software. Well, if everyone (or almost everyone) wants long file names how can you complain that your existing software won't work with Win95 long file-names. Isn't the problem with the application not with the operating system that gives you what you wanted.? If you want all these new feature and options then along the way most software will have to be upgraded to take advantage of them. In many cases the existing applications will work fine if you stick with the old 8.3 format filenames. Another article highlighted the fact that the Microsoft report which tested 2500 software packages found some problem with 600 of them. Well, a lot of that software I wouldn't want anyway, but if I needed it, that has to be factored into the plan to upgrade the operating system. That's why I suggest doing some serious house-keeping before hand. I'm pretty ruthless about this myself. If there is software you don't use the conversion issue might help you decide to eliminate it. That's tough for the "software collectors" out there to do.

In the final analysis, if you want a more stable, 32 bit operating system, with all the other stuff that comes along with it. Your going to have to upgrade at some point. Although Microsoft says it will continue to support DOS, industry analysts think that DOS



6.X is the last major upgrade. Also they don't expect any changes to Windows 3.1 or Windows For Workgroups 3.11. All Microsofts development will go to Win95 and Windows NT. The expectation is that within two years of the release of Win95 all major 16 bit software development will have ceased. All the Independent Software Developers will want to take advantage of the 32 operating systems advantages for their products. So there is some time to make a controlled change to the new operating systems. But like the era of the 286 machines. You can hold on to them forever, but they will never run Windows.

Stan

Looking for a Bargain?

There have been a number of messages on packet relating to equipment that had been donated for the Special Olympics now being for sale. W1SO, who was a coordinator for the program, has listed the following equipment for sale. Yaseau 5100 mobile rigs, 530 handhelds, FL7000 amps, and FT1000D's. Also listed are AEA TNC's. All negotiation is directly through him.

From the Video Library

The Video Library has seven titles to loan.

- **The Last Voice From Kuwait**
- **The all China DF Competition**
- **Your League at Work**
- **Signal to Noise Story**
- **Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite Communications**

• The New World of Amateur Radio

You can get them anytime you can catch me at home, and I will bring the available tapes to each meeting. Stan

Resource List

Construction	Earl Russell	448-5822
DX	Bruce Blain	772-4138
NTS, MARS	Stan Pozerski	433-5090
RACES	Ben Akins	433-9227
TCP/IP	Ralph Swick	582-7351



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Stan Pozerski, KD1LE
V Pres.: Bruce Blain K1BG
Secretary: Jeremy Bisbo KB1AWE
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell VFW hall.
Talk-in 146.490 simplex

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most IBM-PC formats are acceptable.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)