



# THE READOUT

The Stanislaus Amateur Radio News

22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

NOV / DEC 1997

[HTTP://WWW.WAC.COM/~STANARA](http://www.wac.com/~stanara)

## *New Officers, Nominated Look inside for NEWS....*

### Newsline

December 12th, 1997 to follow.

### INDUSTRY CANADA POLL ON CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING

Canada's national ham radio society has been told that it will not be given a voice in governing that nation's Amateur Radio service. At a November 28th meeting of Industry Canada's Amateur Delegation Working Group, Radio Amateurs of Canada was told that Industry Canada has decided to terminate a delegation initiative and to retain the administration of the Canadian Amateur Service. No reason was given for the termination but Industry Canada says that it began a commercially administered poll of Canadian radio amateurs on December 1st. This, to obtain views on amateur radio licensing and certification.

Negotiations have been ongoing almost four years on the Delegation of the Administration of the Canadian Amateur Radio Service. Radio Amateurs of Canada says that it is attempting to obtain the details of the poll and will provide them if they are made available. It also says that it will attempt to meet with Industry Canada to find out why the negotiations were terminated.

(Via Radio Amateurs Canada)

continued pg 2

The Readout

\$ 20 \$

a

year.

so whats

your

excuse?

.....cheap?.....

### How can I connect?

By jim n6kmr

"How can I connect to the packet world, from the Internet, Jim?" This is a common question I get every so often. From individuals from the Ham community. OK here it is again... <http://www.ccnnet.com/~rwilkins/gateways.html> ... write it down! "OK now what?" Gads...lets try clickin on ab6qv? Out of Lancaster. "Wow ... now what". Sign in and play around. Ham call and first name is good for login and password. Follow the directions that the bbs asks for. Those that have Win 95 or Windows 3.11 already have the nessary program to work the bbs called TELNET. If you don't have it let me know I'll download it to you.

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## Newsline

### CONGRESS LOOKING INTO FCC MOVE

A plan to relocate the Federal Communications Commission's headquarters is once again under scrutiny. This time by congress after Senator John McCain asks investigative arm to look into whether the FCC should be forced into the move.

The FCC has long resisted the relocation. It wanted to opt out of the move but was ordered by a federal judge in 1994 to relocate to a new complex called the Portals. A business complex where the government has signed a long-term lease.

The disputed move has again caused a stir after it was learned a lead investor in the new office development paid a million dollar legal fee to President Clinton's campaign manager. That was for work that included amending the FCC's lease at the Portals development project. According to Senator McCain, rent in the new space will increase by 27 percent.

(Via published news reports)

### BUSTED PIRATE BROADCASTER IS HAM

One of the three unlicensed broadcasters busted by the government three week ago is a ham. L. Douglas Brewer, better known as Doug Brewer to the Tampa, Florida ham community holds the call sign KC4HAZ. Brewer, a General licensee of Temple Terrace, Florida, was detained when armed agents moved in to close down the pirates and confiscate equipment.

As previously reported, Brewer operated as "The Party Pirate" on 102.1 MHz from his suburban Tampa home. He told reporters that he was awakened November 19 at 6:30 AM by armed U.S. marshals who handcuffed him. According to news reports, federal agents seized equipment from his home studio and from a remote broadcasting van that carried a "102.1 FM Pirate Radio" logo. They also dismantled his 150 foot tower and trucked it all away as Brewer and other station volunteers looked on.

(Via ARRL, others) continued pg 3

## STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

October 21, 1997

The regular meeting of Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:34 P.M. by President Ed KF6FIR. Introductions were performed. Officers reports-Duane KF6BPA reported that the repeater was having trouble and Leroy NV6S went up and fixed it. The power strip was inadvertently turned off. It was found that the batteries were not holding a charge for as long as they should. The low level machine is in the process of being installed at the Double Tree Inn. It will have a new frequency. The 440 machine and the 2 meter will have linking capabilities so selective linking will be possible which will have advantages during Bike a Thons or field days in locations where 2 meter transmissions are difficult. The phone patch is down, later it will have the ability to be accessed by three frequencies. Treasurers report-Bob KC6TVE gave the report. Total year ending income \$2589.80, Expenses \$2923.41, check book balance \$2818.61. Equipment fund balance is \$728.20. Technicians report-Leroy NV6S was absent. Presidents Report-Ed KF6FIR said new Ham classes are planned for January they will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings Jan. 22 through Feb. 12, 7PM to 9PM. The Red Cross has agreed to allow the classes at their facility again. Ed hopes to have the brochures made up by that time and be able to pass out brochures and flyers announcing the classes. Membership drive was suggested, and discussion was held on weather to keep the repeater an open repeater or to close the repeater. Larry WB6GJT asked about reminding people about supporting the repeater, which is done via dues to the club. Further discussion will be held on this matter. Old business-Flea market plans are still being made as reported by Paul KF6KXX. Location site is tentatively selected. Calendar of Events- Ham classes in January. Nominations in November, and Elections December. Break at 8:14 P.M.- 8:33 PM reconvened. New business-John KE6IVV asked if the repeater ID could be changed to a voice, and if it could be programmed to give messages. Duane

KF6BPA explained how this would have to be done. Handouts were given that pictured emergency supplies packed in back packs and in fanny packs these could be ready to go in case of an emergency or if a person was called on to work at one of the emergency shelters. Thanks to Dave W6PS for supplying the handouts. A discussion was held as to the views of the club members about the idea to eliminate the code for all levels of Ham licenses. This was a view expressed at Pacificon. Mike W7MH suggested that we try to educate the public more about Amateur Radio by attending functions in cities and having working HF rigs so people could see them rather than hand held radios. Having the ability to communicate to farther stations would show a distinction between Ham radio and CB. Bob KC6TVE also has magnetized signs that can go on the door of a car, these would help increase awareness of Amateur Radio communications. The yellow and black magnetized signs are \$35.00 each, contact Bob KC6TVE for more information or to order signs. Ed KF6FIR reminded everyone that nominations will be next month. Announcements- Nan KF6BOZ announced that she called the Trojan Battery Company and asked for a donation of batteries for the repeater and explained to them that they are used in case of an emergency power outage and they were happy to donate 10 Deep cycle marine batteries to the club. Thank you Nan for taking the initiative, good work! Jim KE6HVB said that the Red Cross is looking for a TNC to be donated so that they can run packet radio in an emergency. Tony KD6YAZ was sick and in the hospital we wish him a speedy recovery. Steve KD6YCD filled in as net control for Tony at the Riverbank Wine and Cheese bike a thon. Dez W6BMA, was in the hospital and now has a new pace maker, and was looking good at the meeting. Best wishes Dez. Meeting adjourned at 9:18PM. Respectfully Submitted by Barbara KE6SUM, Secretary



## S.A.R.A. MINUTES November 18, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:39pm. Introductions, there were 14 in attendance.

### OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Report income ----- \$2874.78  
expense ----- \$3090.12 check book  
balance ----- \$2937.04 equipment fund  
----- \$ 728.20

### Presidents Report:

A TNC was donated to the American Red Cross for Packet The donation was made by Kataoka Radio Sales.

Amateur Radio classes start up in January for those who know someone that might be interested in getting their license this is the time to tell them about the classes. For more information contact the President Ed KF6FIR.

KC6YCH Chuck gave a presentation about a ready bag for A.R.E.S. thing to have in case you are called to volunteer for a disaster. handouts were also available at the meeting.

American Red Cross is having a disaster exercise on Nov. 22, 1997 in Stockton at 8:00 am They are meeting at the Red Cross building in Modesto at 6th street at 7:00am to go to the Stockton location.

SIMS Training classes will be held Dec. 7 through the 10 For more information contact Russ Richards at the County Fire Dept.

### NOMINATIONS For 1998

PRESIDENT Ed KF6FIR was nominated by Jim N6KMR & second by Larry WB6GJT.

V. PRESIDENT Paul KF6KXX was nominated by Nan KF6BOZ & second by Larry WB6GJT

TREASURER Bob KC6TVE was nominated by Jim N6KMR & second by Larry WB6GJT.

SECRETARY Nan KF6BOZ was nominated by Bob KC6TVE & second by Jim N6KMR.

Meeting came to a break at 7:57pm  
Meeting came back to order at 8:15pm

Ed KF6FIR gave a demonstration on a

universal charger conditioner Which turned out quite interesting, it will charge almost any batter you have from a cell phone batter to your HT battery. The charger is called a MAHA -C777 and is available at HRO for \$49.95.

The lower level repeater is still waiting for crystals, other than that everything else is in place. The crystals should be in shortly, and once their put into the repeater all it will have to be done is tuned, the phone patch will also work on the low level repeater and will be linked to MT. Oso The low level repeater should cover from North Stockton to Atwater.

Jim N6KMR motioned to adjourn the meeting Larry WB6GJT 2nd . Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Presented by Nan KF6BOZ Standing in for Secretary Barbara KE6SUM

### Newsline

#### WEST PHILADELPHIA PIRATE RADIO

A West Philadelphia low power broadcaster has returned to the air in defiance of the Federal Communications Commission. The 20 watt alternative station resumed broadcasting after less than a week off the air. Like Free Radio Berkeley in California, the operators of the Philadelphia station claim that the FCC's expensive licensing process is an unconstitutional violation of free speech rights.

(Via published news reports)

#### HACKERS DEMAND N6NHG GO FREE

A computer hacking group calling itself Pants Hagis has broken into the Yahoo World Wide Web site and has demanded the release of imprisoned super hacker Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG. The attack on Yahoo came on Monday night December 8th. The hackers warn that they will unleash a crippling computer virus if he is not freed.

According to the Associated Press, an on-line ransom note left by Pants Hagis says that the virus is set to go off on Christmas Day, 1998, unless Mitnick was released from jail. But computer security

experts are skeptical of the hackers' claim that they had implanted such a virus. Yahoo officials discount any possibility of a virus threat. Meantime, Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG, remains in jail and well away from the internet and the world wide web.

(Via published news reports)

#### FCC TO REQUIRE WIRELESS CARRIERS TO FORWARD ALL 911 CALLS

If you own a cellular telephone and have not been able to get through to an emergency number like 911, that is all about to change. The FCC has acted to revise its rules which require covered wireless carriers. The new regulations make it mandatory for them to transmit all wireless 911 calls from both subscribers and non-subscribers to emergency assistance providers operating Public Safety Answering Points. The details are contained in Report Number WT 97-43 available at the agencys website at:

[www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

(Via FCC)

#### FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON FILING ADDRESSING DIGITAL TV ALLOTMENTS

The Association for Maximum Service Broadcasters, Inc. and other broadcasters have submitted an ex parte filing that presents suggestions for addressing two issues relating to the Table of Allotments for the digital television service. The first of these issues addressed in the November 20th fling deals with DTV to DTV adjacent channel assignments. The second concerns assignments in the most congested areas of the country. Those being the Northeast, Great Lakes region, and California coastal area. Comments are due by December 17th and it is unlikely that this cutoff date will be extended.

(Via press release)

#### DIGITAL SIGNATURE BILL OFFERED

A bill has been introduced by two federal lawmakers to require federal agencies to accept computerized personal identification marks known as "digital signatures" as valid signatures on online forms.

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## 2 Meters opens up!!!

*Meteor scatter brings the band to life.*

About this time of year the earth goes through the November Leonids meteor showers, and with this sometimes the best 2 meter meteor scatter, well I'm not an astronomer, but when I see a falling star I think how nice, oh-ah wow, knowing that in that tail of the meteor that just fallen is that something wonderful happens to radio signals. Well Sunday night / Monday morning November 16th-17th (west coast local time) was one of the most spectacular meteor scatter showing I've ever heard on two meters. I had read an article in the October 97 issue of QST on how to work meteor scatter and what to expect on 10, 6, and 2 meters, and the major differences between the bands. In the article, it mentioned how in the sixties the Leonids meteor showers made 2 meters sound like a 20 meter pile up. Not ever worked meteor scatter, and little weak signal work on 2 meters, and familiar with scatter on 10 meters, I had planed to try this out and see what, if anything I could hear. Knowing 2 meters, its one of those things where you have to be at the right place at the right time or you'll miss out.

The Night. On Sunday night there wasn't much going on the 2 meter simplex frequency that I monitor and the last QSO ended and went QRT so I decided to finish up a computer that I've been working on. After a few hours of playing around with the computer and downloading a few programs to try out, I basically forgot about this being the 16th so when I finished up on the computer I started to shut everything down and head off to bed, as an after thought I fired up the 2 meter rig and tuned to 144.200 and didn't hear much. Then started to tune the band and picked up N7STU in Madera calling for a skid on .107 and listened to him for about 15 minutes, one would think he was running an TV ad by how fast he was talking. Each time he unkeyed was nothing but static, then at 11:30z (03:30am local) out of the noise was a signal and the exchange was made, KA9LNP, DN30. I jumped in with my call then, "NT6K DN30", then I returned, "you're CM97". The signal hung in there for a few seconds longer

and I can hear him work a few other stations, then he was gone. The opening was about 7 to 10 seconds long and the signal was watery and not very strong. First thought was, well its not a familiar grid but I worked him. One hand on the rotator and the other on the VFO, I went to 144.200 to wait for the next opening and see if anything else was coming through, by this time I could hear K6YK, N7STU and another station east of Sacramento calling CQ scatter, I called N7STU and we moved up for a quick chat, I had asked him if he knew where DN30 was, the reply came, after I picked up my chin off of the desk and got my throat opened up so I could talk, I bid him 73 and good luck with the scatter and we went back to .200 for the next opening. UTAH!! For the next hour and a half I was running on caffeine and adrenaline and as tired as I was I wanted to stick around to work more, there were several more short openings of mass hysteria, by the time I would hear a station to call there were 20 more on frequency, so it ended up being S5 of QRM for 10 seconds or so. I had made several partial QSO's, but the openings were so fast that the stations were gone before I could get a QSL on the exchange. By 13:00z (5:00am PST) I had heard stations from Colorado, New Mexico, Las Vegas Nevada, by this time I was picking my eyelids off of the desk and it was time for some sleep. With a quick check of the local DX cluster there were no callouts about the scatter was reported. Then I checked into the OH2BUH WebCluster with reports from Spain with openings lasting up to 35 seconds, so I'm sure there was fun to be had there. As far as the US, just a few callouts were reported from the Midwest. With this in mind, off to bed. I was back on the air by 16:00z (08:00am PST) and the scatter was fast and furious and again, I didn't make any two way contacts from the short openings, but the signals were strong, in fact one station in Colorado about knocked me out of my chair with his S9 signal. Other stations heard were from Montana, Washington, Oregon, Arizona. With a steady decline in frequency and strength of the scatter the last opening seemed to be around 17:30z.

In Conclusion I'm always open to trying something new when it comes down to

operating radio and this was an exciting experience for me and the next time I plan on working scatter I'll be better prepared like getting sleep instead of staying up all night. As far as my station is concerned a 10 element beam up 30 feet and 200 watts seemed to do the trick.

By nt6k, Dave

Web Page Manager

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## Newsline

Aaron Pressman of the Reuter News Service quotes the bill's sponsors, Democratic Representative Anna Eshoo of California and Republican Billy Tauzin of Louisiana as saying the proposal could generate millions of dollars in cost savings.

(Via FCC, ARRL)

## INDIAN POINT PREPAREDNESS DRILL

November 19, 1997 marked the date of the New York State Indian Point drill. According to N2MUG, the outing is a test of Putnam County's emergency preparedness planning in the event of a disaster at one of the nuclear plants. And Amateur Radio is deeply involved in the county's plans.

The scenario of the drill pretended that conditions at the nuclear plant had deteriorated and the county Office of Emergency Management is activated. In turn, hams who are members of the Putnam Emergency and Amateur League that comprise Putnam County RACES are activated. These volunteers staffed the Emergency Operations Center, established a radio link between the Joint News Center and the E.O.C., and established a radio link between the nuclear plant and the E.O.C.

(Via TWIAR, N2MUG)

## PEARL OFFERS CW TRAINING ON TWO METERS

If you live in Putnam County New York and want to up your code speed, listen up. PEARL, the Putnam Emergency Amateur and Repeater League is hosting CW training sessions every Tuesday and Sunday at 9:00 PM on the WA2AWG repeater.

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## HOW TO

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Telnet will pop up on you application and connect to the service automatically. "Now how can I connect to Modesto?" Easy I say.. say good bye to the bbs that your on. Now your stuck with a window, click on Connect... you see Remote connection.. click on it. Now type 44.2.10.1 in the window thats provided. Hit connect. "Wow... am I really there?". YEP... sign in again. Now follow the dirctions that are asked and also ask for real time access to the packet world. This will take abot 24 hour as Pat dose work too. Go ahead and fool around while you wait.. this is a full service bbs. All the services as KD6JZZ used to be. Remember? After your approval and access, type "c modesto" this will connect you to the Modesto site and your here in town.. Your able to connect to any station thats on 145.650 direct, real time. Yeah Real time from your keyboard to his keyboard on ham radio packet... Or to the bbs and leave a

message to your friend that he can answer when he signs in here in Modesto. Those who a real savy to this might want to Bookmark or Save address on how they got there. Also you might want to look up <http://www.ccnet.com/~rwilkens/> this Page is devoted to Ham radio, Look around and enjoy, might be more there than point and click. Hope this answers your question.. Also there is alot more too, Conference mode, local and DX, FTP downloads, local access to the message base. Oh yes, those who are on packet and want to send a message to there Aunt Suzie who's on the internet. Well this is easy too. Connect to IPMOD on 145.650 and follow the login and password and sign in info. Just like posting a message, same KD6JZZ bbs. If you have any questions try the Help command and read them. Might be useful and print them out! Hope this will help you and answer any questions that you may have. Any more question I will be happy to answer. Ltr. Jim n6kmr

## LOOK NEW STUFF

----->>>>

## Help Needed !!

**Hi, I need to have few people help in the reporting of this newsletter. 3 needed for twice a year report on special items, gear, new ideas, etc. 3 needed for twice a year report on programs for ham radio, computers, etc. 3 needed for twice a year report on ham activities, bikers, runners, fox hunts, etc. 3 needed for twice a year report on ham views, politics, ARRL, Newsline. And finally any one wanting to add their two cents in. This is your paper about your Club your views and complaints might be correct and viewed by some one else the same way. So how would you know this if it wasn't told? There are movers and shakers in this world .. So what are you?**

**Join today...**

### SARA Membership Application

Call : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member?: ( yes ) ( no )

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Clas Of Lic: \_\_\_\_\_

Year First Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Renewal \$20.00 per year. Out of area more than 150 miles from Modesto is \$11.00. New first time applicants dues are pro-rated from the month you join the club. Use \$1.66 times the number of months remaining in the year. I.E- You join in July =  $6 \times \$1.66 = \$9.96$

SARA, repeaters are, on MT.OSO.. 2mtr > 145.390 pl 136.5, 220band > 224.14 pl 136.5, 440 band > 440.225 pl 136.5, 6mtr. > 52.800 , packet> SARA, 144.91and IPMOD, 145.650 TCP/IP&ax25 radio mailbox & Internet e-mail... Internet address > Sara@modesto.n6kmr.ampr.org Webpage: [HTTP://WWW.wac.com/~stanara](http://WWW.wac.com/~stanara)  
CHECK US OUT....



#### 4 SALE ITEMS

Subject: Date: Mon, 17 Nov 1997  
08:15:41 -0800 From: "Bob Sterling"  
<b-sterling@juno.com> To:  
<stanara@wac.com>

Hello Jim....would appreciate you listing the following items for sale in the next newsletter. Thanks Bob, ZLO

For Sale:

1- Bencher padal keyer with Curtis K5-Lil Bugger \$40.00

1- Tripp Lite Model PR3 3 Amp power supply \$20.00

1- Astron 20 amp power supply (like new) \$70.00

1-TS 440S low band transceiver with general coverage receiver with MC 60 mike and stand. \$600.00

1- Icom 3AT with TT pad \$75.00

1- Icom 2 AT with TT pad \$75.00

1. FT227R 2 meter transceiver \$75.00

1-HTX 404 Realistic handheld with wall charger \$100.00

1-Heathkit code oscillator \$15.00 2- Micronta 12 volt power supplies \$20.00 ea

1- Heathkit 2036 12 volt power supply \$20.00

1-Kantronics KPC-2 Packet Communicator II \$50.00

2-Icom 13.8 volt battery eliminators \$10 ea

1-Monarch FS15 Power/SWR meter \$20.00

1-G&R 12 volt quick charge battery charger \$35.00

1-MN2000 Drake match box \$75.00

1-G5RV all band dipole antenna. \$25.00

Call Bob, WAZLO, anytime before 8 PM at 209-523-5880. All equipment in good to excellent condition with manuals for most.

Thanks Bob for the list De Jim...

#### Newsline

According to Joe McGowan, N2BDW the repeater is on 145.130 MHZ and any amateur interested in improving his or her code is welcome to join the net.

(Via Hudson Division Loop, N2BDW)

#### FAR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR '97-'98

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced that it plans to administer sixty six scholarships for the academic year 1997-1998 to assist radio amateurs. Hams can compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school.

The Foundation is composed of over seventy five local area amateur radio clubs. It fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining fifty seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

For more information write to the:

Foundation for Amateur Radio  
Scholarships 6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, Maryland 20740

(Via FAR)

#### STADER RECOVERING

Some names in the news. First is Terry Stader, KA8SCP. He is the ham in charge of the Radio Communications boards on America Online. He reports that he is back home recovering, following open heart surgery to repair a valve problem.

Stader says that he thought he had the flu when he stopped by the local hospital emergency room. But a doctor heard something he did not like and ordered Terry into the hospital. Tests showed that his mitral valve had failed and he underwent corrective surgery on November 10th.

Terry tells Newsline that he is still a bit weak from the ordeal, but is feeling better overall. Get well wishes to:

tstader@aol.com

(Via Newsline)

#### AURORA BEACON

And Brandon Anderson, N8UPM says that his 144.278 MHz beacon antenna has been temporarily oriented North for Aurora study. This, until he moves it to its new site at 1800 feet. Brandon adds that he will be adding a yagi pointing North combined with an omni antenna. Currently the N8UPM beacon runs 10 watts and operates 24 hours a day.

(Via VHF Reflector)

#### FUELING RUMORS

An interesting rumor has surfaced on the Amsat-UK 80 meter net concerning AMSAT's new Phase 3D ham satellite. It says that the extra strengthening has added so much mass to the satellite that the fuel capacity on-board is no longer sufficient to achieve the intended final orbit.

According to AMSAT Germany's Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the final orbit is the so-called 16 hour orbit. Peter says that the mass of Phase 3D is currently about 630 kilograms. Others are saying that at this weight, Phase 3D will barely be able to achieve this orbit. However, the exact situation will be known when the parameters for the new launch are in place. If its on a booster that does not have the ability to handle the current weight, AMSAT might have to find substitutes for some heavy parts.

The Phase 3D assembly team in Orlando is currently investigating the possibility to replace an auxiliary battery a newer Nickel Metal Hydride type. This they say would reduce the overall mass and make it easier to secure the 16 hour orbital period.

(Via AMSAT-NA BBS)

#### SHUTTLE AUDIO ON THE HAM BANDS

If you want to hear the latest word from space, tune into the transmissions from the Goddard Amateur Radio Club in Greenbelt, Maryland. They regularly retransmit space shuttle audio to Amateur Radio operators worldwide.

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## Newsline

According to Dan Schultz N8FGV,

the club transmits shuttle audio on 3.860, 7.185, 14.295 and occasionally 21.395 and 28.650 MHZ. It also runs a local service on 147.45 MHZ FM in the Greenbelt area. The club is on the air when the Shuttle crew is awake and a volunteer control operator is available to man the station.

The GARC Shuttle Retransmission FAQ can be found at on the web at:

[http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/www/retransmission/shuttle\\_faq.html](http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/www/retransmission/shuttle_faq.html)

(Via GARC)

## DX

In DX, word that VE3BW, will be on the year from the Honduran island of Roatan from February 1st to the 22nd. This, using the call sign VE3BW/HR6. QSL to:

Joe Adams 5 Romko Court St. Catharines Ont. Canada L2N 7A1

And members of Canada's Weyburn Amateur Radio Club located in Saskatchewan will use the CF5 prefix from December 22nd through January 5th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps of Weyburn. A commemorative certificate is available by working three CF5 stations. QSL via VE5RMO.

And Tim Totten, N4GN says he is not the QSL manager for TF3IRA. Tim says that the reason for the mix-up might be that TF3IRA is the club call for the Iceland IARU Society. He notes that the TF QSL Bureau just happens to be located in the very same room that his group used for the TF/OH4GN operation. The correct method for QSL'ing TF3IRA is directly to the Call Book address.

(Via various DX sources)

Lastly, the ARRL says that QSL's for space shuttle missions STS-83 and STS-94 have been forwarded to the Bergen Amateur Radio Association in New Jersey. BARA offered to pay for the QSLs and will be handling QSLing responsibilities for these two missions.

(Via ARRL)

## SWL WINTERFEST

It's never too early to mark your calendar and plan your vacation at the 1998 Winter SWL Festival. The event will be held March 12th to the 14th near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Preliminary information is available on the world wide web at:

[www.trsc.com/swl\\_fest.htm](http://www.trsc.com/swl_fest.htm)

and more will be posted as received.

(Via press release)

## TACO SAVE

And finally, employees at a Poway California Taco Bell are very thankful for two way radio. About 1 a.m. on December 1st, two men in ski masks burst into the fast-food eatery near San Diego and demanded cash. The robbers then they locked the manager and two workers in a walk-in refrigerator. But the criminals never thought to remove the remote ordering radio intercom pack worn by the manager. When a customer showed up at the drive thru speaker minutes later and placed his order, he was answered via the radio intercom and told that the robbery had just occurred. The customer called the Poway Sheriff. A deputy was dispatched to investigate and he freed the employees.

(Via published reports)

With thanks to the ARRL and This Week in amateur Radio, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

Newsline P.O.Box 660937 Arcadia, California 91066

Our web page is at:

[www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org)

and our e-mail address is:

[newsline@ix.netcom.com](mailto:newsline@ix.netcom.com)

----- End of forwarded message -----

## Special Pacific Division Update

ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE SPECIAL EDITION, DECEMBER 12, 1997 by Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, Pacific Division, ARRL 18400 Overlook Rd. #5, Los Gatos CA 95030-5850 (408) 395-2501 (Phone and FAX) Packet: K6WR@N0ARY.#NCA.CA.U.S.A.NOAM Internet: K6WR@arrl.org WWW Pacific Division Home Page -- <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>

FCC Asks for Comments Concerning Potential Changes to Morse Waiver Rules:-

On Nov. 26, 1997, the FCC announced that the public Comment period on the ARRL Petition for a Changes to Morse Waiver Rules, now called RM-9196, will end on Dec. 29, 1997. Basically this proposal asks for "rather minor changes" in the Rules so that a candidate at least would have to attempt the Morse code test --with any and all necessary accommodations--before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing. In its original petition, the League also said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants. The original petition by ARRL was submitted on Sept. 23, 1997, and has been dormant at FCC until now. Apparently, there was no warning as to when the petition would be given an RM number and the comment period would start. The ARRL July 1997 Board meeting motion which initiated this petition can be found at Minute 28 on page 65 September 1997 QST. QST for December 1997 on page 75 has an article on this matter, as does the November issue of the Pacific Division Update. See also the editorial "It Seems to Us" by David Sumner, K1ZZ, QST, Oct. 1997, page 9. Unfortunately, the text of RM-9196, itself, is not available in machine readable form as it has not been found yet on any

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of the expected web sites. The text of the original ARRL Petition is available now on the Pacific Division web site at <http://www.pdarrrl.org/pdu/rm9196.html>, thanks to the efforts of Glen Lokke, KE6NBO, for conversion to machine readable, and the Pacific Division Webmaster Paul Wesling, KM6LH, and his crew. The text of RM-9196 is available in hardcopy form only from FCC in Washington DC. With the Comment deadline set at Dec. 29, 1997, it may be difficult to obtain the actual RM-9196 text in time. Please comment in a positive fashion to help encourage FCC to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on this matter. NOTE: Based on extensive investigation, the FCC has apparently made NO provision to receive e-mail messages on RM-9196, so all Comments MUST be in hardcopy format. Please send an original and four copies of your Comments to the FCC. It's always best to write using your own thoughts, expressed using your own words. However, as a guide, here's a sample letter:

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Secretary (date) Federal Communications  
Commission 1919 M St. NW, Room 222  
Washington DC 20554.

RE: RM-9196

I support the ARRL Petition to have the FCC develop "rather minor changes" in the Rules so that an examination candidate at least would have to attempt the Morse code test -- with any and all necessary accommodations -- before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing. Please issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making on this matter.

Signed (your name, call, address)

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## WRC 97 Wraps Up in Geneva:-

The 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference concluded its talks in the early morning hours of November 21 in Geneva, Switzerland. Amateur Radio survived WRC-97 largely unscathed, but the stage has been set for renewed spectrum battles at WRC-99.

The Little LEOs (non-voice, non-geostationary mobile satellite interests)-which put a huge scare into the ham radio community in 1996 with their proposals to share ham radio VHF and UHF bands--were unable to muster much support for new allocations at WRC-97. However, they came away with up to 3 MHz of additional spectrum on a regional basis, in the bands between 454 and 460 MHz. The Little LEOs also got a resolution calling for urgent studies in preparation for WRC-99--what some at the conference called "a hunting license" for additional VHF/UHF spectrum. A second issue that will recur at WRC-99 is finding a place in the 420-470 MHz frequency range for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS). Synthetic aperture radars (SARs) using frequencies in this range are said to be capable of penetrating the rain forest for mapping purposes.

Two significant ham radio-related issues failed to make the cut for consideration at WRC-99. For budgetary reasons, the WRC-97 delegates had to limit the WRC-99 agenda only to the most urgent issues. Pushed back to the tentative agenda for WRC-2001 were the possible realignment of the 40 meter band to resolve a conflict between hams and broadcasters in part of the band (along with possible expansion of broadcasting bands between 4 and 10 MHz), and Article S25 of the international radio regulations. Article S25 contains the international regulations specific to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, including the Morse code requirement for operation below 30 MHz.

WRC-97 delegates approved a resolution (called the Convention on Disaster Communications) encouraging administrations to facilitate the use of ham radio and other "decentralized

means of communications" (including satellites) for disaster mitigation and relief operations. This resolution eliminated the need for Resolution 640, which defined how certain ham bands could be used for international disaster communications by non-amateur stations, so Resolution 640 was suppressed. (The term "suppressed" in this context means that the Resolution was deleted and will no longer be in force. It has gone away!)

WRC-97 delegates did agree to upgrade the Earth Exploration Satellite Service from secondary to primary at 1215 to 1300 MHz, which should have only minimal impact on amateur use of 1240-1300 MHz. The presence of EESS there also reduces the possibility that other, less-compatible services might later be introduced into this band.

In other allocations decisions, amateur satellite segments were not included among allocations for wind profiler radars. Except for a worldwide primary allocation at 1270 to 1295 MHz, the only specific allocations for wind profiler radars are in Region 1 (Europe and Africa), and those are on a secondary basis. Region 2 (North and South America) administrations were urged to implement wind profilers in radiolocation bands at 440 to 450 MHz, 904 to 928 MHz (protecting the lower, weak-signal segment), 1270 to 1295 MHz (protecting amateur satellite and weak-signal), and 1300 to 1375 MHz.

The delegates agreed that the bands 420 to 435 MHz or 438 to 440 MHz could be considered for use in situations where there was incompatibility between wind profiler radars and other radio applications at 440 to 450 MHz or 470 to 494 MHz (only in some Region 1 countries). In this case, too, the amateur-satellite segment is protected.

Several Region 1 (primarily European) countries deleted footnoted exceptions to the international table of allocations in the 1810 to 1830 kHz range, expanding the usability of 160 meters for ham radio. North Korea was persuaded to drop its bid for footnoted exceptions to the allocations table that could have affected some ham radio bands in that part of the world.

Amateur Radio was represented at WRC-



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**Next Meeting Is January 20, and also February 16, 1998 At 7:30 pm & You're Invited to come to the Stanislaus County Admin. Biulding lower level in the conference room. Next meetings special topic: Ham radio operators the inferior specie...**