

SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

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May 2007

FCC Invites "Oppositions" On Two "Morse Proceeding" Reconsideration Petitions

The FCC has invited opposition comments ("oppositions") to two petitions for reconsideration filed in the wake of the Commission's Report & Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. That R&O altogether eliminated any Morse code examination element to obtain an Amateur Radio license. One petition calls on the FCC to reinstate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. The second cites problems with the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

and seeks to have the Commission reopen the proceeding for an additional round of comments. Oppositions are due April 27 (comments in support of either petition are not welcome). Replies to oppositions - ie, comments on the opposition comments - are due 10 days later. Petitioner Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina, California, contends that "significant

(Continued on page 3)

Construction Company Fined For Illegal Amateur Band Operation

The FCC has affirmed a \$10,000 fine it had proposed levying on a Florida construction company for transmitting on ham radio frequencies without a license. In a Forfeiture Order (NoF)

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-1486A1.pdf released April 2, the Commission said it was fining Parker Construction Inc of Panama City, Florida, for "willful and repeated violation" of the Communications Act of 1934 for operating radio transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. Responding to a complaint of apparently unlicensed radio activity, agents from the FCC's Tampa Office using mobile direction-finding equipment tracked the source of the transmissions. Parker's owner admitted the company had been using Amateur Radio transceivers for about three years to talk with crew members. Agents found an Amateur Radio handheld transceiver set to 145.02

(Continued on page 2)

May Program

Digital Modes

Bruce KG7OI will tell us about many Digital Modes of communication including PSK32, RTTY, PACTOR, OLIVIA, and something called JT6M.

Future programs are as follows:
June - Field Day Prep.
July - Field Day Discussions

There are openings for future programs. Contact John, KA7TTY, 392-7623 to volunteer.

Also . . .

Last Meeting	2
Iraqi Hams	2
FCC Warning	4
RYYRY	5
C&CE Registration	5
Smoke	5
Coming Events	6

At the last meeting . . .

April 4, 2007

President Del Marker, AC7QS, called the meeting to order at 7:30. Eighteen members, including new member, Steve Jarvis, KE7GCC, were present. Also attending was a guest, Glenn Rickards, KE7LYU.

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Petty Cash -- \$16.14, Checking -- \$1161.08.

Rich Barger, having passed his license exam, is now KE7MPJ.

Rod Johnson, WE7X, who helped man the club's tables at the Mike & Key flea market in Puyallup, told us our club grossed about \$600. He went there with many boxes and came back with a few less.

Del asked if the membership wanted him to continue forwarding ARRL Email messages about legislation. Based on the response of those present, Del will still send the messages.

Rod reported on a telephone conversation he had with Frank, W4UPZ, and Tommi Troutman about the recent Senior Center elections. According to the Troutmans, the net result of the elections appears not to jeopardize the future of our club's relations with the Senior Center.

Rod got permission from the Sunny Hills School for our field day activities. He was able to clear up some initial miss-understandings about the dates we were requesting, and has now gotten the school to agree to let us use it's facilities when we actually need them.

Bruce Helbert, KG7OI, outlined some possible strategies to enhance our score in the Field Day contest.

Rod had some additional conversations with folks at StepIR about loaner antennas. Their loaners are currently assigned to the Scarborough Reef DXpedition, (BS7H). If there is a loaner antenna available

(Continued on page 3)

E-Mail Elmer

Got a HAM radio question and can't find an Elmer to talk to? Just send your question by E-Mail to our E-Mail Elmer at:

IarcElmer@hotmail.com - Ed. - S

2007 IARC Officers

President

Del Marker (AC7QS) - (425) 392-1857 (Issaquah)

Vice President

John MacDuff (KA7TTY) - (425) 392-7623 (Issaquah)

Secretary-Treasurer

Peter Rosenberg (AC7SB) - (425) 222-9255 (Fall City)

W7BI Trustee

Rod Johnson (WE7X) - (425) 392-8497 (Issaquah)

Fined Cont.

MHz. Responding to the FCC's January 2007 Notice of Apparent Liability in the case, Parker requested a reduction claiming it did not know that Amateur Radio Service radios required a license, that it had stopped using them and had obtained the proper radio license. The FCC turned down the request, saying corrective action taken to come into compliance with the rules "does not nullify or mitigate any prior forfeitures or violations." - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 15, April 13, 2007 - S

Iraqi Amateur Radio Shut-down Continues

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, says there's no end in sight to a ham radio blackout in his country. As part of the new security plan for Baghdad, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense requested in March that radio amateurs remain off the air until security improves.

Because of a miscommunication, however, word failed to reach the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission, which was still issuing licenses.

Sayah chalks up the open-ended ham radio blackout to a misunderstanding of Amateur Radio on the part of Iraq's defense minister.

Working through the Ministry of

(Continued on page 4)

Morse Proceeding Cont.

national security implications" require that the Commission take another look at the issue.

"As a federal government agency during the ongoing War on Terrorism, it is only prudent that the critical skill of Morse code telegraphy be kept as a hedge against unanticipated national security events and for emergency communication requirements, even if the consensus view or technological trend is in the opposite direction at the present time," Gordon said in his petition, filed February 23. He characterized Morse code proficiency as a "core competency" of the Amateur Radio Service.

In its R&O last December 15, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability was advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. Gordon asked the FCC to restore the Element 1 Morse code examination element for Amateur Extra class applicants.

In a second petition the FCC put on public notice earlier this month, Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, argued that the FCC "improperly deleted and suppressed comments received by the e-mail system of the FCC, ECFS." Ward said the FCC was "arbitrarily deleting and suppressing public comments" on the basis of the sender's e-mail address - especially if it contained an Ama-

teur Radio call sign - and charged that the Commission "is discriminating against radio amateurs."

As a result, he contends, the process of commenting on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235 "was flawed," in part because the Commission did not have the advantage of all comments members of the public may have attempted in vain to post.

Ward's petition, filed February 12, asks the FCC to do one of four things: Stay WT Docket 05-235, fix the "flawed ECFS," reopen the proceeding for comment or reconsider the "after a valid comment period." The FCC received more than 3500 public comments in the Morse code proceeding.

Neither Gordon nor Ward addressed the issue of how the FCC should deal with licensees who qualified for Amateur Extra under the new "no-code" rules that became effective on February 23.

Both petitions are on the FCC Web site: Gordon's is at http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808553. Ward's is at http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808784.

Interested parties may file oppositions and replies on these petitions for reconsideration via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/> and by serving a hard copy on the petitioner at his current mailing address. Comments supporting

Minutes Cont.

in time for Field Day, there is a chance they would let us borrow it.

Some club members brought items they thought might be of interest to the membership. Rod passed around a W.W.II era transmit/receive switch from a B24. Pete Petersen, WY7Z, showed us the spark gap transmitter he built in the first half of the last century, and Rich Barger showed us an antenna module from a commercial microwave site.

John MacDuff, KA7TTY, appealed for ideas & presentations for programs for future club meetings.

Bruce gave us an overview of his presentation on amateur digital modes. He was able to playback some digital mode QSOs he had

(Continued on page 4)

one petition or another are not welcome, however.

Instructions for filing electronic comments are on the ECFS page. Under "ECFS Main Links," click on "Submit a Filing" and type "05-235" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field, being sure to include the hyphen.

All statements must be specific to one or more arguments in the reconsideration petition with which the person filing disagrees. They should not simply say, "I oppose this petition." Only individuals who have filed oppositions may file replies to oppositions. - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 15, April 13, 2007 - S

Iraqi Cont.

Education and Scientific Research, the IARS has attempted -- so far without success -- to explain Amateur Radio to the Ministry of Defense.

"Because it's between ministries, this will take time also," Sayah told ARRL, adding that he was not optimistic about getting an opportunity to discuss the issue anytime soon with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"Now anyone on the air is a pirate, as everyone is obliged not to use their radios at the present time," he added. He said IARS members continue making contacts using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes such as IRLP, EchoLink and others.

The Ministry of Defense had asked the IARS to store all licensees' ham radio equipment during the shutdown, but Sayah says that's not happening because of the dangerous situation that persists within the capital.

The ham radio shutdown affects members of the military and contractors holding YI9-prefix call signs. It does **not** apply to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) operations, which use military frequencies. – The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 15, April 13, 2007 - S

FCC Accepts Technician Ticket For Cancellation, Warns Indiana Licensee

The FCC has accepted for cancellation the Technician ticket of a licensee who has been the target of inquiries and warnings from the Commission's Enforcement Bureau dating back to 2005. Special Counsel in the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth wrote Brandon Duke, KC0UWS, March 6 to confirm receipt of Duke's Amateur Radio license
<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/2007_04_03_14_28_24.pdf>.

"We have forwarded your license to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau [WTB] for cancellation and for dismissal of your application for a vanity call sign," Hollingsworth informed Duke, who has a Minnesota address on file with the Commission. Duke applied for W0BMD last fall. In January, a "last warning" from Hollingsworth, mailed to Duke at a Colorado address, came back as

undeliverable. The WTB has not yet cancelled Duke's license.

Past "Riley-Grams" to Duke have cited "information before the Commission" as well as his own admission to indicate he had been operating on 10 and 20 meter frequencies not available to him as a Technician licensee. In the past Hollingsworth also has taken Duke to task for allegedly ignoring requests to stop using repeaters in his area.

"You have used false call signs, transmitted sexually explicit material and other recordings over radio and re-broadcast radio activity on police frequencies," Hollingsworth charged in a January 2007 letter to Duke. "In spite of your assurances on January 26, 2006, that your rule violations would end, you have continued operating in violation of Commission rules and the Communications Act."

In 2006, an apologetic Duke had pledged in a letter to Hollingsworth to change his on-the-air behavior, noting that he'd destroyed an audio CD containing apparently objectionable material he'd been accused of airing. He also said he'd "refrain from jamming, interfering, kerchunking and using any repeaters."

Another frequent Riley-Gram recipient heard from the FCC again on March 8, when Hollingsworth warned David O.

Minutes Cont.

captured on his laptop computer.

Del adjourned the business portion of the meeting, after which he gave a presentation on the operational characteristics of a portable battlefield-aircraft-landing-system he helped develop in the '60s.

Warning Cont.

Castle, WA9KJI, of Evansville, Indiana, to keep off a local repeater system

<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/2007_04_03_14_26_43.pdf>. In February,

Hollingsworth noted, the trustee of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society's W9OG repeater asked Castle to refrain from using the system.

"That letter was issued as a result of your failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users," Hollingsworth wrote.

Hollingsworth told Castle the FCC expects him to abide by the request "and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee."

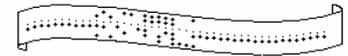
He also raised the specter of fines and license revocation.

Castle's license renewal application has been referred for a Hearing Designation Order, and Hollingsworth said the issue of the alleged interference to the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society repeater would be "an issue in your upcoming license renewal hearing" before an administrative law judge.

The WTB had referred Castle's renewal application to the Enforcement Bureau for review "as a result of long standing complaints against the operation of your station," Hollingsworth told Castle last October. Castle's General ticket expired last July, but he may continue to operate while his renewal application is in limbo.

The FCC now posts Amateur Radio Service enforcement actions

RYRYRYRY...



DE KA7TTY

Wow. It is fast approaching Field Day already. Almost too late to suggest what you would like to see this year. We will be making the final arrangements (not this month) at our June meeting. It looks like we will be playing with more digital modes this year. Our program this month should give you some insight into what is possible. Be sure and see Bruce's program this month. We had a preview last month and it looks like Bruce will be putting on a good one.

73, and see you at the meeting, John KA7TTY

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, April 22, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CEC) program <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> online courses beginning on Friday, May 4: The ARRL Ham Radio License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). These courses will also open for registration Friday, April 20, for classes

on its Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/Welcome.html>>. Direct all concerning Amateur Radio enforcement questions via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov>. - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 15, April 13, 2007 - S

beginning Friday, June 1. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>> or contact the CCE Department cce@arrl.org - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 15, April 13, 2007 - S

Smoke makes it work!

An article in the October 1992 issue of the Morse Telegraph Club newsletter, Dots and Dashes, declared that smoke, not electricity makes electronic circuits work. The author says this fact has remained unnoticed by the scientific community for many years.

According to the article, each electrical component is filled with smoke during the manufacturing process. Wires and circuit board traces connecting the components serve to carry the smoke from

SQUAKBOX

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Material may also be sent via E-Mail at w7bi@qsl.net.

The IARC is a nonprofit organization registered in the State of Washington and is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Visit our WEB page at: <http://www.qsl.net/w7bi/>

Membership is open to anyone regardless of age, sex, race, national origin, religion, or amateur radio license status. Dues are \$20 per year for a family membership, free for those under 19 years of age.

A two-month courtesy mailing of this newsletter will be made to meeting visitors and others upon request.

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- Coming Events -

- **May 2, 2007** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting at the Issaquah Valley Senior Citizens Center, 75 NE Creek Way, Issaquah. Doors open at 7:00 PM, the meeting begins promptly at 7:30 PM and the program begins at 8:00 PM. Refreshments are provided.
- **May 12, 2007** - Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360-387-7705). nwecop@tgi.net.
- **May 12, 2007** - NARA's Spring Swap and Shop. Nanaimo ARA. Departure Bay Activity centre, 1415 Wingrove St. Departure Bay, Nanaimo BC. Info, call call Dick 250-390-0181 or email ve7rlh@shaw.ca. <http://www.nara.nisa.com/SwapShop.html>
- **May 28, 2007** - No Issaquah HRSG meeting this month.
- **June 1-3, 2007** - Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. info Will Sheffield, N7THL. (503)642-7314. n7thl@juno.com. www.seapac.org/.

Smoke Cont.

place to place so that it can do its work.

The proof of this hypothesis is quite simple. Have you ever seen a component function properly after the smoke has escaped? How

about when a wire loom leaks and all the smoke came out?

When only a little smoke escapes, the radio or other electrical gadget sometimes limps along for a while with degraded performance. However, when a large puff of smoke leaks out, it's all over.

No mention was made of at-

tempting to pump more smoke back into the leaky components, but certainly someone as bright as to have discovered the smoke theory in the first place would have tried that too! (*You know, it almost makes sense - Ed.*) - S

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 2, 2007 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE
--- TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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