

SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

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October 2007

ARRL Continues To Deal With Department Of Defense Over PAVE PAWS

The ARRL participated in a teleconference call on Wednesday, September 19, with the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding Amateur Radio repeaters interfering with the Air Force's PAVE Paws radar system.

According to ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, "The DoD acknowledges that it has seen changes at some repeater sites, but not all of them." He said the DoD has revisited the Massachusetts repeaters, located near Otis Air Force Base on Cape

Cod, to "remeasure the numbers. Some Massachusetts repeater owners have volunteered to completely turn off their systems and some others have made changes, but more is needed at both PAVE Paws radar sites."

The DoD, Henderson continued, has identified additional sources of interference in Massachusetts. "This was not really un-

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The Nature Of Disasters And Implications For Amateur Radio

Part 4 of 6, from a lecture presented at the Communications Academy, 2006

With fire trucks destroyed, roads blocked, water mains broken, emergency response becomes very, very creative. This creates unusual responses and unusual locations. Whatever works!

Unusual responses include things like:

- Firefighters using bulldozers or helicopters rather than ladders and hoses.
- Inmates being used to cook for the first responders.
- Garbage dumpsters used to transport essential supplies.
- Naval vessels being used to power reception centers.
- Trains being run down streets with no rails in order to supply power to reception centers and government buildings.
- Firefighters using heavy dump trucks to reach flood victims.

Unusual responses result in unusual locations being used, for ex-

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September Program

Contesting and 1990 WRTC

Bo N7BK will give us a presentation on Contesting and the 1990 World Radiosport Team Championship here in Seattle.

Future programs are as follows:
Oct - Open
Nov - Auction

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

At the last meeting . . .

September 5, 2007

President Del Marker, AC7QS, called the meeting to order at 7:30. Eighteen members including two new members fully paid for 2007 were present. The new members are Bill Hurt, KE7HMS, and Gil Drynan, W7GIL.

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

Treasurer's Report: Petty Cash -- \$48.27, Checking -- \$1,487.18.

Frank Troutman, W4UPZ, brought up our club's relations with the Senior Center. After considerable discussion a three-person committee of Rod Johnson, WE7X, Del Marker and Frank Troutman was designated to identify, study, and provide suggestions to resolve the issues.

Gil Drynan told us about his investigation of the permitting process for erection of amateur radio towers in Issaquah. Gil said that while there are no restrictions on the towers, there is a \$1500 permit fee.

Rod Johnson said he will be operating in the September VHF contest from Suntop Lookout near Mt. Rainier.

Pete Petersen, WY7Z, needs to borrow a copy of the September 1963 QST.

After a break for refreshments Vice President John MacDuff, KA7TTY, gave a presentation on formal message formats for amateur radio traffic handling.

73 de Peter -- AC7SB - S

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

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Vice President

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

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

W7BI Trustee

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

Disasters Cont.

ample:

- Airport terminals used as hospitals.

- Burger joints being used as police headquarters

- Breweries used to supply water for hundreds of thousands of people.

- Highways and roads used as landing pads and jails.

Incident Command will be used to organize the response. It is the best system in the world at this time for disaster response and deals directly with many of the most critical management, safety and logistical issues that arise in every disaster.

There will be confusion because different agencies use different versions of incident command, agencies take only the parts of incident command that they like and disregard the rest, and new positions and titles are added to keep people happy or reflect their normal organizational structure.

If there is one phone left in the entire country, responders will attempt to make communications by phone because that is what they know and that is what they are comfortable with. In a disaster, there is no time to learn how to use a satellite phone, a radio or any other type of communications system.

At the end of the day, there will be a huge effort to list the "lessons learned". This will be given to the people who have just learned the lessons of this once-in-a-lifetime experience and will

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PAVE PAWS Cont.

expected and is part of what has become an ongoing project. The ARRL will begin working with these repeater owners as soon as the DoD provides us with specific information," he said.

In California, where more than 100 repeaters are being scrutinized by the DoD, Henderson said the majority of repeaters have not been mitigated: "The Air Force has not had a chance to revisit Beale Air Force Base for new measurements, but it will be happening soon."

Reports have circulated that a number of California repeater owners have decided to take no further action about mitigating the interference unless they receive official notice from the Federal Communications Commission. "If these reports are true," Henderson said, "it is unfortunate. The FCC has stayed abreast of the discussions between the League and the DoD, and they are prepared to act appropriately if they are contacted by the DoD."

He continued: "The DoD has indicated they are willing to allow the ARRL to continue its attempts to mitigate the interference; however, they have expressed a sense of urgency that this must come to a conclusion. Those waiting for FCC action may find it coming sooner rather than later." - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 38, September 21, 2007 - S

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Correspondence Posted

On August 23, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau released new Amateur Radio enforcement actions. Todd C. Browne, KD0PA; Keith W. Coad, KW2C; Santos J. Rodriguez Colon, KP4DC; Jerry L. Counsellor, WE5JC; Pablo Diaz-Alequin, KP4MC, and Donald B. Flowers, NC4DF, all received letters from the Commission concerning their vanity call signs. These amateurs received their vanity call signs by stating they were former holders of these call signs, but the FCC can find no documentation substantiating their claims.

Robert C. Moldenhauer, W9CQ, also received a letter concerning his vanity call sign that he requested as a "close relative" of the former holder of that call sign. The FCC told Moldenhauer they can find no documentation of his claim.

Steve L. Wingate, K6TXH, received notice from the Commission that the recordings he had requested concerning complaints alleging his lack of station control and deliberate interference had been sent to him. Wingate was also granted an additional 30 days to respond to Commission correspondence.

The FCC Enforcement Bureau now posts Amateur Radio enforcement-related correspondence and documents -- with some exceptions -- on its own Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/Welcome.html>>. Direct all questions concerning the Ama-

teur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov>; in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division. - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 38, September 21, 2007 - S

FCC To Lower Vanity Call Sign Fees September 17

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting

Vanity Call Cont.

\$171,990 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS

<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC. License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur

Searching for Radio Videos (Oxymoron Alert!)

Robert Wilson, N6TV, sent the following tip on finding ham radio videos online: "If you search via Google Video rather than YouTube, you'll get many more hits. For example, searching for 'WRTC' or 'NCDXF' using Google Video, you'll get all the YouTube hits plus the hits from other Web sites that host videos, none of which are found with a YouTube search."

Scott Anderson, NE1RD, wrote that you can also find ham radio videos by using keywords like "DXpedition," or you can narrow your search with phrases like "Field Day" + radio and "Amateur radio" + contesting.

Justin Kates, KB3JUV, suggested that readers check out his selection of videos. He has 12 on YouTube at this time. – from Surfin, ARRL WEB, Sept. 23, 2007 - S

Application Filing FAQ Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm>>. The FCC's forms page <<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>> also offers the required forms. - The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 36, September 7, 2007 - S

Is that Loud and Clear?

Last week, I was in central Pennsylvania on a road trip for my day job.

Monday night, I was staying at the Ramada Inn in State College, Pennsylvania, the home of Penn State and its Amateur Radio club K3CR. Around 2030 EDST, I went to outside to get something from my car.

For the heck of it, I turned on the car radio and dialed up WTIC AM on 1080 kHz to see if I could catch some of the Red Sox game. WTIC is a clear channel station, so I figured that there was a good chance of hearing something.

I was impressed on how well I was able to receive the broadcast more than 300 miles away. The signal was very clear and I could listen to it all night if I wasn't exhausted from sitting in my car half the day driving from my home to State College.

My home is only 10 miles away from the WTIC transmitter and I listen to its Red Sox broadcasts on every kind of radio device you can imagine without difficulty. So, it was interesting to hear something so familiar as DX.

So, what is all this talk about clear channel stations? According to Wikipedia, "Certain medium-wave frequencies were set aside under the North American Radio Broadcasting Agreement for nighttime use by only one or two specific AM stations, covering a wide area via skywave propagation; these frequencies were known as the clear channels, and

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Disasters Cont.

be ignored by those who are about to go through a disaster.

Nature Of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio has a nature that makes it extremely useful in disasters. It also has a nature that makes it extremely un-useful in disasters.

[Outside of Amateur Radio operators] nobody knows what Amateur Radio is or does.

When communications fail, Amateur Radio comes on.

Amateur Radio never has to physically converge - if you have one ham "on the inside" everyone else can monitor and stay out of the way until needed.

Amateur Radio is dispersed, which helps with the damage assessment and defining the exact boundaries or scope of a disaster.

Amateur Radio is less likely to be forced off the air because it has equipment redundancy (every ham seems to have 10 radios), alternate power supplies and is willing to take as many car batteries as required to keep communications going.

Amateur Radio is not tied to the specific locations, agencies, types of disaster and can be flexibly used for multiple types of disaster.

Amateur Radio is a scarce resource - despite having thousands of hams, many are too old to respond, many are physically unfit to respond, many only want to do CW or contesting or DXing and have never participated in any emergency training. If you expect 100 hams, you will get 10.

Amateur Radio is one of the worst at giving situation reports despite the fact that everyone can

RYRYRYRY..



DE KA7TTY

Wow. It is October already. Salmon Days is this coming weekend. If you want to help with the parade Saturday morning, tune to 146.58 MHz simplex about 8 am and you can contact the net control and volunteer.

It is also time to start thinking about checking the condition of your antennas and getting them ready for winter. They say we may be in for a cold winter this year. And then there are the winter projects to get lined up.

With that in mind, we have our annual auction coming next month. That will give everyone a chance to unload those old projects that never got off the ground, and pickup the odds and ends for those new projects.

Take care and I'll see you at the meeting, John KA7TTY

hear them and would be informed.

Amateur Radio doesn't make itself user-friendly - nobody knows who you can talk to, how to use an NTS form, or where you are to use you.

Messages sent by Amateur Radio have a much lower chance of getting responded to. This is because there may be no answer available, the message got to the wrong person, the person who got the message has much higher priorities, because the message is tied up in the Amateur Radio paperwork pile or because the sending and receiving operators never followed up to see why an answer hadn't come through. The end result is that people are appreciative of any messages that do get responded to but the majority of messages never get an answer.

This will be continued next month. - Tom Cox VE6TOX - Communications Academy, April 1, 2006, Burien WA - S

Loud and Clear Cont.

the stations on them are thus clear-channel stations."

To learn more about clear channel stations, the Broadcast Archive has an interesting Web page devoted to clear channel stations, and AC6V.com has some pertinent links on its Clear Channel AM Radio Web page. You might also find the AM Band DXing Web page at www.DXing.com of interest.

Did I ever mention the time I listened to a Red Sox game on WTIC while sitting in my car in a hotel parking lot in Orlando, Florida, 1200 miles away as the crow flies down I-95? It was clear channel, but far from a clear signal and it was quite a challenge just to catch the score much less the game.

Until next time, keep on surfin'.

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SQUAKBOX

This newsletter is published monthly for the members of the Issaquah ARC W7BI. Items for publication must be received by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Send items to:

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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.

Original material may be quoted without prior permission provided ISSAQUAH ARC SQUAKBOX is credited.

- Coming Events -

- **October 3, 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.
- **October 13, 2007** - North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club Hamfair. Bremerton, WA. Kitsap County Fairgrounds.
- Information: Chris McGraw, KB2SKP (360)830-4363, kb2skp@tbrwolf.com or Horace Ory, K7ORY, (360)779-2215. ory001@comcast.net .
<http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html> .
- **October 22, 2007** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **October 27, 2007** - Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. (Ten miles west of Salem). For information, contact Chris Portal, AD7GT, ad7gt@arrl.net . <http://www.swaptoberfest.net/>
- **October 27, 2007** - Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Information: k7iey@netscape.net .
<http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/> .

Disaster Cont.

- Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, ARRL WEB, August 24, 2007
Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, grew up with AM radio and was attracted to ham radio because he thought erroneously that after he was licensed, he could spin platters on the ham bands. - S

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Oct 3, 2007 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE
 --- TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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