

SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

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Issaquah, Washington

April 2010

FCC Issues Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Government Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio

On March 24, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or con-

trol operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and

(Continued on page 2)

Building the First US ARIS-SAT-1 Flight Unit Begins

Gould Smith, WA4SXM writing on behalf of the ARISSAT-1 team said construction of the flight unit begins in early February when Tony Monteiro, AA2TX begins electronic assembly of the first US flight unit for ARISSat.



The ARISSAT-1 team has had prototypes working for months. The enclosures have been painted by NASA and the cables prepared by Larry Brown, W7LB. The

(Continued on page 3)

April Program

Surprise

It may not be April 1st, but Bruce KG7OI has some tricks up his sleeves along with some surprises.

Future programs are as follows:
 May - Open
 June - Field Day Prep

There are openings for future programs. Contact Gerard AD7ZE, 425-395-4554 to volunteer.

Also . . .

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Dues are due

Be sure to see our Treasurer about this.

At the last meeting . . .

March 3, 2010

The meeting was called to order, by President Bruce Helbert KG7OI at 7:35pm

Twenty-three attendees signed the meeting roster

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published

The club treasury contained \$2169.19, with the \$200 check to the Issaquah Senior Center remaining outstanding.

Bruce and Gerard AD7ZE and Flash N7TCW discussed the Ham Radio Support group plans for a second meeting each month, to be used mainly for planning sessions. The regular meeting coming up later in March, will have to do with the 'Rapid Assessment' plan, and its implementation and use.

There was some general discussion of the upcoming Mike and Key ARC annual electronics swap meet, March 6; in Puyallup. The club table will attempt to sell the Heathkit SB400, and a few other items remaining in the club possession, as well as a few recently donated items.

Bruce requested permission to purchase a \$10 gift certificate as a prize for the April meeting program. No one objected to him purchasing the gift card. There was no motion offered to reimburse him for that purchase.

Bruce suggested the idea of charging for the Ham Radio License classes, but there were some concerns expressed, and little support for the concept was forthcoming.

He meeting officially adjourned at 7:55pm

After a short break, Joe DeCuir KF7BMD of Cambridge Silicon presented the first of several in depth looks into the world of cellular phones, and the many issues involved getting so much technology into

(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@dhuibh.net - Ed. - S

2010 IARC Officers

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Bruce Helbert (KG7OI) - (425) 391-6828 (Sammamish)

Vice President

Gerard Hickey (AD7ZE) - (425) 395-4554 (Issaquah)

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

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Disaster Drills

Cont.

exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. - S

Cosponsors for HR 2160

Last month, another Congressional Representative -- Jo Bonner (R-AL-1) -- pledged his support for HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 34, including original sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18). HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), John Boozman (R-AR-3), Madeleine Bordallo (D-

Minutes Cont.

such a small space; and the real and potential issues involved with so many similar mobile devices in such close proximity.

Respectfully submitted
Rod Johnson WE7X
IARC Secretary/Treasurer

ARISSAT Cont.

flight boards were built by the Microchip ARISSat team and Chuck Green, N0ADI, with Chuck checking all the flight units.

Lou McFadin, W5DID has nearly assembled a complete flight structure (see photo above) designed by Bob Davis, KF4KSS. Lou expects to exhibit the structure in the ARISSAT Booth at the upcoming Orlando HamCation. The first two flight TX/RX/Command receiver modules from Bill Riss, N6GHZ are due to arrive in February.

We just found out that ARISSat will receive a new callsign and some additional Russian greetings will be added. We will have more than 25 international greetings from around the world in twelve languages broadcast on the FM downlink. In addition to the greetings will be voice ID, voice telemetry values, SSTV images, CW signals, a new 1k BPSK signal by Phil Karn, KA9Q sending full telemetry and experiment data and a 16 kHz wide transponder. Kurst State University in Russia is providing the experiment and the Silver-Zinc battery for the mission. – S

From the Shack in the Corner

This one passed across my inbox a short time ago. Like most activities that have been around a while, ham radio has its share of legends and myths. The following would definitely fall into that category. I have not been able to positively confirm this interesting legend, but it sure makes an interesting story.

Dit- a diddle dot dit.

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The date was September 30, 1906.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves and awaited their interviews.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office

made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'" None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his.

This young man's name was David Sarnoff and the company was Marconi Wireless. David Sarnoff, by the way, went on to found the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and throughout most of his career he led the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in various capacities from shortly after its founding in 1919 until his retirement in 1970.

CUL n 73s/88s, de KG7OI

FCC Releases National Broadband Plan

On Tuesday, March 16, the FCC held an Open Meeting to introduce its report *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan (NBP)* that was delivered to Congress that afternoon. Calling it "an ambitious agenda for connecting all corners of the nation while transforming the economy and society with the communications network of the future -- robust, affordable Internet," the Commission found that nearly 100 million Americans lack broadband at home today and 14 million Americans do not have access to broadband.

"The National Broadband Plan is a 21st century roadmap to spur economic growth and investment, create jobs, educate our children, protect our citizens and engage in our democracy," said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski. "It's an action plan, and action is necessary to meet the challenges of global competitiveness, and harness the power of broadband to help address so many vital national issues."

Perhaps as important as what the NBP contains is what it does not contain. "Scanning through its 376 pages, there is but one reference to broadband over power lines (BPL) -- and that is only a passing mention of its classification as an information service," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "There is no mention of BPL as a means of implementing the Plan's goals for broadband deployment. In short, the FCC sees no role for BPL in providing broadband Internet connec-

tions to more consumers."

Sumner said that this is not surprising, given that the Plan's goals call for speeds that BPL cannot deliver, "but it is still good news for all radiocommunication services -- including the Amateur Radio service -- that have experienced interference from the spectrum pollution that inevitably results from deliberately introducing radio frequency energy on unshielded, unbalanced conductors. This conclusion delivers on Chairman Genachowski's pledge to reintroduce 'fact-based, data-driven' policymaking at the FCC, since the FCC's own data clearly shows that BPL -- with only about 5000 customers nationwide several years after its much-ballyhooed introduction -- has failed in the marketplace. If BPL technology plays any role in fulfilling the NBP, it will be in connection with Smart Grid applications, although it is not specifically mentioned even in that section of the report."

As for what the NBP does contain, the report recommends that the FCC should make 500 megahertz of spectrum newly available for broadband use within the next 10 years, including 300 megahertz between 225 MHz and 3.7 GHz for mobile use within five years. Among the spectrum earmarked in the report is 20 megahertz in the Wireless Communications Service (WCS) bands at 2305-2310, 2310-2320 and 2345-2360 MHz. It remains to be seen whether our secondary allocation of 2305-2310 MHz -- which is the lower of two paired 5-MHz WCS bands called

Block A in Part 27 of the FCC Rules -- is targeted. The report also recommends that "[t]he FCC, within the next 10 years, should free up a new, contiguous nationwide band for unlicensed use." Sumner notes that this could have an impact on the Amateur Radio Service.

The Plan's call for action over the next decade includes the following goals and recommendations:

*Connect 100 million households to affordable 100-megabits-per-second service, building the world's largest market of high-speed broadband users and ensuring that new jobs and businesses are created in America.

*Affordable access in every American community to ultra-high-speed broadband of at least 1 gigabit per second at anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals, and military installations so that America is hosting the experiments that produce tomorrow's ideas and industries.

Ensure that the United States is

(Continued on page 5)

HR 2160 Cont.

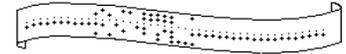
Guam), Andre Carson (D-IN-7), Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Scott Garrett (R-NJ-5), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22), Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Tom Latham (R-IA-4),

(Continued on page 5)

HR 2160 Cont.

Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11), Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Candice Miller (R-MI-10), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3), John Olver (D-MA-1), Bill Posey (R-FL-15), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA-46), Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2), Michael Turner (R-OH-3), Peter Welch (D-VT), David Wu (D-OR-1), C.W. Bill Young (R-FL-10) and Don

(Continued on page 6)

RYRYRYRY..

DE KA7TTY

Hey. Guess what? I will really make the meeting this month.

It has been a little hectic around here, but I hope all is settling down now. And just in time to start having to cut the grass! How do they expect me to play with radios this way. I know. I just let the yard go "el natural" and play with the radios anyway. Well, at least it might work for a little while.

I don't know how everyone else did, but this mild Winter left my antennas all up in the air. That was a good deal. That will give me more time actually on the air! Now if this wicked Spring will just get over with. Take care and 73, John KA7TTY

National Broadband Plan Cont.

leading the world in mobile innovation by making 500 megahertz of spectrum newly available for licensed and unlicensed use.

*Move our adoption rates from roughly 65 percent to more than 90 percent and make sure that every child in America is digitally literate by the time he or she leaves high school.

Bring affordable broadband to rural communities, schools, libraries, and vulnerable populations by transitioning existing Universal Service Fund support from yesterday's analog technologies to tomorrow's digital infrastructure.

*Promote competition across the broadband ecosystem by ensuring greater transparency, removing barriers to entry, and conducting market-based analysis with quality data on price, speed and availability.

*Enhance the safety of the American people by providing every first responder with access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable public safety network.

A beta release of a "spectrum dashboard" is scheduled to make its appearance tomorrow on the FCC's Web site. According to the report, "This Internet-based software enables user-friendly access to information regarding spectrum bands and licenses, including those that may be suitable for wireless broadband deployment. The initial version includes general information about non-federal use of spectrum bands in the range of 225 MHz to 3.7 GHz as well as more detailed information about bands of particular relevance to broadband."

"In terms of overarching policy issues that have the potential to impact the Amateur Radio Service, the two that seem to me to be of the greatest significance relate to spectrum fees and auctions," Sumner explained. "Also, the report suggests that it may be desirable for the FCC to reverse the migration of digital television broadcasting stations to the UHF bands, which are potentially of more utility for mobile broadband,

by addressing the technical issues that make the VHF TV channels more difficult for digital broadcasting. All in all, the NBP is an impressive document that deserves careful study."

The Plan was mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February 2009 and produced by an FCC task force. Information for the plan was gathered in 36 public workshops, 9 field hearings and 31 public notices that produced 75,000 pages of public comments. The debate went online with 131 blogposts that triggered 1489 comments, 181 ideas on IdeaScale garnering 6100 votes, 69,500 views on YouTube, as well as and 335,000 Twitter followers. The task force augmented this with independent research and data-gathering. About half of the Plan's recommendations are addressed to the FCC, while the remainder are for Congress, the Executive Branch, state and local government, working closely with the private and non-

(Continued on page 6)

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:

SQUAKBOX Editor
John MacDuff, KA7TTY
 620 S.E. Bush St.
 Issaquah, WA 98027-3909

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.

HR 2160 Cont.

Young (R-AK). – ARRL Newsletter, Feb, 11, 2010 – *Ed. Note: But not a single rep from Washington State.* - S

Plan Cont.

profit sectors.

"You can find the Plan online at

– Coming Events –

- **April 7, 2010** - 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.
- **April 10-11, 2010** – Communications Academy Seattle, WA. <http://www.commacademy.org>
- **April 17, 2010** - Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. For information, contact Lindsay Kooser (509)965-6612 n7rhw@arrl.net . <http://w7aq.org>
- **April 26, 2010** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **May 5, 2010** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting. See Apr.7th for time and location.
- **May 8, 2010** - Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705). nwecop@tgi.net . <http://www.scarcwa.org/>
- **June 4-6, 2010** - Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon.
- **June 11-13, 2010** - 41st Annual Wenatchee Hamfest, Apple City ARC, Dryden Gun Club, Dryden, WA. Contact Jim W7JBP at shultzjims@aol.com or Judy at ka7zna@msn.com, info <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/>
- **June 12, 2010** - Port Ludlow ARC tailgate swap meet. Port Ludlow, WA. <http://www.n7pl.org/>

www.broadband.gov/plan," Sum- our attention, please share it."- S
 ner noted. "If you spot anything
 that is particularly deserving of

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Apr. 7, 2010 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
 --- FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club
 P. O. Box 2171
 Issaquah, WA 98027-0097