

SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

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Issaquah, Washington

June 2010

FCC Seeks Comments on Newly Proposed Rules for Amateur Radio Operators Using Spread Spectrum Communications

In March, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission, and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a

SS emission (WT Docket No 10-62). On May 14, a summary of the NPRM and the Order was published in the Federal Register; the FCC is seeking comments on the NPRM. Comments must be filed on or before June 14, 2010 (30 days after publication in the Fed-

(Continued on page 2)

ARRL Field Day Merchandise Now Available

How can you be the best-dressed ham at your Field Day site this year? When you wear the official 2010 ARRL Field Day shirt -- accompanied by the 2010 ARRL Field Day hat -- of course! Field Day -- Amateur Radio's largest on-the-air operating event -- is just a little more than five weeks away, so be sure to get your shirts, hats and pins, as well as the new ARRL Field Day Handbook for Radio Amateurs and coffee mugs before they run out. Field Day shirts are offered in sizes Small-4XL and are royal blue with the 2010 Field Day logo on the left chest; the back of the shirt says "Amateur Radio - Goodwill, Service, Fun!" with www.arrl.org underneath. Fulfill all your Field Day apparel needs at the Field Day Supplies section of the ARRL Web site. - ARRL Letter, May 20, 2010 - S

June Program

Field Day Preparations

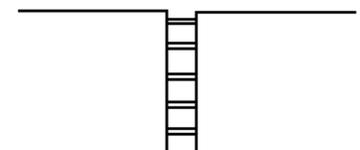
Field Day is coming June 26th and 27th. Come help with our final preparations and see what we are doing this year.

Future programs are as follows:
July - Field Day Discussions
Aug - Open

There are openings for future programs. Contact Gerard WT0F, 425-395-4554 to volunteer.

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At the last meeting . . .

May 5, 2010

* The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm, by president Bruce Helbert KG7OI

* Twenty-one members and guests were present.

* The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.

* The Treasurer reported \$2297.84 in the account, with one paid membership to be deposited

* Flash reported on recent Ham Radio Support Group operations and the ongoing training.

There was some discussion about the 'fifth Saturday' drill and the possibility that it may be cancelled or rescheduled due to it being on Memorial Day weekend.

* Field Day (June 26 and 27) at Sunny Hills Elementary School was briefly discussed, with a few minor changes from last years proposed. The actual planning meeting will be part of the June 2nd IARC meeting.

* The IARC received a check from Susan Black, daughter of Howard Lorentzen W7BI (SK), for membership. Rod suggested that we return the check and, and then presented a motion to grant a lifetime membership to the family of Howard Lorentzen. The motion was unanimously approved, without discussion.

* Bruce spoke briefly about Howard Lorentzen W7BI (SK), and some of his accomplishments. Howard was heavily involved in the cutting edge of WWII electronics, and the nature of some of his accomplishments and involvement are just now coming to be public knowledge. The US Navy is going to commission a ship in his honor. It is a very rare occurrence for the US Navy to name a ship after a civilian. Howard was a long time member of the IARC and his family has allowed us to use the W7BI call as our club call sign. Bruce is attempting to get some sort of a special event station hookup with a club or group in the

(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

President

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

Vice President

Gerard Hickey (WT0F) - (425) 395-4554 (Issaquah)

Secretary-Treasurer

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

W7BI Trustee

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

Spread Cont.

eral Register); reply comments must be filed on or before June 28, 2010 (45 days after publication in the Federal Register). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 5 of the NPRM.

The Commission also attached an Order to the NPRM that makes certain non-substantive revisions to Part 97. According to the FCC, the rules are necessary to amend the Amateur Service rules or conform them to prior Commission decisions, enhancing the usefulness of the Amateur Service rules by making them conform with other Commission rules, thereby eliminating licensee confusion when applying the rules to Amateur Service operations. According to the Federal Register, the new rules take effect July 13, 2010. – ARRL Letter, May 20, 2010 - S

Canadian Hams Make Use of New Privileges

After several years of hard work by the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and Industry Canada (IC) - Canada's equivalent to the FCC - Canadian amateurs received privileges on 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) at the first of the year. Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, of Roberts Creek, British Columbia, and John Gibbs, VE7BDQ, of Delta, British Columbia, completed the first official Canadian two-way 2200 meter

Minutes Cont.

Louisiana/Mississippi area during the time of the christening ceremony, planned for sometime in July. Rumors are that the ARRL is also gathering information for an article on Howard and his accomplishments.

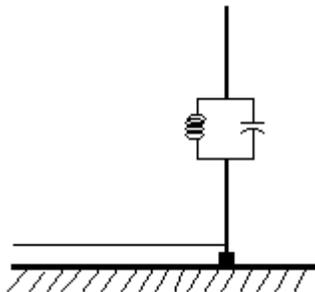
* Gerrard WT0F tendered his resignation, as club Vice-President. There was a lot of discussion related to access to e-mail lists and the club membership roster information. It was generally agreed that some change was needed to allow better communications between club members. An informal working group, (John MacDuff KA7TTY and/or Mike Crossley KF7BIG), was formed to look for solutions to related issues.

* Pete WY7Z showed another fine example of a crystal detector from his 'Real Radio' museum.

* The official business meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

* The program for the evening was an introduction and overview of the D-Star digital communication system, presented by Mike Crossley KF7BIG, with assistance of Gerrard WT0F.

Rod Johnson WE7X
IARC Secretary/Treasurer



From the Shack in the Corner

Bruce has been busy with Field Day. His column will return in August.

FCC Again Denies Amateur's Petition Regarding Station Identification

On May 18, the FCC denied a Petition for Reconsideration filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, that asked for changes in Part 97 regarding how often amateurs must identify themselves on the air. This action follows the Commission's denial of Zook's April 2009 Petition for Rulemaking requesting that the Commission amend Section 97.119(a) to change how often amateur stations must identify themselves, specifically "to require that an amateur station transmit its call sign during the first transmission of any communication or series of transmissions, and to allow an amateur station to not transmit its call sign at the end of a communication when the communication or series of transmissions lasts less than three minutes."

In denying Zook's 2009 Petition, the FCC noted that in May 2006, Zook had filed another Petition requesting that the Commission amend Section 97.119(a) to require that call signs be transmitted at the beginning of each transmission or series of transmissions: "In response, the Commission received approximately one hundred comments, generally opposing the petition. In 2007, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's

Mobility Division dismissed this petition, concluding that the requested rule changes were not necessary and were not supported by the Amateur Radio community, and noting that the commenters believed that the current station identification rule properly balances the burden of requiring the station to transmit its call sign with the convenience of those receiving the transmissions to determine the identity of the station making the transmissions."

The FCC said that Zook's 2009 request "does not assert or demonstrate that circumstances have changed since 2007 with respect to the adequacy of the current station identification rule," and the FCC concluded that it does not present grounds for the Commission to propose amending Section 97.119(a): "Your current proposal, like your previous petition, does not demonstrate that revising the station identification requirement as requested would address the concern that many Amateur Radio operators do not identify their station timely or at all, or that the problem of station operators not complying with the present rule cannot be addressed by enforce-

(Continued on page 4)

Station Id *Cont.*

ment of the present rule rather than a rule change.”

After the FCC denied Zook’s Petition, he filed a Petition for Reconsideration two days later. The Commission noted in its May 2010 action that it had dismissed Zook’s 2009 Petition “on the grounds that it did not present evidence meriting a rule change, because it did not assert or demonstrate that circumstances had changed since the Division dismissed a previous petition that you filed proposing to amend Section 97.119(a) to incorporate certain portions of the Commission’s former station identification rule,” but that in his Petition for Reconsideration, Zook “disagree[d] that circumstances have not changed since 2007, arguing that your 2009 petition proposed narrower changes than your 2006 petition, and again expressing the concern that many amateur operators do not properly identify their communications.”

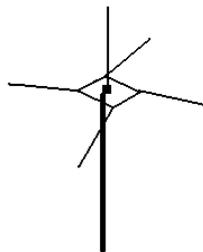
The FCC Denied Zook’s Petition for Reconsideration, concluding that it, “like your previous petitions, does not demonstrate that the current station identification rule is inadequate or that revising the station identification requirement as requested would address the concern that many amateur radio operators do not identify their station timely or at all. We also note that, in response to your 2006 petition, commenters believed that the current station identification rule properly balances the burden of requiring the station to transmit its call sign with the

convenience of those receiving the transmissions to determine the identity of the station making the transmissions.” – ARRL Letter, May 20, 2010 - S

Canadian *Cont.*

QSO on April 24. Using CW, the Canadian amateurs reported strong signals during daylight QSO on 137.100 kHz. Roberts Creek and Delta are about 41 miles (66 km) apart. Gibbs used a homebrew tube transverter at 100 W output into a short top-loaded backyard wire vertical, while Tilley was running 400 W from a homebrew FET transmitter into a 60 foot top-loaded wire antenna. "As well as heralding the arrival of a new 'top band,' the QSO demonstrates that even amateurs located in typically small city-sized lots can enjoy the challenges that 2200 meters has to offer," Tilley told the ARRL.

"Hopefully many other Canadian amateurs will soon be melting solder to join the fun on our new band!" More information on Canadian 2200 meter activity may be found on Tilley's Web site and at the VE7SL Radio Notebook Web site. - ARRL Letter, May 13, 2010 - S



NCVEC Question Pool Committee Withdraws Four Questions

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) announced the withdrawal of two questions from the Technician class pool and two questions from the Extra class pool.

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and Volunteer Examiners (VEs) must take action to remove these questions from use by July 1, 2010. Due to a rules change and pending action by the FCC, questions T2C02 and T2C03 from the July 2010 Technician Pool and questions E1C04 and E1C05 from the July 2008 Extra Pool may not be used in examinations after June 30.

The two Technician questions dealt with emergency communications and Section 97.113 of the FCC's rules governing Amateur Radio. In March, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), WP Docket No 10-72, that 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.

(Continued on page 5)

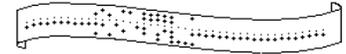
NCVEC Cont.

"Adoption of the NPRM appears more likely than not, abolishing the temporary waiver [needed for government-sponsored emergency communication drills] (T2C02) and making T2C03 an invalid question," the QPC said in a statement appearing on the NCVEC Web site. "Therefore, we feel it is best to withdraw these two questions now to avoid the possible inclusion of invalid information in training material now being prepared."

The two Extra questions dealt with third party restrictions as defined in 97.109(e); the FCC has since deleted this rule, so the information is no longer applicable to the Amateur Service. - ARRL Bulletin 17, May 25, 2010- S

Western Washington HAM Named To CQ Hall of Fame

CQ magazine today announced its 2010 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 15 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame and two new members each into the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals -- whether licensed hams or not -- who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, as well as those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to

RYRYRYRY...

DE KA7TTY

Wow. Field Day is coming again so soon. Are you ready? We are putting our finishing touches on our plans. This year should be even more fun than years past.

This is also the beginning of the parade and festival season with lots of opportunities to help out. If you are interested, see me and I can get you pointed in the right direction.

And now is the time to start planning those new antenna projects. The better weather should be coming soon.

OK enough for now. See you at the meeting,
73, John KA7TTY

Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some...

From Western Washington Howard Schmidt W7HAS from Issaquah has been named as a 2010 Inductee to the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

Howard gained previous National recognition when on Tuesday, December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff.

Congratulations Howard and thank you for representing Amateur Radio in Western Washington and Nationally.- ARRL Western Washington Section Manager James D Pace, K7CEX, May 16, 2010 (*Ed. Note: Does anyone know Howard?*) - S

The Last Tech-Plus License to Expire in June

In February 1991, the FCC dropped the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for new Technician licensees, and in 1994, it created a new class of Amateur Radio license: the Technician-Plus, also called Tech-Plus. This new license differed from the Technician license in that Tech-Plus licensees had passed the code test and had more operating privileges on HF. Patricia Phillips, N3IGI, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received her Technician licensee on June 12, 1990. On March 21, 2000, she upgraded her license to Tech-Plus, and, at the same time, renewed her license, now set to expire June 12, 2010. This makes Phillips the last Tech-Plus in the FCC database. If she renews her Amateur Radio license, she will be a Technician.

In 2000, the FCC restructured the license classes, and where

(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:

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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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Tech-Plus Cont.

there were six classes -- Novice, Technician, Tech-Plus, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra -- only the Technician, General and Amateur Extra survived. Novice

and Advanced class licenses could still be renewed and modified, but Tech-Plus licensees would be classified as Technicians upon re-

newal, but still retain their code credit and HF operating privileges.

– S

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 2, 2010 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

– Coming Events –

- **June 2, 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.
- **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/>
- **June 26-27, 2010** - ARRL Field Day
- **June 28, 2010** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **July 7, 2010** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting. See June 2nd for time and location.
- **July 10, 2010** - SalmonCon. Pacific Northwest QRP Group annual weekend outing, Valley Camp, just east of North Bend, WA. <http://valleycamp.org> This event is run in conjunction with an East Coast QRP meet called LobsterCon. There will be equipment demonstrations, talks on various subjects and much camaraderie. For information, contact Wayne NB6M@Comcast.net .

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
 --- FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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