

# SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

Volume 32, No. 9

Issaquah, Washington

September 2010

## Oklahoma Town Agrees RFI Ordinance Does Not Apply to Hams

Acting on behalf of an ARRL member in Midwest City, Oklahoma -- who had been sent a notice by the town asserting that he was in violation of a town ordinance regarding radio frequency interference (RFI) -- the ARRL notified Midwest City officials that only the FCC is empowered to regulate such matters. Two weeks after ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, sent the letter to town officials, Midwest City Assistant City Attorney Randal D. Homburg sent an e-mail to the

ham to let him know "the previously delivered notice is hereby rescinded [sic]. There will be no citations issued and thus, the issue is moot." Midwest City is in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

Calling the ordinance "null and void," General Counsel Imlay said the notice stated the ham "was in violation of the ordinance as the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Hamming by Pinging

Meteor burst communications -- also referred to as meteor scatter communications -- is a radio propagation mode that exploits the ionized trails of meteors during atmospheric entry to establish brief communications paths between radio stations up to 1400 miles apart.

The next meteor shower is the Perseids on the night of August 12. During the peak of Perseids, the rate of meteors reaches 60 or more per hour. Perseids is often the best meteor show of the year, which means (to hams) that it affords a lot of opportunities for successful meteor scatter propagation.

Personally, I had successful meteor scatter contacts on 144 MHz using about 100 W into a small beam, so you don't need a behemoth of an amplifier and huge aluminum array to work the meteors; however, if you are not that well equipped, just listening for pings is an interesting and fun endeavor.

Steven Wamback, KK2W, describes the basics of how to bounce radio signals off meteors at eHow.com. For beyond the basics, visit the Radio Meteor Echo Page of Sam Barricklow, K5KJ.

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## September Program

### Launch the USNS Howard O. Lorenzen

Viewing the launching of the USNS Lorenzen (T-AGM-25) and more.

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

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

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## At the last meeting . . .

August 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Helbert KG7OI at 7:30 pm.

Introductions were skipped due to no guests this month. There were 15 members present.

The treasury reported a balance \$1725 after the annual insurance payment was sent. There is one small bill for Field Day food and one for the newsletter outstanding.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, after a minor typo was pointed out.

Mike Crossley KF7BIG reported for the Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group (IHRSG). They had a good "5th Saturday" drill. Mike has also taken over as the IHRSG Radio officer.

Rod Johnson WE7X gave a summary breakdown of our Field Day contest effort.

Rod invited members to come up to the SunTop Forest Service Lookout, located about 30 miles SE of Enumclaw, off highway 410, on the weekend of September 10. Rod and Phyllis will be the volunteer fire watch rangers for that Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. It is at 5280 feet ASL, and about 19 miles north of the summit of Mt. Rainier. (Directions in electronic format available from Rod, upon request) Coincidentally it is also the weekend of the ARRL September VHF contest, so if you wish to operate from that location, that is OK too.

The meeting adjourned sometime about 8pm

After the social time, Gerrard WT0F gave us a tour of the new W7BI web site ([www.W7BI.com](http://www.W7BI.com)) and demonstrated some of the features. He encouraged members to add to the site and post information which may be of interest to club members.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rod Johnson WE7X

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## 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](mailto: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)

## RFI Cont.

result of radio frequency interference appearing in a neighbor/complainant's home electronic equipment. The licensed radio amateur was ordered to remedy the problem in one day, under penalty of a sanction assessed against the real property of the radio amateur."

The ordinance in question -- Midwest City Ordinance 27-3(9) - reads: "In addition to other public nuisances declared by other sections of this Code or law, the following [is] hereby declared to be [a] public nuisance: Operating or using any electrical apparatus or machine which materially and unduly interferes with radio or television reception by others." Section 27 of Midwest City's Ordinances deals with nuisances.

"As previously indicated, it is the city's position that the ordinance cited in the notice, MCO 27-3(a)(9), does not apply to RF transmission devices licensed by the FCC as to their operation and use pursuant to the license," Homburg's letter read. "In the event there are future complaints from any citizen about a neighbor's use of these licensed devices, the city will direct the complaining party to file their complaints with the FCC."

Homburg went on to say that there is no issue with the language of the ordinance: "This council adopted the ordinance over eleven (11+) years ago, pursuant to the procedures for adoption such ordinance provided for under the

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## Enabling Ham Radio's Disabled

The pontoon slowly motors around the lake. A group of hams gathers around the radio. "CQ, CQ 80 meters this is W0EQO, KC0YFV at the mike, maritime mobiling from Courage North in Lake George, Minnesota, over." So begins a typical contact at the Handiham Radio Camp sponsored by the Courage Handiham System, a program of the Courage Center. You have probably seen our quarterly ad in QST and wondered what we do.

Handiham helps persons with any combination of physical and sensory disabilities by providing tools, technology and education to become effective amateur operators. "The Courage Center Handiham System provides tools for people with disabilities to learn Amateur Radio and technology, and to earn Amateur Radio licenses," explains Patt Tice, WA0TDA, Handiham Manager. Ham related services include Radio Camp, accessible VE sessions, daily HF and EchoLink nets, the Courage Handiham members-only Web site, equipment loans, assistance with license renewal and a Kenwood TS-480 remote base station. Handihams also sponsors an ARRL affiliated club Courage Handiham System ARC. Our annual membership is \$10 or \$100 for a life membership.

The Handiham Web site has a wealth of information. On it you can find information to help you become a ham; a list of ham related books and audio tapes, including audio versions of popular transceiver manuals; links to vari-

ous call sign and repeater lookup tools; EchoLink keyboard shortcuts; Handiham nets; a link to the NOAA space weather prediction center, and links to the PICONET and Stillwater ARA Web sites. The site also has information on the ARRL, including an ARRL sections list in text format.

Through the Handiham Web site you can also find an explanation of the benefits of membership, a link to the Courage Center, information on how to donate money and equipment to support Handiham programs, lists of Handiham online mailing lists and e-letters, online Handiham audio programs, a photo tour of the Minnesota Radio Camp with a link to the video "See and Hear Radio Camp," and information on how to volunteer.

### Minnesota Radio Camp

Radio Camp is a weeklong residential camp for persons with physical and sensory disabilities. It has five tracks: Technician, General and Amateur Extra class licensing and two operating skills sessions designed to get people who are new to HF on the air. An Extra class seminar allows campers who do not have equipment to operate HF. Free time activities include field trips to local attractions, operating our club station W0EQO, maritime mobiling and radio club meetings.

During the last day of camp a VE session is held. It is physically accessible and includes readers for persons who are blind. I have cerebral palsy. I tried to pass my General on my own three times

before finally passing it at Radio Camp. I attend the operating skills class in August of 2009, where I got invaluable on the air practice that will help me in my radio career for years to come. In 2010, the Radio Camp was held in May at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, Minnesota.

### Handi Nets

Handihams offers a number of daily and weekly HF and EchoLink nets. Our EchoLink nets meet Monday through Saturday 1100 Central Time (CT) and Wednesday at 1930 CT. The EchoLink nets are available on nodes KA0PQW-R, node 267582; WA0TDA-L, node 302454; N0BVE-R, node 89680, and also on IRLP node 9008 and WIRES system number 1427.

On Mondays we hold Handiham SSB nets on the following schedule:

- 14.265 MHz, 0930-1000 CT in winter and at 1530 UTC in summer
- 28.390 MHz, 1000-1030 CT (1600 UTC in winter)
- 21.442 MHz at 1030-1100 CT in the summer and in the winter at 1630 UTC.
- 7.272 MHz, at 1430-1530 CT. During the summer at 2030 UTC.
- 1.902 MHz, SSB net at 2000 CT nightly except for Tuesdays and Thursdays,
- 7.112 MHz, slow speed CW at 0900-1200 Eastern Time Friday.

Our nets are open to all hams, not just members. Please check in. We

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ARRL Amends Petition to Deny to Include 16 Additional Recon Scout Applications

On August 16, ReconRobotics -- in response to the ARRL's Petition to Deny Applications, filed with the FCC on August 4 -- filed an *Opposition to Petition to Deny* with the FCC, arguing that the ARRL's *Petition* is "frivolous." The ARRL's *Petition* asked the FCC to deny 68 pending Public Safety Pool license applications associated with the ReconRobotics Video and Audio Surveillance System, specifically the Recon Scout device.

Calling the "frivolous" contention "somewhat amusing, given what the FCC had done three days earlier," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that on August 13, the FCC returned the first application -- submitted by the City of Salina, Kansas. The Salina Police Department had asked the FCC for a waiver to operate the Recon Scout in the band 433-445 MHz. The FCC returned the waiver request to Salina, noting that the frequency band requested was not consistent with the waiver *Order (Docket 08-63/DA-291)* which requires that the first unit licensed to an eligible entity operate in the band 436-442 MHz. "We expect that the application will be corrected and resubmitted," Sumner said, "but it is encouraging to see that the FCC agrees with us that the applications -- this and all of the subsequent ones filed -- are defective in this respect."

The ARRL's *Petition* noted these and other incorrect technical parameters in each filed application, stemming from errors in the grant of equipment authorization for the ReconRobotics device, as well as inconsistencies between the applications and the FCC waiver grant for the device in Docket 08-63. Since the August 4 filing, the ARRL has noted another 16 applications have been filed with the FCC, requesting a waiver to be able to use the Recon Scout in the incorrect frequency band. On August 17 the ARRL amended its original *Petition to Deny Applications* to include these 16 additional applications. - ARRL WEB Site, 08/18/2010 - S

### More on Howard O. Lorenzen (SK)

I discovered a wealth of information on Howard (the original W7BI) on the QCWA WEB Site (<http://www.qcwa.org/>) sent to them by his grandson Timothy Black. Posted on their Message Board dated 06/26 are several articles with much more detail on Howard than I have ever seen before. I have permission to re-print the article and will be serializing articles in future issues. - S

## Enabling Hams Cont.

would love to have you.

### Handiham Member Services

For those who have disabilities, Handihams offers a number of valuable members-only services. On our members-only Web site you can find information about equipment loans, our weekly newsletter, software, help with renewing your license and technical assistance. Our member-only Web site also includes audio files of ARRL license manuals, operating skills materials including Amateur Radio publications and other operating activity information.

We also have a Kenwood TS-480 remote base available for member use. The remote base is our newest service. It is especially helpful for those hams who can't afford their own equipment or have antenna restrictions. You need to have a Skype name, be registered with Handihams and have a computer with Internet access to use this service.

Handihams also sponsors an ARRL affiliated club, the Courage Handiham System ARC, W0EQO. We meet once a year during Radio Camp and also on the air. We have an e-mail reflector set up where we discuss various topics for upcoming sessions in operating skills at Radio Camp. We offer newsletters, mentoring, license classes and VE testing. One needs to be an ARRL member to join.

### Community Support

(Continued on page 5)

## Enabling Hams Cont.

The support of the amateur community is very important to Handihams. The amateur community can help by promoting Handihams in club programs, donating used equipment and money, becoming an Elmer to a Handiham member and sponsoring a radio camper. Clubs can have Handihams as a program theme. A good resource is the video Making Contacts, Making Friends found on our Web site.

Handihams has an equipment loan program that loans out donated equipment to members. This program depends on donations of radio equipment from the ham community. The Radio Camp has many fees associated with it such as registration fees, travel costs, exam fees and spending money. To help support our Radio Camp program, clubs can sponsor radio campers. Handihams is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit rehabilitation and resource center.

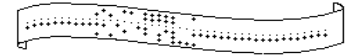
For more information please contact the Courage Handiham System, 3915 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55422, 1-800-426-3442.

Acknowledgments: The author wishes to acknowledge Matt Arthur, KA0PQW, Handiham member; Howard Armstrong, KE7KNN, Handiham Net Manager, and Pat Tice, WA0TDA, Handiham Manager, for their assistance in this project.

Michael J. Runholt, KC0YFV, an ARRL member, has held a General class license since 2005.

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# RYRYRYRY...



DE KA7TTY

Here we go again. Seems like I have been doing this for the last 100 years, sometimes. Lots of ink to paper.

What a funny Summer: hot one day then cool the next. Its been hard to get anything except weeds to grow. Anyone got their antenna projects complete? Remember, this is suppose to be the time!

Did anyone operate from an unusual location this Summer? We have been kid of "home bodies" this year, so nothing special here.

It is never too late to start thinking about Winterizing those antenna connections. Just when was the last time they were even looked at.

Speaking of which, I found a good simple method a couple years ago that really works good. It consists of multiple layers of electrical tape and liquid tape. Three layers seems to work for me. And when it comes time to open it up, all you do is dig out the ed of the top layer of tape ad unwind it. Do the same with the other layers and presto there is a clean dry connector exposed. No gook to try to scrape off like some methods.

How about you? Send me your tips and I will work them in to a future issue.

All for now. 73, and see you at the meeting, John KA7TTY

## World Record on 10 GHz

A group of six Swiss hams have set a new record for the longest contact (based on GPS coordinates) made on 10 GHz using SSB - 2696 km (1675 miles): from Ilha do Sal (one of the northern Cape Verde islands) to Portugal. Using a 20 W transmitter - with a 90 cm parabolic reflector with 35 dB gain - these hams, part of the Hyperatlantica 2010 DXpedition, were able to contact Portugal on the morning of July 10 for almost 25 minutes. The original record of 2070 km (1286 miles) - set in 2000 by Armin Martsch, DL4AM, and Adalbert Kaufmann, DJ3KM - was broken by the Swiss group earlier that same day, with a contact between Ilha do Sal and Tangier, Morocco at a distance of 2200 km (1367 miles).

## Pinging Cont.

Other sources for this installment of Surfin' include StarDate Online and articles on Wikipedia. - ARRL "Surfin'", Stan Horzepa WA1LOU - S

## RFI Cont.

city's charter. Your issue with the ordinance has been with the application of the cited section to the use of your licensed transmitting device. That is no longer an issue. This e-mail is the official position of the city. There should be no need for further inquiry from any other city official." - ARRL Letter, Aug, 12, 2010 - S

## 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](mailto: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.

## Enabling Hams Cont.

He holds an MS in Vocational Rehabilitation with a Concentration in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor by the Commission

on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification. He is a life member of Handihams. He can be reached at 2597 190th Ave, Marshall, MN 56258. - ARRL WEB Site, Aug. 23, 2010 - S

## - Coming Events -

- **September 1, 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.
- **September 10-12, 2010** - Northwest Automatic Position Reporting System (NWAPRS) Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. Contact Dave/K7GPS at [k7gps@arrl.net](mailto:k7gps@arrl.net) or (509)244-8484. <http://nwaprs.info/sg.htm>
- **September 11, 2010** - The 4th Annual Clark County ARC Tail -Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. <http://www.w7aia.org/> Rob, K7JAO at [k7jao@arrl.net](mailto:k7jao@arrl.net)
- **September 11, 2010** - Vancouver Island Ham Happening 2010. Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association. Info, Richard VA7AA, [va7aa@shaw.ca](mailto:va7aa@shaw.ca) Webpage: <http://www.ve7na.ca>
- **September 18, 2010** - Microhams Digital Conference. Redmond, WA. This is an ARRL Sanctioned event. <http://www.microhams.com/registration/>
- **September 24-26, 2010** - 29th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Vancouver, Washington. <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>
- **September 25, 2010** - Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Bob, AC7GP [ac7gp@hotmail.com](mailto:ac7gp@hotmail.com).

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 1, 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