

# SQUAKBOX

Issaquah Amateur Radio Club

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Issaquah, Washington

December 2010

## FCC Issues Report and Order on Vanity and Club Station Call Signs

In November 2009, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system. The NPRM also sought to revise certain rules applicable to club stations. The ARRL submitted its comments to the FCC on March 26. On Monday, November 8, 2010, the FCC issued a Report and Order (R&O) with its decisions.

These new rules will take effect 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

In the Report and Order, the FCC amended and clarified its rules with respect to Amateur Service vanity call signs "in order to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Code Kids

The "Cheaper-Beeper" brings communication to life for a classroom of kids.

Morse code is an attractive activity for kids. I think what they like about Morse code is the "secretiveness" of being able to send messages that their parents and teachers can't read. Summer school programs provide an excellent opportunity to introduce students to Amateur Radio through the use of Morse code. An added side benefit is that the instruction in how codes are used to transmit information is part of the "educational standards" or benchmarks that are required to be taught in our nation's classrooms. The Boy Scouts has also resurrected the Signaling Merit Badge that includes a requirement to send and receive Morse code. This presents some opportunities for local hams to get involved in their schools.

Ron Miles, N6PAA, and I introduced Morse code to some younger summer school students in a Sacramento suburb school. The opening activity (the hook) involved the students whispering their names and favorite colors in Ron's ear. Ron, in turn, did the magic of sending that information

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## December Program

### Annual Holiday Ice Cream Party

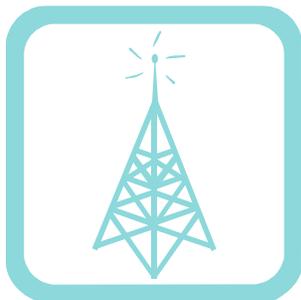
Monita KA7ZPM has setup our Holiday Ice Cream Party again this year. Bring your significant other and kids and grand kids and join in,

Future programs are as follows:  
Jan - Open  
Feb - Open

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

### Also . . .

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## At the last meeting . . .

November 3, 2010

Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Helbert KG7OI at approximately 7:30pm

Seventeen members were present and Introductions were dispensed with.

The minutes were approved as published.

The treasurer reported about \$1840 either already in the account, or ready for deposit

The treasurer was directed to procure a table at the Puyallup Swap meet

Gerrard WT0F and Sandra KE7LXP reported on the Sound Shake exercise

There was some discussion regarding out 501C3 status and it was determined to drop that clause from the donation acknowledgement letter.

John KA7TTY noted the W7BI web site had been unavailable and Gerrard mentioned he was just made aware of it, and would look into it.

Bo N7BK reported on his CQWW contest effort; running low power and with a 20M single-band effort. He was able work over 300 contacts, representing 31 regions, and 86 counties, with a score of some 121,000 points.

Rod WE7X reported his effort at Shaw Island for the Fall VHF Sprint, where the four hour effort only generated a few contacts due to a low turnout.

Bruce asked if there was any interest in some sort of a public service project. There was no immediate response.

Bruce suggested selling some of the more valuable auction donation

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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)

## R & O Cont.

promote processes that are more equitable and administratively efficient." The FCC has amended its vanity call sign rules to clarify the date on which the call sign associated with a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death becomes available for reassignment and clarifies the exceptions to the general rule that a call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license terminates. As for club stations, the FCC has placed limits on who can file applications on behalf of a club, how many vanity call signs a club can hold and how many clubs can have the same license trustee.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

Here are the highlights of the Report and Order (read the complete R&O here):

*(Continued on page 3)*

## R & O Cont.

### Availability of Call Signs Assigned to Stations of Deceased Licensees

The FCC has codified that a signed request for license cancellation accompanied by a copy of a death certificate, an obituary or data from the Social Security Death Index [SSDI] that shows the date of death is necessary to cancel the license of a deceased amateur.

The FCC clarified the rules to provide that the two year waiting period starts on the licensee's date of death.

A call sign that is canceled due to the death of a licensee more than two years earlier, or within 30 days before the second anniversary of the licensee's death, will remain unavailable to the vanity call sign system for 30 days following the date the staff takes action to cancel the license.

### Exceptions to the Two Year Waiting Period

**Former Holders of the Call Sign:** A former holder of the call sign is exempt from the general rule that a call sign shown on an expired, surrendered, revoked, set aside, canceled or voided license is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years.

**"Close Relatives" of the Licensee:** The term "in-law" includes "only a parent, step-parent, sibling, or step-sibling of a licensee's spouse; and the spouse of a licensee's sibling, step-sibling, child, or stepchild; or the spouse of a licensee's spouse's sibling or step-sibling." The other "close relatives" are the deceased former

holder's spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

**"In Memoriam" Call Signs:** One exception to the two year waiting period applies to licenses for club stations who request the call sign of a deceased licensee when the club station trustee has the written consent of a close relative of the deceased. The FCC codified that the decedent's club membership need not be current at the time of his or her death, as long as the decedent was a bona fide member of the club at some time during his or her life.

### Ineligible Applicants

When a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, cancelled, revoked or voided, the two year requirement does not apply; however, the call sign will not be made available to the vanity call sign system for 30 days after information regarding the acknowledgement or determination of ineligibility is posted to the license in the Commission's licensing system.

### Other Club Station Licensing Issues

**Club Trustee Issues:** Applications requesting a change in trustee are required to include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), in order to "prevent a departing trustee from making off with the club

license and call sign or refusing to agree to a change in trustee" and "address instances in which a trustee becomes incapacitated."

**Class of Trustee:** Novice class licensees may now serve as club station trustees, "for frequency and operating privileges are determined solely by the class of operator license held by the control operator, rather than the license held by the club station trustee." (However, cumbersome identification procedures are required when a control operator is using privileges that exceed those of the station licensee.)

**Limits on Club Station Licenses:** Club stations may hold only one vanity call sign, but may hold an unlimited number of sequential call signs. Club stations currently holding more than one vanity call sign may renew or modify their existing station license grants, but not obtain any additional vanity call signs. The prohibition on obtaining additional vanity call signs includes in memoriam call signs formerly assigned to deceased members of the club.

**Who May Serve as Trustee:** An individual may be the trustee for only one club station license grant. Individuals who currently serve as trustee for more than one club may continue to serve as trustee of those clubs, but may not be designated the trustee of any additional clubs.

### Conforming Rule Changes

The FCC amended Part 97 to remove obsolete references to Technician Plus class operator li-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Code Kids Cont.

to me via Morse code and I wrote the message on the classroom board.

The instructional unit spanned 4 hours over 2 class days during which the students performed the following activities:

- constructed their own code practice oscillators (CPOs) from a partial kit
- constructed a Morse code translation sheet
- wrote out their names and other messages in Morse code using their translation sheets
- practiced sending their names and messages on their CPOs
- practiced sending their code to the CWGet computer program to refine their “fists”
- and finally, using different sized and color beads representing “dits” and “dahs,” they constructed an arm bracelet with a Morse code message spelled out.

The “final exam” included sending their names with their CPOs to the instructor and the instructor reading the message beaded in their arm bands.

### Preparing a Successful Lesson

If you think you might be interested in doing a similar activity in your local school, here are some things to consider:

- Prepare, prepare, prepare. Teaching is not a trivial activity and it doesn't take long to lose control of the class when you are not prepared.
- You are the teacher and it is important to dress and act like a teacher.
- Consider the age of your audience. The attention span of the

students depends on their age and a million other things. (Younger doesn't necessarily mean less attention span. Many times the older students are more difficult to keep engaged.) In this case, with the younger audience, soldering of the CPOs was out of the question so the units were presoldered and all that was required was to mount the circuit boards on the mounting board. This simple construction allowed the students to say: “look what I made in school today” when they went home. For a more mature student audience, or Scouts, you might consider a full blown “Solder 101” activity with the appropriate logistic planning for such a construction project.

The ARRL will be offering a new CPO kit that is ideal for Scouts.

- Not all students learn the same way (called learning modalities); there are visual, auditory, tactile and combination learners. When you are preparing your lesson, try to approach the content from all the modality directions you can. That is why in our learning activity we had the students copy the code translation chart off the board (tactile and visual), we verbalized the chart using the words “dit” and “dah” (verbal), we had them construct their CPOs (tactile), used their CPOs to send code (visual, tactile, auditory) and translate the coded messages into beads for the arm bands (visual, tactile).
- We live in a society that is driven by the television media with commercial breaks at specific intervals. Unfortunately, this translates

into how much time a student will stay attentive to one topic or presentation mode during a lesson period, which determines how long a lesson can last. A good instructor will be sensitive to this “cultural” fact and adjust the lesson accordingly by “changing up” during the lesson.

For instance, you might consider frontal instruction (lecture) for a few minutes, switch to seat work (copying off the board), then asking questions for a few minutes. Next, divide the students into small working groups to work on problems and report back their results to the class as a whole by writing on the board. Along these lines you can add other related activities as appropriate. For the youngest audience the changes should be approximately every 5 minutes, for the middle audience you might get away with 10-15 minutes. An adult audience will stay awake for 20-30 minutes. After that you'll start hearing snores.

### Cheap Beeps

The CPO circuit used was the “Cheaper Beeper” designed by William Gardner, W8WG. It is one of the most affordable, simple and reliable CPO circuits I have seen. The CPOs were constructed on scrap circuit board material that was cut to include the key as well as an area to mount the components. The mounting base was made out of some scrap plastic. The major expense of the CPO is the speaker (the speaker impedance is critical for the CPO operation) and the 9 V battery. I have

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**R & O Cont.**

censes, as all Technician Plus class operator licenses have now either expired or been renewed as Technician class operator licenses.

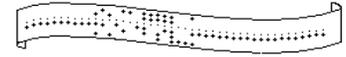
In 2000, the FCC decided not to renew Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. Now that the last RACES license has expired, the FCC amended Part 97 to remove references to RACES station licenses.

The FCC revised Section 97.21 to reference Section 1.949 of the rules that requires that renewal applications be filed no sooner than 90 days prior to expiration of the license.

**Proposals Not Adopted**

The FCC chose to not adopt proposals from the ARRL that would have expanded the pool of available call signs and would have limited Group A vanity call signs to United States citizens.

Also not adopted were proposals from other commenters to limit vanity call signs to the call area of the applicant's residence and to eliminate the fee to renew a license with a vanity call sign. — ARRL letter, 11/10/2010 — S

**RYRYRYRY...**

DE KA7TTY

Happy Holidays everyone,

I hope all is going well with you during our cold/snow spell. Hopefully by the time you read this we are back to our normal cold (40°) and wet. I have a new project I am starting. I want to be able to control my IC-751A HF rig from my computer. I am having to add a small interface board into the rig to be able to do this. I have the board, but haven't gotten in installed yet. That is my next step. The instructions make it look easy. I will let you know how it goes.

See you at the meeting. Be sure your ice cream tummy is empty, 73, John KA7TTY

**Meeting Cont.**

items on E-bay or holding them to for sale at Puyallup. A motion was made to allow donated items to be sold on E-bay or at Puyallup, if the item did not bring a reasonable value at the auction, and the person making the donation agreed, and did not request the item returned. After discussion, the motion was eventually tabled.

Jim Horn KA7GKP volunteered to help Monita KA7ZPM provide the fixins for the December ice cream social meeting.

The need for elections for the

upcoming year seem to indicate a need for volunteers for one or two positions, yet to be determined. Rod volunteered to continue as Secretary/treasurer for one more year.

Sandra suggested some sort of a public outreach to attempt to grow the membership. There was discussion of a possible booth at Salmon Days or other event. No motion was offered, so the discussion was tabled for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Code Kids Cont.**

found a contemporary 8 ohm speaker that works well is the RadioShack part number 273-092. [Construction Information on the CPO can be found at [this link](#). — Ed.]

So I hope that you will consider this method of supporting your school while also advancing the Amateur Radio Service. With the

proper amount of planning on your part, you will have a rewarding experience watching the "light bulbs" illuminate in the young students the first time they "get it" and are able to send their names in Morse code.

If you want additional information, you can contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the ARRL

Education & Technology Program Coordinator, at 530-495-9150 (Pacific Time Zone) or at 774 Eastside Rd, Coleville, CA 96107. - Mark Spencer WA8SME, [mspencer@arrl.org](mailto:m Spencer@arrl.org), ARRL WEB, Oct 25, 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.

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 -

- **December 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.
- **December 27, 2010** - Issaquah Ham Radio Support Group meeting, Police Station, Issaquah, talk-in 146.56 MHz at 7:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM.
- **January 5, 2010** - Monthly Issaquah ARC meeting. See Dec. 1st for time and location.
- **February 19, 2011** - Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com> .
- **March 12, 2011** - Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. For information, contact [dmdink@yahoo.com](mailto:dmdink@yahoo.com) or [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net) . <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm> .

## Minutes Cont.

about 8:30, and the annual “used stuff” auction was the evening program.

Treasurers note: Auction proceeds was \$124.50, plus two items

to be sent to Puyallup, with an estimated fair value of about \$75, and one item Pete agreed to attempt to sell on E-bay.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer  
 Rod Johnson WE7X

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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 1, 2010 - 7:30 PM

Talk-in frequency: 146.56 MHz

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE  
 --- TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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 Issaquah, WA 98027-0097