

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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February 1, 1989

"New" Atlas/Dentron Co. Owner Arrested!

Michael D. Harrison, 36, WB2PTI [alias known as John McNamara, also known as Mike Hanson] was arrested on January 26, 1989, by U.S. Postal Inspector Martin T. Biegelman at his residence, 431 Windsor Place, Oceanside, NY. Harrison was charged with mail and wire fraud.

He was arraigned in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn, NY, on January 26 before U.S. Magistrate Allyne Ross and released on a \$25,000 personal recognizance bond. Mail fraud carries a 5 year prison sentence and a \$250,000 fine for each occurrence. Wire fraud carries the same penalties.

Harrison placed full page advertisements in the November and December issues of *73 Magazine* for the *Atlas Radio Company* and in the January through December 1988 issues for the "new" *Dentron Radio Company*. Smaller advertisements were placed in the *Ham Trader* "Yellow Sheets" and *Ham Radio* magazine. Stuart Norwood, associate publisher of *73 Magazine* told the postal service that he has received many complaints about Harrison not providing ordered merchandise.

On January 5 and 6, Inspector Biegelman spoke with Gary Kline, attorney for the *Uniden Corporation of America*. He was told that Atlas Radio approached Uniden in early 1988 wanting to act as its distributor, but Uniden declined. Kline said that Uniden has never had a relationship of any kind with Michael D. Harrison and never gave him permission to use Uniden's name in Atlas' advertising.

Uniden charged that the Harrison advertisements were misleading in that Uniden has not joined forces with Atlas as alleged and was not even aware of the advertisements until after they appeared in *73 Magazine*. Uniden has initiated a separate civil action against Atlas Radio and Harrison for the unauthorized use of its name.

Harrison opened a P. O. Box in Lynbrook, New York, on May 8 1987. Postal officials advise that mail is currently delivered to this P. O. Box in the names of Atlas Radio and John McNamara. McNamara is alleged to be the Atlas Company president. Dentron's mail goes to Post Office Box "H" addressed to Michael Harrison and/or Dentron in East Rockway, NY. The complaint said Harrison had opened separate bank checking accounts at the Marine Midland Bank in 1986 under the names of Atlas and Dentron Radio.

The twelve page complaint filed in U.S. District Court lists twenty victims that have ordered merchandise between September and December 1988 - none of whom have received their equipment or a refund. The list now has swelled to sixty-five with additional victims being added daily. Most ordered the AR/HR-2510 10-meter mobile transceiver.

Claims are mainly for \$219.95, but one from a **Garth M. Conover, N2BMP**, of New Brunswick, NJ, is for \$3,800. Conover followed up his Atlas Radio order on December 29th and spoke with an individual who identified himself as "John McNamara." While Conover was told he would receive

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his order shortly, he did not. Another amateur, Roy Jones, sent a check for \$215 for equipment on July 13, 1988. He was told by Harrison that the equipment would be shipped "in a day or two," but six months have now elapsed and Jones still does not have his merchandise nor a refund.

William Ridings sent \$1,775 to Dentron for a Collins KWM-2A radio transceiver on November 2, 1988. The check cleared Harrison's bank on November 7th but three months later, still no delivery or refund.

Keith Mortensen's girl friend ordered an AR/HR 2510 ten-meter transceiver from Atlas on November 21. Mortenson was told by a "John McNamara" that the radio was in stock. In December, Mr. Mortensen received a letter from Atlas stating that they had sold thousands of AR/HR 2510's, had a backlog ...and were now offering a \$25 rebate that would be mailed with the unit. Even though Mortensen has left at least 15 messages on Atlas' answering machine inquiring about the order, Mortenson has not received the order or a refund.

The Postal Inspector has obtained correspondence mailed by Atlas Radio to victims and others which bear different names including Mike Hanson, John McNamara and Michael Harrison. According to the postal inspector, all signatures appear to be the handwriting of the defendant, Michael D. Harrison.

Authorities were denied admittance to the Harrison residence in Oceanside, New York, on January 26th when they arrived with the arrest warrant. Harrison eventually let them in when he was told by the officials they would be back with a search warrant and break down the door. Once inside, postal inspectors found a very messy, completely disorganized operation. Many letters of complaint were confiscated.

Martin Biegelman wants to hear in writing from any amateur who has been defrauded by Michael Harrison. Include a detailed statement of facts, date and magazine where they saw the advertisement, data of order, what was ordered, copy of front and back of check or money order sent, advise if U.S. mail was used and how, was the merchandise received as ordered, what representations or misrepresentations were made by Michael Harrison or any other person from Atlas or Dentron, what efforts were made by the victim to contact Harrison

and Harrison's response. Include any other pertinent facts. Forward copies of advertisements, letters, receipts, etc. This information should be sent to: **Martin T. Biegelman, Postal Inspector, P. O. Box #160, Hicksville, NY 11802-0160.**

The postal inspector also told us that he had a prior problem a few years ago with Michael Harrison and that restitution was made. We first heard about the possible scam when readers starting inquiring about the "new" Atlas and/or Dentron Radio Company operation. Our investigation revealed that there indeed many complaints. Our writeup in our last issue was the first appearing in any amateur publication.

CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL HARRISON

A couple of days before Harrison was arrested by postal authorities, Michael Harrison picked up the telephone and called us. He had read the report I published in my last issue. To clear the air, he consented to a recorded interview.

I had heard that John McNamara might be an alias, so I asked him just who was John McNamara. "He is another associate of the company and he is no longer with the firm."

Are you a ham? "No my call sign is expired. I am not a ham any more. I have not been active in ten years." [His WB5PTI is still listed in the 1989 Call Book.]

I understand CQ, QST and 73 will not accept your advertising. "That seems to be true. They have their own opinion. I respect their wishes. There is nothing I can do about it."

What is the relationship between you and Uniden. "Uniden is nothing but a manufacturer. I am nothing but a company trying to resell the product. There is no relationship."

There is an implication of a joint venture. "When I wrote the ad, there was no intention to say that we were any part of a partnership."

Have you had numerous complaints of either not delivering repaired or new radios. "Yes, I have."

Apparently you do not have any authority to use the Atlas and Dentron names. "Not only do I have the authority - but anybody walking on the street has the

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a Jun. class examiner. I have never had my license operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant amount of equipment and a copy of the following signed statement under 'The Wsyi Report' Program? If so, please send a copy of the following signed statement and a copy of the signed statement to: Wsyi Report, P.O. Box #160, Hicksville, NY 11802-0160."

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authority. These companies have filed bankruptcies and their names became dormant. The names were erased like a child erasing a blackboard."

The ads indicate they have been revitalized. "The ads only read what you turn them out to be ...what the mind wants them to indicate. I will say they have been reincorporated. You can call it some type of a continuation because I do offer a service ...a service on the pre-existing product that these companies once manufactured and were responsible for."

Uniden tells me that the \$219.95 retail does not allow for distributor profit. How do you purchase radios to sell for that price? "Uniden offers the radio for \$188.93. They have 21 different distributors - each having buying power at different price levels. Different arrangements can be made with different distributors."

Are you delivering the HR-2510 right now? "Right now today? No. And in the past, very few. Uniden has come into a very big difficult problem. They have a court injunction stopping them from shipping the radio. The FCC has filed an injunction barring any shipments from Uniden on the HR-2510 as of December 28th because it violates a certain type of Federal Communications Commission laws. It is very easy to modify to Citizen's Band Radio. Uniden can not ship any more radios. There is no more product left in this country. Uniden is completely out. The big distributors have nothing." [A spokesman for Uniden told us they "as far as they knew, there were no FCC sanctions against the HR-2510." See interesting statement on page 8.]

Will you eventually be delivering the HR-2510? "We can't deliver the back-order and Atlas Radio will refund to everybody or anybody in question. We are not going to hurt anybody."

How many HR-2510's have you shipped? "I am not at liberty to say. We have delivered some. I plan to ship a heck of a lot more. I would like to catch up to all of my back orders by the end of January. That is my target date."

The postal inspector is apparently building a case against you. "I do not know how true that is, but if he is building a case - I will have to deal with that issue when it surfaces. I have heard from them."

Are you aware the telephone company has no listing for Atlas or Dentron? "Yes, I am."

Can you legally use the names Atlas and Dentron? "Yes, they are incorporated. Atlas was reincorporated in November of 1980, Dentron in November of 1984 by me. They are incorporated in Wilmington, Delaware."

What should someone do who has a claim again you? "They should contact us by mail - preferably by a registered letter so we have to sign for it - explaining and indicating exactly what their request is. We are not running away with anybody's money. We are definitely not going out of business. We are not stalling anybody. We got into a delivery problem. That's all. I understand human nature. People overreact and I understand that."

We have had reports of radio repair taking an excessively long time and poor communication. Is there any truth to that? "Yes there is. Absolutely. The old Atlas Equipment is almost impossible to repair. It would take forever trying to find replacement parts."

Since I am recording this, do you have anything you would like to add? "No one will be hurt in this at all. If it is a question of refunds, everyone will be refunded. If more product can be obtained quickly and smoothly - it will be sent to them quickly and smoothly ...and they will be satisfied. This is business ...and this is life. We did not forecast this to happen. If I knew this was going to happen, I would not have started it."

"We get 700 to 1,000 letters a day with no advertising. We get 650 phone calls a day on the Atlas line ...and about 175 on the Dentron line. We are still getting about a 100 orders a day for the HR-2510 with no exaggerations ...and we are not taking any more orders."

RENAMING EXTRA CLASS HAM TICKET

The FCC has accepted for public comment the petition of Iowa amateur, **Keith Greiner, AK0Q**, of Des Moines. Greiner, a marketing research executive in the banking field, seeks to change the title of the Amateur Extra Class license to a title which may be more widely recognized as having the highest rank among all amateur radio licenses. The proposed title is "**Master of Communications.**"

Greiner argues that people have always given names to awards, functions, jobs and levels of achievement. These titles help describe what the

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job or requirements and privileges are all about. Likewise, the titles describe to others what that job entails, or what was required to achieve the goal. For example, if one were to state that he was an 'FCC Commissioner', another individual would very likely understand that this is a person charged with the making of national policies in matters of communication."

Greiner says that the word "Extra" is a major unknown. "When we hear the word 'Novice', we know that stands for a license designed for beginners. The word 'technician' indicates that the individual has achieved some technical expertise, and is licensed accordingly. Likewise, the word 'General' describes a license holder who has general privileges, while the word 'advanced' describes a license holder who has achieved an advanced or 'better than average' knowledge of the subject of amateur radio."

"Such a name as 'Extra' is so different from other titles of licensing or certification in any field that except for experienced amateur radio operators, it becomes counter productive in its original intent to provide an incentive to improve the level of knowledge and skill among radio amateurs. Unfortunately, it is more meaningful to a layman to state that a person has an "Advanced" license, than it is to state that a person holds an "Amateur Extra" license."

Greiner adds "The title of 'Extra' does not come close to reflecting the many hours of study and practice required of amateur radio operators who wish to achieve its level. It does not come close to describing the level of professionalism these people attain, and their contributions made to amateur radio communications and corresponding contributions to the technical advancement of the United States or the contribution received and expected in areas of public service communications."

Greiner feels that "the name 'Amateur Extra' should be changed to something which communicates more of the distinction achieved, the professionalism achieved, and the degree of professionalism expected in the future for holders of this license. He includes the Webster New World Dictionary definition of "master" to support his contention that the new top ham license class should be renamed to "Master of Communications."

"Master - A person very skilled and able in

some work, profession, science, etc,' expert; specifically, a skilled workman or craftsman qualified to follow his trade independently..."

The FCC has assigned file number RM-6648 and a 30 day public comment period to the Greiner Petition for Rulemaking. Comments should be sent to the FCC, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20554, on or before February 23, 1989. Keith also would appreciate a copy of your comments. (Send to: 421 N. Pleasant Hill Blvd., Des Moines, Iowa 50317.)

Keith, who holds an MBA (*Master of Business Administration*) degree from the University of Missouri, also mentioned that he did not feel there would be a conflict between the academic *Masters* degree and **Master of Communications** because the latter is a license - somewhat similar to a Master Electrician or Plumber. "This change can only improve the stature and respect given to amateurs in general. 'Image' is very important. If amateur radio had a better image, I would speculate it might have been more difficult for UPS to succeed in their request for amateur frequencies."

HAMS HELP USSR DURING EMERGENCIES

There has been another earthquake in Soviet Armenia and IARN has sent **Chuck Sheffer, KJ4TY** back in the Soviet Union. Chuck was previously sent home from Moscow but has now been invited back. **Victor Goncharsky, UB5WE**, is coordinating activities between the U.S. and the USSR and has succeeded in bringing feuding amateur radio factions together. IARN equipment has been shipped to Yerevan, the capitol of Soviet Armenia.

A plan has been presented to the Secretary of the *Konsomol Central Committee*, one of the top Young Communist League officials, that will:

- (1.) spell out cooperation between IARN and the Soviet Union during international communications emergencies;
- (2.) install a permanent IARN link between the U.S. and the Young Communist League;
- (3.) full recognition of Victor/UB5WE as IARN Soviet Director;
- (4.) UB5WE to have an official position on the Soviet Emergency Committee;
- (5.) Young Communist League to be responsible for IARN equipment while in the USSR;
- (6.) Soviet IARN to participate in deployment to any

(Continued on page 6...)

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DECEMBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATS

<u>December</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
New					
Amateurs	2385	1861	2582	2144	
Upgrading:					
Novices	700	380	1208	711	
Technicians	262	133	421	248	
Generals	345	173	394	201	
Advanced	192	85	271	117	
Total:	1499	771	2294	1277	
Renewals:					
Total Renew:	2147	2359	3469	1874	
Novices	352	151	216	165	
Purged:(*)					
Total Drop:	1785	970	1020	1645	
Novices	1124	542	452	467	
Census:					
Indiv. Oper.	411580	421077	433389	442574	
Change/Year		+9497	+12312	+6922	
Indiv. Operators by Class:					
<u>Extra</u>	<u>Advan.</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Tech.</u>	<u>Novice</u>	<u>Total:</u>
December 1985:					
38495	97959	117707	83679	78616	415856
9.2%	23.6%	28.2%	20.1%	18.9%	100%
December 1986:					
41082	97771	115715	85312	79882	419762
9.8%	23.3%	27.6%	20.4%	18.9%	100%
December 1987:					
43902	98610	114398	93466	83013	433389
10.1%	22.8%	26.5%	21.5%	19.1%	100.0%
December 1988:					
46885	98681	113082	101495	80168	440031
10.6%	22.4%	25.7%	23.1%	18.2%	100.0%
Club/					
RACES &	(1985)	(1986)	(1987)	(1988)	
Military	2749	2605	2408	2263	
Total Active	418605	422367	435797	442574	
% Increase	+ .9%	+ .9%	+3.2%	+1.6%	

Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

DEMOGRAPHICS - General Public vs. Hams

<u>Age</u>	<u>General *</u>		<u>U.S. Lic.**</u>	
	<u>Population:</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Hams:</u>	<u>%</u>
0-17	54,037	25.7%	4,746	1.03%
18-24	25,897	10.4%	19,589	5.24%
25-44	81,555	32.6%	155,623	33.65%
45-64	46,842	18.8%	174,449	37.72%
65+	31,559	12.6%	108,089	22.36%
Total:	249,891	100.0%	462,496	100.00%

(Source: * = U.S. Census Bureau; ** = FCC Master File)

The above is a comparison between the average age of the U.S. Radio Amateur and the general

public. **Ham radio is becoming an "old man's" hobby.** Note that 36.1% of the population is under age 25, but only 6.27% of the amateur census.

NOVEMBER VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

<u>November</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>No. VEC's</u>	*74	*59	*62
Testing Sessions			
268	356	320	
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
ARRL	49.3%	37.1%	43.4%
W5YI	21.6	33.1	28.4
CAVEC	7.5	7.6	6.6
DeVry	7.5	8.4	6.3
Others	14.1	13.8	15.3
Year-to-Date Sess:	3416	3933	4374
Elements Administ.			
4338	5416	5492	
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
ARRL	50.1%	43.2%	47.2%
W5YI	15.8	28.2	19.9
CAVEC	7.4	8.7	11.6
DeVry	7.8	6.7	5.1
Others	18.9	13.2	16.2
Year-to-Date Elem.	56893	72548	81438
Applicants Tested			
2541	3246	3225	
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
ARRL	48.4%	42.7%	46.3%
W5YI	16.8	28.3	21.4
CAVEC	6.9	8.2	10.3
DeVry	8.2	6.6	5.1
Others	19.7	14.2	16.9
Year-to-Date Tested	39036	44891	48715
November			
1986	1987	1988	
Pass Rate - All	58.8%	61.2%	60.6%
Pass Rate - W5YI	58.6%	58.4%	55.0%
Applicants/Session	9.5	9.1	10.1
Appl./Session W5YI	6.2	7.5	7.3
Elements/Applicant	1.5	1.7	1.7
Sessions Per VEC	3.5	6.0	5.2

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

<u>November</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Defect. Applications	0.24%	0.89%	0.78%
Late Filed Sessions	0.37%	0.84%	0.94%
Defective Reports	0.00%	1.97%	2.81%

*Note:

The FCC Considers ARRL, W5YI and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call Sign districts 1 through 0 plus Alaska (11), Caribbean (12) and Pacific Insular areas (13).

Source: Pers.Rad.Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of January 1989

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan	Gp."C" Tech/Gen.	Gp."D" Novice
0	WQ0H	KF0AD	N0KAN	KB0DTE
1	NU1Z	KC1NA	N1GEO	KA1SZU
2	WM2X	KE2KT	N2IVX	KB2GVJ
3	NT3F	KD3KX	N3GSU	KA3TZF
4 (*)	AB4MH	KM4LX	N4UQF	KC4IGC
5 (*)	AA4JM	KG5QJ	N5NQV	KB5IDT
6 (*)	AA6MB	KJ6PM	N6TYB	KC6BKJ
7	WV7Z	KF7QI	N7MBB	KB7GLA
8	WN8K	KE8VX	N8KEP	KB8GCA
9	WE9X	KE9OC	N9IAG	KB9BWQ
N. Mariana Is.	AH0E	AH0AE	KH0AM	WH0AAI
Guam	KH2K	AH2CD	KH2DN	WH2ALU
Johnston Is.	AH3B	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis		AH5A		
Hawaii	(**)	AH6JM	NH6SH	WH6CBP
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AG	WH8AAX
Wake Wilkes Peale	AH9AD	AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7KR	NL7PJ	WL7BTD
Virgin Islands	NP2E	KP2BN	NP2CT	WP2AGE
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4PV	WP4SY	WP4IGP

NOTE: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. ** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class amateurs when Group "A" run out. (New "NP2" Group "A" prefix block being assigned to Extra Class amateurs in the Virgin Islands.)

Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

(Continued from page 4, US/USSR Emergencies) part of the world during future emergencies and (7.) IARN to assist Soviet IARN in emergency training.

Chuck Sheffer also carried official charters for International Amateur Radio Clubs in Moscow, Lvov, Chelyabinsk and Ulianovsk. The Lvov Chapter will receive the Tandy 1000 HX computer and a AEA PK-232 and has proposed to establish a permanent link between Lvov and *International Amateur Radio Network* headquarters in Belgrade

Lakes, Maine. The computer, which required a special export license secured for IARN by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, is being shipped this week.

"OPENNESS" COMES TO SOVIET HAMS

All in all, the events taking place in the USSR are extraordinary and unprecedented. *Glasnost* via amateur radio to be sure ...and ham radio at its very best.

A major little known step toward international ham harmony was achieved in April 1988. **Vasiliy M. Bondarenko, UV3BW**, Chief of the *Central Radio Club* announced in the August 1988 issue of the USSR publication "Radio" that Soviet stations of any category were now allowed to work any country in the world. He also announced the right to receive foreign QSLs at home addresses ...and to receive them at personal post office boxes. Furthermore, Soviet amateurs would be allowed to include their photographs on QSL cards.

Ray/VE3BAK advises that he got a QSL direct from UT5RY in Odessa, USSR, in response to Ray's QSL card sent direct. The exchange took about 5 weeks. **4X4FU, Yitzhak Halfon**, the Israeli ARC incoming QSL bureau chief, reports the first parcels of QSL's since 1967 (twenty-two years!) have arrived from PO Box 88, Moscow.

"**Radiolyubitel**", radio amateur - translated as "radio lover" in Russian - includes activities which involve other than transmitting ...such as copying high speed telegraphy, short-wave listening, design and construction of radio/electronics equipment, etc. Interestingly, the American word "amateur" started life in Latin as *amator*, "lover" and *amare*, "to love." Amateurs worldwide do things for the love of it.

There are approximately 47,000 holders of individual USSR "transmitting" call signs, as opposed to SWL calls. If we assume about ten operators for each of the 5,370 Soviet collective (club) stations, we would add another 53,700 ...suggesting a total of about 100,000 "transmitting" Soviet Radio Amateurs. Only about 3.2% of the world's amateur stations are in the USSR, however. Forty percent are in Japan, 25% in the USA. It appears to us that it would be appropriate to identify "radio-amateur-constructors" and "SWLs" in this country, too. Maybe even give them call signs. They would be top candidates for transmitting ham tickets.

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Police Dept. technician, **Herb Schoenbohn/KV4FZ** of St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands is the subject of an internal police investigation. V.I. amateurs charged that he is interfering with their transmissions when he should be working. Schoenbohn maintains he is on call 24 hours a day and frequently does not always work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to the *St. Croix Daily News*, FCC officials in Florida and Washington, D.C. have been investigating **deliberate interference complaints** against KV4FZ for two years. Schoenbohn is also accused of making such slanderous remarks on the air as "Politicians support the idea that we must provide prostitutes for the Navy ships that come in or they'll go somewhere else." Schoenbohn did not deny the remarks and said the complaining amateurs "...can certainly listen to other frequencies."

The *Miami Herald* reports that the School Board will consider appropriating \$5,029 to move ballfields and play areas at Sandpiper Shore Elementary School away from overhead electrical wires to protect youngsters from **alleged harmful powerline radiation**.

According to **4X1AT/Ahron**, president of the Israel ARC, two C-130 planes (one hospital and another search/rescue) with Israeli ham operators aboard were dispatched to Soviet Armenia. Amateur equipment was set up and phone patches run back to families. No third party privileges exist, but the traffic was passed anyway.

The FCC is looking into the right of long-distance companies to **block user access** to computerized bulletin board systems (BBS) suspected of posting illegal telephone company access numbers. BBS operators complain that it is impossible to police every message around the clock listed on their open systems. Long distance carriers say the *Electronic Communications Secrecy Act of 1986* gives them the right to protect their networks from loss. Sysops want the FCC to set up guidelines for phone companies and BBS's to follow when handling cases of suspected fraud.

Another **communications service goes satellite!** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is updating their antiquated teletype circuit with a new state-of-the-art satellite communications system. Their upgraded NWWs (NOAA Weather Wire Service) will be phased in on a regional basis. Maryland, Delaware, D.C. and North Carolina became the first on January 19th.

FCC OFFICIAL ADDRESSES HAM CLUB

Arlan Van Doorn, Deputy Chief of the FCC's Washington, D.C. Field Operations Bureau, made a presentation to the *Northern Virginia FM Association* in Falls Church, Va. on January 15, 1989. The NVFMA is one of the D.C. areas largest amateur radio clubs. It has many accomplished members from the high-tech world of defense and telecommunications around Washington.

The Commission's Field Operations Bureau operates the many FCC district offices across the nation and is responsible for enforcement of the many radio communications regulations and international treaties to which the United States is a party. Van Doorn is certainly qualified to speak for the Commission -- he is one of the FCC's top officials for domestic and international enforcement issues and is professionally interested in the welfare of every radio service.

His presentation before the Virginia ham club, however, was strictly personal; he was not speaking officially on behalf of FCC. His talk touched on several subjects ...but of particular interest were his closing comments about the future of Amateur Radio.

Arlan pointed out that when he was 11 years old, a friend of the family who was interested in radio gave him some books, one of which was an amateur book. This friend didn't even have a radio; just some books. But this book got Arlan interested in radio and science and he made up his mind, at 11, to work for the FCC some day.

HAM RADIO AND OUR NATION'S YOUTH

Arlan looked around the audience. "I don't see many young people here," he said. "You are aware of the 220 MHz issue; it was very political. My own glimpsing of what is going to happen is that the Commission is going to take a closer and closer look at amateur frequencies as time goes on. There was a time when you all were growing. You were doing something with the youth of America. It's not happening as much as it needs to."

"I am worried about the American amateurs. You used to have the banner cry that you were teaching people to build radios. This is what Amateur Radio is about. This is what we depended on. Now, you can go out and buy your gear; I don't

entry level Novice course. Cost: \$19.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. (one manual covers both 3A and 3B). Advanced (4A) or Extra Class (4B). Cost: \$4.95 each plus \$1.50 shipping/handling. W5YI Report; P.O. Box #565101; Dallas, TX 75356-5101

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mind that at all. You may do public service, but Amateur Radio is really a hobby service. It's beautiful that you do public service. You do wonders, you really do."

"But there is not an infinite number of frequencies available, and the demands of this country and of the rest of the world are becoming so great that it is squeezing everything. Everything is having to be looked at. You can't say 'Hey, I've had this and I'm going to keep it.' It doesn't work that way anymore. I'm sorry; times have changed. There are too many requirements and the almighty dollar has a lot to do with it."

"Stop and think. The youth of America are where your ranks are. Amateur numbers are going down. People are dying off. Are there not ways that kids can be shown and taught and helped? You've got an opportunity and I think you're missing it. There is an unchallenged group out there. I used to go to the schools and talk to the kids and try to encourage them to go into engineering and areas like that. How many of you do that?"

"I've been in the FCC since 1967. In my eyes, the amateur community has been going down in numbers. You may disagree with me that in certain areas it may not be, but I think that overall the numbers of amateurs are going down. I go out and talk to the groups and the average age that I see sitting in the audience is not 18 or 19 years old. There are kids out there that could use somebody that invites them to the house sometimes to see what goes on with Amateur Radio."

"Yes, it takes an effort. We have enough problems in this country with the youth. It is an effort, very miniscule in this great big picture of things. In this country, we have gone over the years claiming that when we get into wartime, this is where the radio operators will come from, this is where they get the training. We're lacking that now."

THE SHORTAGE OF RADIO SPECTRUM

"The Commission made a decision in the 220 case. It was not based upon my opinion as to whether or not there was enough amateur usage there. I had nothing to do with that decision. But what I am seeing is that unless you decide collectively in the amateur community to rally forth, I think there is going to be more and more pressure on the frequencies that you have. It is a hobby service, and

there are legitimate economic reasons why those frequencies are precious."

"There will be more and more pressure put on you all. If you want to protect the frequencies, your safety is in numbers. Whether it be the youth, the ACLU, the blacks, the Hispanics or anybody else in this country, it's going to be in numbers. The Commission, as does Congress, bows to numbers. Not to one individual, but to numbers. If it takes untold thousands to turn something around, then that's what it takes. But if you don't have the numbers, you aren't going to hack it. Somebody else is going to get in there and put pressure on the Commission to do something else with it."

ON AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

"It seems like we had a little bit of a problem with Uniden recently. The HR-2510 [ten-meter transceiver] is a nice little job. We got a little set of instructions with it [reads instructions to modify rig for unauthorized operation]. We now have an agreement with Uniden. They have now pulled them back, epoxying inside so that modification isn't possible. We run into this [unauthorized modifications] all the time."

Referring to some hobby magazines publishing modification instructions, he said, "We cannot prohibit something from being published. You can put out instructions for anything. It's when somebody does it, or it is being advertised so that we can walk into the shops and they will do it for us, that's a no-no. It's not illegal to have the unit; it's illegal to modify it and use it as such."

"One little goodie that I've been running into that your brethren are using that I find rather offensive is the "roadway equalizer" sound effects gadget. This is the new goodie we're finding now, to take it and stick it on the mike and blast it if you don't like someone's repeater. It bothers me. Amateurs as a whole are a very responsible group, but there are a few yahoos out there, believe me, that you could do without."

"Knowing the amateur rules as you do, you realize that you define good amateur practices. I can't define it, you do. That's what's in the rules: good amateur practice. We are to enforce that. But as long as a problem ham does not cross that line, I have no authority to stop him. The rules are written in such a way -- your League supports them written

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that way -- you do not want us to be able to do more in certain areas. Therefore the line is there. We don't agree with some of it, obviously, because we'd like to go close some of these individuals down that abuse the airwaves. It gives you a bad name, it really does. Among my people at the Commission, it's most difficult. We may spend hours and hours working on a case, only to have the Private Radio Bureau interpret the rules differently. Trying to enforce good amateur practice is not an easy task."

INTENTIONAL JAMMING

"Now there are some that blatantly step across the line and we go after those. Deliberate jamming is provable and I'm willing to take someone all the way to the mat on that one. We ask for cooperation from amateur groups to tape and to get evidence for us. We try to work closely with them."

He displayed a \$9.95 TV jammer device, a commercial unit, on a small circuit board. "Things like this are most difficult to pin down. We get probably 80,000 to 100,000 complaints a year dealing with anything and everything. Someone will get one of these things and decide to irritate their neighbors for a while. We get complaints and go into the neighborhood, but pinning the location down is difficult. We are really interested in going after the manufacturer. We don't have the budget to go after every individual that gets ahold of these."

"This year, the agency's budget is down about \$6 million from where we should be. We're on a hiring freeze and we're looking at a furlough of 5 days for everyone in the agency sometime between now and Sept. 30th. It seems that the Congress does not like some of the decisions the FCC has made. It's not amateur radio, it's the biggies: Fairness Doctrine and other things you read about that have the glory."

Congress says, "You want to do it your way? Fine, we'll take care of you." So they cut the budget. The travel money, the money to keep equipment working and to buy new equipment is not there. So we're parking cars or putting them up on blocks.

I can close field offices one day a week, but monitoring stations are manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I have to keep that. They're there in case a plane goes down or a ship is in distress. Truly the safety of life function."

RFI AND PACEMAKERS

"We have put together a guidebook on dealing with interference problems. [This is the multicolored booklet that's been around for a long time and is reprinted, I believe, in either the ARRL Operating Manual or the Handbook.] It's what we mail out if you call us and complain that you're having a problem. We mail one of these before we come out and look at it. The *Government Printing Office* sells them, but we give them out. We find that we can do more good in dealing with the public with this, because it contains information on how to contact manufacturers of consumer products.

We have a dilemma that we are going through right now: when an individual lives next door to an amateur or within a house or two and has a pacemaker. What do we do about it? Normally we don't get into the act until such time as the situation has deteriorated where the individual or the family of the individual that has the pacemaker is no longer able or willing to talk to the amateur next door to try and resolve the problem.

We are told over and over again that the amateur has a God-given right to be on the air. And it seems that the people with the pacemaker have a God-given right that they want to live. The two are not compatible at times. It gets very ugly. We will put an amateur on quiet hours. It may be hard. My feeling is, I would rather put the amateur on quiet hours and say 'You resolve the problem, it is your problem, not mine, not FCC's. You have a problem with your neighbor, work it out.'

Now your League does not like that. I'm sorry. Maybe it's not 'your League', but the ARRL does not like that. For people to get along and live next to each other, there needs to be some way to deal with this. We put in untold hours to resolve it. We're willing to work with people, we bend over backwards to work out a resolution to these things.

So often, it is so hard and it really comes down to the bottom line. If the amateur is put on quiet hours, then it's up to he or she to resolve the problem. Keep us out of it. We don't need to get into it; it's a local situation that needs to be dealt with. It's a flukey problem. The new pacemakers are better than the older ones. You can't pin it down to this or that manufacturer. It doesn't work that way. Nor is it one type of amateur gear versus something else.

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FCC JURISDICTION OVER DEVICES

Within the purview of the Commission, those items that generate RF energy, that have an oscillator in it, we get into it whether it be a radio device or some peripheral device. There are many people we have found over a period of time that say, 'I have a patent on this device and I intend to market it for this purpose,' and we'll say, 'Fine, it comes under our purview,' and the guy says, 'I've got nothing to do with you. It's not hooked into a radio, it's for this other purpose.' We say, 'But it can be hooked into a computer, and therefore it does come within our purview.'"

"We get into major fights on this all the time. It's just that the device generates RF energy and therefore we must take a look at it to see if it complies and does not create energy of a nature that would cause interference.

EQUIPMENT SEIZURE

A couple of years ago there was a computer company that went bankrupt in Baltimore. They had an auction with quite a few million dollars worth of [presumably non-compliant] computer equipment. The day of the auction, we went in on a search and seizure and took all the stuff. Ill-timed, but it was our time to go in and do it, so we did. It takes time to get the court order.

Most people don't realize that we don't have authority to seize equipment. If we have to seize something, we have to go to a U.S. magistrate or U.S. attorney and get a search and seizure warrant. Then, we go with U.S. Marshals and we will seize. We take the equipment and we store it in a warehouse. We still have all that computer equipment we seized two years ago, locked up. I have to store it until the case is resolved, so we pay storage on it.

After the case is resolved, seized equipment is returned to the individual it was taken from, if something can be worked out so that it will not be marketed. It can be shipped offshore to someone else, or if we have assurances that it will be modified to our specs, it can then be legitimately sold.

If we end up with it, if the court orders that we keep it, we dump it in and crush it in enormous compactors. It's a shame to see it -- thousands and thousands of dollars of stuff, brand-new Yaesu, Icoms. I also have a 10,000 watt linear down in

Atlanta that's going to be crushed. 10,000 watts on 27 MHz.

The *General Services Administration* got very upset with us because we would not turn these items into GSA to be resold. We found that the stuff we would get would not go into legitimate hands. It was going out and being abused again and we would catch it again. We would mark the unit and find it a second time.

PHYSICAL DANGER

Last Thursday morning I had a call from my Engineer-in-Charge in San Francisco -- he had just been assaulted. He had handed some legal papers to an individual who had been in the office before. The individual then hit the engineer, requiring 5 stitches.

As of last year, we in the FCC are under federal protection. We can go through the federal system. Before that, we had to go civil, and go into the local police department and file a complaint as an individual -- not as the agency. If you belonged to 4-H, you were protected under federal protection, but the FCC did not have it. I have had my people physically thrown off of vessels into the water, thrown down stairs, shoved, pushed, beat upon. Each time, it was up to our individuals as to whether to file suit and go to the local police. Friday morning, they went out and arrested the [San Francisco] individual. We found that he has a 25-page rap sheet.

The role that we play is if the transmitter is interfering, we go find it. You don't know what's going to be there when you go knocking on the door. It could be the Posse Comitatus, druggies, it could be some 15 year-old. You have a badge and that's it. This is the first assault we've had under the new law. No one has been killed so far. We're very careful in these cases.

It is totally up to the discretion of the engineer-in-charge or the engineer that's going in. If they have any doubt or any fear then we deal with it. We go ask for assistance with FBI or local police if we have the concern that we're going to be walking into something. I just don't see subjecting my people to that. I've been in on many situations where you go into a neighborhood, and you don't know if your car is going to be there when you come back out again. You go knock on a door. You don't know what you're going to find. Sometimes they're friendly and invite you in, and the next thing you know they turn hostile on you.