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.

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101

★ *In This Issue* ★

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FCC to Consider Ham Restructuring

The FCC's Private Radio Bureau forwarded twelve *Petitions for Rule Making* to the Office of the Secretary with instructions that they be assigned Rule Making numbers. These twelve petitions contain various proposals for restructuring either the classes of operator licenses in the *Amateur Radio Service* or the qualifying requirements for such licenses or both.

On September 14th, the FCC Secretary's office circulated a *Public Notice* (Report No. 1794) entitled *"Petitions for Rulemaking Filed"* asking the public whether the Commission should further proceed towards amateur restructuring. The assigning of *RM* file numbers and the circulation of a *Public Notice* is the important first step toward an anticipated *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM).*

Interested parties should now file a statement in support of or in opposition to further consideration of this issue. If it is decided that the petitions have merit, the bureau chief's staff will prepare a draft of an NPRM for review by the Commissioners. The bureau chief in this case is Ralph Haller, also an Extra Class amateur, N4RH. He is well versed in amateur affairs having spent a good deal of his government career as an FCC engineer out in the field.

If the Commissioners agree with their staff's appraisal, then a docket number will be assigned and the NPRM will be released to the public for comment. The *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* will set forth a description of the issues involved and will propose new rules. There undoubtedly will also be questions on which the FCC will ask for detailed observations. It is at this stage (and ONLY at this stage) that further specific recommendations should be made by interested persons. Thus the *NPRM* is really the beginning of public debate. We are not yet at this bargaining point and it is inappropriate to file specific counter proposals at this time.

More on this later, but first, let's examine what is preliminarily "on the table." We have obtained copies from the FCC of all of the petitions that were assigned *RM* file numbers. These twelve proposals will become the basis of the *NPRM.* We will summarize them in the order that they were filed.

RM-6984 - Received: March 3, 1989
Alan Horowitz, KZ1Y (6657 SW 139 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33183.)

The shortest proposal was the first filed. In all my days of being a professional FCC watcher, I have never seen a 2-inch square one sentence handwritten idea given an RM number! It could have been written on a QSL card. Horowitz simply said "As an Extra-Class ham of 20 years standing, I would like to request the Commission to implement a 'no-code' ham license, similar to Canada's license structure. Thank you." That's it, period, end of petition!

Let's briefly take a look at what Canada is doing. I say doing, because it is no longer a proposal ...they are going through with an entry-level no code ham ticket. There are currently three amateur operator certificates (as they call them) in Canada. The

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"Amateur" certificate requires 10 words per minute code proficiency and a written test to acquire CW privileges on all bands and phone operation above 30 MHz. The *"Advanced"* certificate requires 15 wpm code and a harder theory exam to obtain all emissions/modes below 20 MHz. Their current *"Digital"* ticket does not require code proficiency, but applicants must pass an extremely difficult written essay type examination. "Digital" operation is restricted to all modes above 30 MHz and it is not a popular class in Canada.

After nearly four years of government give-and-take, Canada has now decided to implement a four license class modular system to be called Certificate A, B, C and D.

CERTIFICATE "A": requires passing 60 out of 100 multiple choice questions. (25 questions must be on rules, balance on theory and operating procedures.) Holders of *Basic Theory Qualification "A"* will have access to all ham bands above 30 MHz - all modes/emissions - using commercially purchased transmitters or kits. Maximum 250 watt input power.

CERTIFICATE "B": requires copying 25 characters-per-minute for 3 minutes (5 wpm) with five errors or less. Successful applicants must also hold Certificate "A" to gain all ham band privileges below 4 MHz. Commercial transmitters/kits only with up to 250 watts input.

CERTIFICATE "C": requires 12 wpm Morse code proficiency, 60 characters-per-minute for 3 minutes. Candidates who achieve 50% correct copy are given credit for 5 wpm. Holders of Certificate "C" who also hold Certificate "A" have access to all bands below 30 MHz with 250 watts input using commercial transmitters/kits only. (Three volounteer examiners who have already passed the 12 wpm requirement may administer the code tests.)

CERTIFICATE "D": consists of 50 multiple choice questions on advanced radio theory. Pass mark is 30 questions answered correctly. Holders of the *Advanced "D" Qualification* may radiate 1000 watts, sponsor repeaters and club stations, operate control links and home brew transmitters. They also must hold Certificate A.

Canadian Grandfathering/Implementation: Current *Advanced* and *Amateur* licensees will be given credit as passing all of the new requirements. Digital licensees will get credit only for the basic and advanced theory qualification. The new restructuring regulations are scheduled to be officially published by the Canadian *Department of Communications* on March 1, 1990, and will be implemented on September 1, 1990. The delay is caused by the need to develop and approve the new regulation and technical questions. The DOC is developing the regulation question bank ...with a joint CRRL/CARF (Canadian ham organizations) committee readying the balance.

RM-6985 - Received: March 3, 1989

James E. Taylor, W2OZH (1257 Wild Flower Dr., Webster, NY 14580)

Taylor's proposal was in the form of a typewritten letter written February 28, 1989, to the FCC. He said that initially the code requirement was needed because it provided the primary method of radio communication and theory was necessary for the construction and operation of radio equipment.

"In the early days the people attracted to the hobby came from three groups: railroad and ship telegraphers, technical people (engineers, radio servicemen, military, etc.), and non-technical people who were attracted by the romance of the communications hobby. Obviously, over the years as the technology has changed the needs have changed."

"Amateur radio now is confronted with increasing pressure to relinquish our frequencies to commercial interests in the face of decreasing numbers of active hams. If we are to continue to justify our existence, wee must rapidly increase our numbers -- not just double, but by a factor of ten or more! This requires a thorough, critical review of the needs expressed above. First the code is no longer necessary -- it is not even used by the military; the commerical telegrapher is gone! The potential base among technical people now consists of communications engineers, computer scientists and technicians and we need to woo these people with real incentives, not misnamed barriers."

"Based upon discussions with numerous prospective hams who are put off by the present complex, layered structure of our hobby, I propose the following:
(A:) Base the primary license requirement on knowledge, to attract qualified technical people.
(B:) Offer a secondary option which substitutes code for higher technical knowledge to attract interested non-technical people.

(C:) Simplfy the hobby -- one license which confers all privileges.
It is my feeling that only by such radical surgery can this service survive and continue to serve the needs of our country." Taylor said he had been a ham for "many decades."

RM-6986 - Received: March 17, 1989
William E. Newkirk, WB9IVR (Space Coast Amateur Technical Group, 3151 S. Babcock St. #70, Melbourne, FL 32901)

The *Space Coast Amateur Technical Group,* an informal organization made up of technicians and engineers from nearby Kennedy Space Center, Harris and Collins/Rockwell, submitted a very formal filing. Newkirk, a technical writer for Collins, said his early interest in ham radio directed him towards a high-tech career. The group's interest appears to be in guiding youngsters towards a technically oriented field.

Newkirk has been licensed for 17 years, is an ARRL-VEC examiner, conducts ham classes at Brevard Community College and is establishing an amateur radio club at a local junior high school.

The group asks that the FCC create a new class of *"Apprentice"* license yielding 30 MHz and higher frequency privileges to replace the Novice class. They selected the name *"Apprentice"* by consulting the thesaurus of a word processing program. "...one who is learning by practical experience under skilled workers of a trade, art, or calling."

Apprentice privileges would consist of all modes/ emissions 30 MHz and higher at full amateur (1500 watt PEP) power output. The group maintains that a different power restriction would serve to separate the Apprentice from the mainstream of amateur radio oeprations. Call signs would come from the 2X3 Group D block. Examiner requirements would be the same as the current Novice license. There would be no code requirement. Since it is expected that *"Apprentice"* licensees would upgrade, they would be limited to one 10-year term -- although apprentices could retest to obtain another ten year term.

Current Novices would acquire the same privileges as the Technician class for the term of their current license. Renewing Novice class licensees would be issued the *Apprentice* class which would not continue Novice HF privileges.

"We believe the time is right for a license that takes advantage of all internationally agreed upon rules regarding code requirements be made available in the United States. Morse code operations were once the only way to make radio communication possible. It is now just a facet of an entire spectrum of possible methods of radio communications. It is no longer in keeping with the basis and purpose of the *Amateur Radio Service* to stress one facet of radio communications over all others. Knowledge of code doesn't eliminate rules violations or uncourteous operations."

RM-6987 - Received: March 29, 1989
Dennis/Linda Welch, WB7VUM/WA7ZQV (6210 Fushsimi Court, Burke, VA 22015-1716)

Dennis and Linda feel that the Morse code is more of a barrier to amateur radio entry than a filter which yields disciplined amateurs/operations. "Disciplined operators result from good training programs and operating experience; no other method has proven satisfactory in military, commercial and volunteer organizations." Strangely, however, they suggest adding another code requirement - with examinations at 5, 10, 15 and 20 wpm instead of the current 5/13/20. They propose:

(1.) Novice entry to the entire 220-225 MHz band;
(2.) Technicians obtain all 10 meter and 80 meter HF privileges;
(3.) General class licensees be required to only pass 10 wpm code. Technicians who successfully complete two years of verifiable HF net operation (at least six hours per month) would also be qualified for the General class license.
(4.) Advanced Class applicants would have to pass 15 wpm code.
(5.) No changes in Extra Class requirements.

RM-6988 - Received: April 3, 1989
Clement Bourgeois, Jr., N5AIK (400 N. Patrick Toole St., Erath, LA 70533)

...wants code de-emphasized. While arguing that code is essential, Bourgeois feels that a reduction to a 5/10/15 word per minute requirement - or to just two speeds is in order. The petitioner states "...theory, operation, skills and resourcefulness" is more important than the code.

Bourgeois 76, a long time Advanced class licensee, feels that Advanced class licensees should be grandfathered into the Extra Class after "...so many

SASE to: W5YI-VEC; P.O. Box #565101; Dallas, Texas 75356-5101. | interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in
...ertif... (o...hal) ...lso ...ilab... br $...). L...ls ... ac- | ...hak..., prep...g o... tributing an amateur radio equipment or license
creditation materials will be sent to you in about two weeks. | preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

years." He has been unsuccessfully trying to upgrade for years, but due to nervousness is unable to pass the code. Apparently he has already fulfilled the Extra class theory requirement, since he also petitioned the Commission to extend the one year test credit period to an indefinite period ...or to at least ten years to obtain additional time to pass the fast code requirement.

While Bourgeois' proposals appear self-serving, they also point out that the code requirement serves to keep many of those who would avail themselves to amateur radio privileges - especially the aged and handicapped - from participation to the extent they feel otherwise qualified.

RM-6989 - Received: April 4, 1989
Burt Fisher K1OIK, (389 Old Bass River Rd, S. Dennis, MA. 02645)

A school teacher, Burt has been licensed for 30 years ...since he was a teenager. He instructs electronics at a regional vocational high school and his interest "...is to make technology available to a larger base of people ...particularly students and young people."

Fisher believes the reason the United States has lost much of its electronic engineering and manufacturing capability is because of our nation's failure to interest our youth in high technology. "In Japan, the percentage of students interested in electronics well exceeds ours. Part of the reason for this is Japan has a very large amateur radio base. I would like to see us expand that here in the U.S."

Still, Fisher feels code is an important part of our amateur heritage. He said he detested having to learn the code, but once he did, he found that he liked the mode.

He proposes a Novice level subclass to be known as the *Novice-V,* the V representing VHF. Privileges would include all modes, emissions at full amateur power above 52 MHz, except FM would not be allowed in the two meter band. He did add, however, that "If I was to file the petition the way I really wanted it, I probably would have included FM privileges on two meters ...but I felt it would not have any chance of being approved." The 50-52 MHz portion of six meters was eliminated to leave spectrum for higher class DX operation.

Other features of the *Novice-V* include:

Regular 2X3 Group D call signs would be issued; Present Element 2 theory test but the code requirement would be fulfilled by recognizing ten "dot-dash sequences" on a multiple choice test.

RM-6990 - Received: May 9, 1989
Dr. Michael C. Trahos (KB4PGC), (4600 King St. #4E, Alexandria, VA 22302.)

Mike is not only a general medicine physician/surgeon and medical school instructor, but also holds licenses in many radio services ...including the Business Radio Service, GMRS and Special Emergency Radio Service. Trahos is also very active in city/county/federal public safety frequency planning and a certified telecommunications engineer. His professionally prepared petition took up more than 30 pages - making it the most extensive of any of the twelve submitted.

Trahos contends the number of licensed amateur operators does not warrant the total amount of spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. He feels strongly that unless at the very minimum a no-code Novice type theory class license is created, the present ARS will experience a stagnant or decreasing number of members with increasing reallocation of ARS spectrum by the FCC to other needy land mobile services.

He submitted a chart documenting land mobile-needs through the year 2000. "Even considering the effect of new spectrum efficiencies ...trunking/digital/narrow band/cellular technology ...business spectrum requirements far exceed availability."

He maintains that the ARRL no-code committee's recommendation is not enough. "The committee's proposals are designed to cope with the political unrest in the amateur community. A proper catalyst is needed to encourage Amateur Radio in the young who find Morse code a deterrent but who are also not yet technically experienced enough to pass a Technician class theory type exam. ...to require a no-code prospective amateur to have more technical knowledge than a Novice code prospective amateur is essentially putting the 'cart before the horse.'"

Trahos proposes two new license classes. Under the Trahos proposal, the current Novice and Technician classes would be renamed *Novice Plus* and *Technician Plus.* The new code-free Novice would be required to only pass element 2 (novice written

exam) to obtain Novice privileges above 30 MHz. The new code-free Technician would require only Elements 2 and 3A to obtain VHF and higher spectrum ...except the two meter band would not be authorized.

RM-6991 - Received: May 9, 1989
Larry Ballentine, N5BZB (504 Ruth Dr., Bryant AR 72022)

...wants to replace the code receiving examination with a code recognition requirement "...to keep the traditions of amateur radio intact ...while eliminating the objection to code speed reception." He proposes a written test where dots-and-dashes could be matched up with code characters. Ballentine proposes a 90% pass rate. He wants the code recognition procedure to extend to all amateur classes to "...satisfy the international requirement below 30 MHz [that] a person have a knowledge of code..."

Ballentine previously petitioned for the complete elimination of Morse code proficiency for all license classes. "I believe that a person should not be excluded from the multitude of other forms of amateur radio on the basis of ability in just one area."

RM-6992 - Received: June 1, 1989
Bill Welsh, W6DDB (2814 Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91504)

Welsh, a well known amateur radio writer and educator, is also an avid CW operator. "...most of my last 40 years on the amateur bands have been completely devoid of voice contacts." His petition was very imaginative and creative.

Welsh notes the *Global Maritime Distress and Safety System* is being implemented on the high seas during 1993. He suggests that the time frame being adopted for phasing out code in the Maritime Service "...be used to change out test requirements in ways that will guarantee that future licensees will have proven operating capabilities."

He suggests five entry-level amateur *"mode licenses"* ....code, facsimile/pulse, teletype, television and voice. The license examination should consist of a written test and a satisfactory on-the-air demonstration in each mode. The current Novice through Extra license classes and band segments should be eliminated.

In addition to earning additional emission privileges when one passes a mode upgrade test, the licensee would gain additional bands. As an example, Welsh suggested the following frequency privileges:

One mode license: 160, 17, 12 meter ham bands;
Two mode license: Above bands plus plus 80, 30 and 6 meters;
Three mode license: Above bands plus 40, 2, 1-1/4 meters and higher frequency bands;
Four mode license: Above bands plus 10 and 15 meters;
Five mode license: All ham bands including 20 meters.

Each current Extra Class licensee should receive a license with all mode endorsements. Current Advanced/General licensees would receive new licenses with all but the facsimile/pulse endorsement. Present Novice/Technician levels would get two mode code/voice licenses. The current Group A (Extra), Group B (Advanced), Group C (General/Technician) and Group D (Novice) call sign formats could be used with 5, 4, 3/2 and single mode licenses.

Welsh said he would miss the code as a licensing requirement, but this system would allow each applicant to be examined for the specific mode he/she wants to operate.

RM-6993 - Received: June 7, 1989
John McCord, N1CVN (957 Flotilla Club Dr., Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937)

McCord, also a CW operator, not only holds an Extra Class ham ticket but a First Class Radiotelegraph license as well. He proposes an amateur licensing structure consisting of only three classes (Novice, Intermediate and General) and four test elements - two code (5 and 13 wpm) and two written (basic and advanced theory.)

McCord feels the Amateur Extra, Advanced and Technician class licenses should be totally eliminated. He wants the Novice class license to be restructured by eliminating the Morse code requirement, but requiring successful completion of a written examination consisting of the information now contained in Elements 2, 3(A) and 3(B) - the current Novice, Technician and General class written examinations. The newly restructured Novice Class would allow all amateur modes/spectrum above 220 MHz and digital (computer) privileges only from 50 MHz to 220 MHz.

McCord also requests that a new *"Intermediate Class"* license class be introduced which would additionally require successful completion of a 5 word per minute code test. This license would allow all privileges listed above plus the privileges now assigned to the Technician class.

To upgrade to the top-of-the-line General Class, an applicant would be additionally required to pass a 13 wpm code test and a written examination to include information now contained in Elements 4(A) and 4(B) - the current Advanced/Extra theory examinations.

McCord also proposes that an endorsement be established to the General class license which will permit the holder to become a satellite station licensee. This endorsement would require the successful completion of a comprehensive written examination applicable to stations in the Amateur Satellite Service.

McCord says he believes the above proposals would attract many young minds to the hobby of amateur radio who would otherwise not make the attempt because of the requirement to learn the Morse code. The petitioner contends there is no valid reason for anyone to pass a twenty word-per-minute code test when the benefits to be gained are still not as generous as are given to citizens of oither countries who are required to pass only a twelve word per minute code test.

RM-6994 - Received: July 17, 1989
David K. Stall, N5MKK (157 Piper's View Drive, Webster, TX 77598)

Stall proposes to create a new sixth *"Limited"* class license that would be issued to applicants passing only the Element 2 (Novice) written examination. *Limited* class privileges would duplicate those of the Novice Class above 30 MHz. He also suggested that the Element 2 pool be expanded or modified to address the restrictions of the *Limited* license.

Stall asserts "Everyone would gain..." if his proposal is adopted. Amateurs will benefit from increased use of under-utilized band segments which will assure adequate spectrum for future ham use, more innovative technology advances will be made from a larger amateur base, the greater mass market will increase the availability of equipment thereby reducing its cost ...and the public will profit from the influx of new amateurs who will provide support for countless public service and emergency communications needs.

RM-6995 - Received: August 31, 1989
Christopher D. Imlay, N3AKD (American Radio Relay League, Booth, Freret & Imlay, 1920 N. Street NW #150, Washington, DC 20036)

We covered this petition is great detail in our last issue, but in order to have a complete record of all petitions the Commission will be considering in one document, we will quickly summarize it here.

The League proposes a sixth *"Communicator"* class offering specific privileges above 220 MHz at a maximum 250 watt power level. The *Communicator* Class would not be an entry level - instead requiring a written examination somewhat more comprehensive than the present Technician class theory examination, but without a code requirement.

The examination would be comprised of the 30 question Novice/Element 2 and an expanded 30 question Technician/Element 3(A) which would be administered under the three examiner VEC System. No credit would be accorded from examinations administered under the Novice (two VE) testing program. The five additional questions would be on digital techniques and the use/application of Morse code.

Communicators would not be permitted to be repeater or auxiliary station control operators. Call signs would be issued from the current 2X3 Group D call sign block now assigned to the Novice class. The ARRL acknowledged that adding another class to an already complex licensing structure would add to the burden of the volunteer examiner program.

WHAT TO DO NOW!

The FCC is now looking for a show of support (or opposition) to their going forward on the proposals to restructure the *Amateur Radio Service* to include a code-free license. You and/or your ham club should file a declaration with the FCC as follows:

The top of your declaration should read as per the heading on the next page. The body of the document should read somewhat as follows:

"On September 14, 1989, the Federal Communications Commission gave public notice fo the filing of RM-6984 through 6995, Petitions for Rule

W5YI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Page #7

October 1, 1989

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
A Class of Operator License	)	
In the Amateur Radio Service	)	RM 6984 through 6995
That Does Not Require a	)	
Demonstration of Proficiency	)	
in Morse Telegraphy	)	

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT (or OPPOSITION)

Making. These petitions contain various proposals for restructuring either the classes of operator licenses in the Amateur Radio Service or the qualifying requirements for such licenses or both.

We believe that continued growth in the Amateur Radio Service would be promoted (hindered) by the modification or creation of a class of operator license that does not require a demonstration of Morse code proficiency as a qualifying element. To the extent that the captioned petitions propose such an Amateur Radio operator license, we submit this declaration of support (or opposition), pursuant to Section 1.405(a) of the Commissions's Rules.

Signed:_____"

Include your name/call sign/address/date - and club affiliation if applicable. You may also include a short - *not to exceed one paragraph* - statement as to why you feel the petitions should be further considered. Again, the time to get into a debate on the details is at the NPRM stage. All you are indicating now is that the petitions should go forth and a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* issued. The FCC must receive your declaration on/before October 14.

We also have about 500 copies left of the *Report & Order* that contains the complete text of the new Part 97 Rules. (These are NOT bound books.) **.50 ea. Min.: 10 ea. Postpaid**

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of September 1989:.

Radio District	*Gp."A" Extra*	*Gp."B" Advan.*	*Gp."C" Tech/Gen*	*Gp."D" Novice*
0	WW0G	KF0EV	N0KZG	KB0FDO
1	NY1M	KC1QF	N1GXH	KA1UJF
2	WS2R	KE2PD	N2JVZ	KB2IND
3	NW3C	KD3OS	N3HLK	KA3VCY
4 (*)	AB4QF	KM4XI	N4WTV	KC4MFK
5 (*)	AA5NR	KG5XY	N5PDG	KB5KMF
6 (*)	AA6QE	KJ6ZE	N6WET	KC6FOP
7 (*)	AA7BR	KF7WI	N7NLL	KB7IOG
8	WU8Z	KF8BE	N8LGA	KB8IBG
9	WK9E	KE9SB	N9IVP	KB9DIU
N. Mariana Is.	AH0H	AH0AF	KH0AM	WH0AAL
Guam	KH2K	AH2CF	KH2ED	WH2AMH
Johnston Is.	AH3B	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAG
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6JV	NH6UK	WH6CFB
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AH	WH8AAZ
Wake Wilkes Peale	AH9A	AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7LM	NL7SO	WL7BVN
Virgin Islands	NP2F	KP2BQ	NP2DI	WP2AGY
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4QH	WP4WR	WP4INE

NOTE: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th 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 when Group "A" run out.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

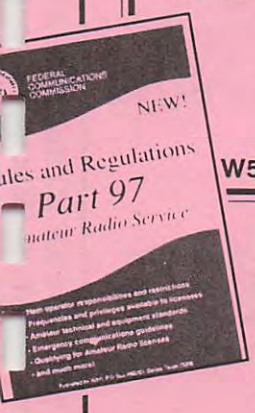
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Part 97 Rule Book

Bound Book **$2.95** Postpaid

New Amateur Rules that went into effect on September 1, 1989

W5YI, Box 565101,Dallas, TX 75356



GENERAL CLASS+VE'S ONLY!

Conducting Novice classes/tests? New Novice 372 Question Pool plus booklet "How to Administer the Novice Examination", Form 610s, and a set of five different properly prepared Novice written tests. **$3.00 plus.90 postage.** Requires copy of General of higher class ham license

AUGUST VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

August	1987	1988	1989
No. VEC's	59	61	*62

(* 18 VEC' groups covering 62 testing regions.)

Testing Sessions	384	409	410
VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	41.1%	37.9%	36.1%
W5YI	31.5	38.4	38.3
CAVEC	6.0	5.4	7.1
DeVry	7.0	5.6	7.1
Others	14.4	12.7	11.4
Year-to-Date Sess:	2922	3225	3572
Elements Administ.	6815	6951	6712
VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	51.3%	46.1%	41.1%
W5YI	25.4	30.0	30.2
CAVEC	7.0	7.2	8.6
DeVry	3.8	4.2	4.1
Others	12.5	12.5	16.0
Year-to-Date Elem.	55736	62892	65641
Applicants Tested	4081	4230	4054
VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	51.4%	45.2%	41.4%
W5YI	25.5	30.6	30.1
CAVEC	6.6	6.7	7.6
DeVry	3.7	4.1	4.5
Others	12.8	15.1	16.4
Year-to-Date Tested	34885	37553	39082

August	1987	1988	1989
Pass Rate - All	60.3%	61.1%	61.1%
Pass Rate - W5YI	55.6%	53.1%	56.7%
Applicants/Session	10.6	10.3	9.9
Appl./Session W5YI	8.4	7.8	8.3
Elements/Applicant	1.7	1.6	1.7
Sessions Per VEC	6.5	6.7	6.6

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

August	1987	1988	1989
Defect. Applications	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%
Late Filed Sessions	1.3%	0.7%	1.7%
Defective Reports	2.1%	1.7%	1.0%

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

RED CROSS SENDS HAMS TO CARIBBEAN

We interviewed ***Mike Riley/KX1B,*** who directs all radio communications for the American Red Cross (ARC) in Washington. Riley was visiting with Red Cross chapters in Ohio, gathering information for the Red Cross Communicator Training Guide when ARC HQ called him back abruptly to help with the hurricane Hugo emergency.

"We experienced a massive communications problem" when telephone service in the islands was cut off, Riley told us. "We dispatched ARC volunteer hams from Dayton and Erie (Pa.) to the Caribbean. They are in San Juan, P.R. now and will be deployed shortly to the other islands: two to St. Thomas, two to St. Croix and one to stay in San Juan. We also sent an individual to Antigua. In addition to a Kenwood TS-440, he has a satellite station operating through the INMARSAT system and the ATS-3 Applications Technology Satellite."

"The purpose of this team is to provide emergency and priority communications out of the affected areas to the ARC. No Disaster Welfare Inquiry information is being handled at this time, as there is a nationwide moratorium on acceptance of such traffic. We simply don't have the resources to handle welfare inquiries. It's impossible to say when the moratorium will be lifted."

"The FCC has granted us *Special Temporary Authority (STA)* to operate on a frequency outside the 20m band. The STA may be terminated at 2359 Oct. 5 or prior to that date if appropriate."

KX1B emphasized that it is not an Amateur Service frequency and is not available to amateurs not associated with the ARC net. The ARC is supplying the FCC with all the callsigns of stations authorized in the STA operation so that Commission monitors can quickly identify violators.

"We are working closely with the ARRL. There are about 12 stations on our initial authorization list, including W1AW, W1INF (ARRL HQ club station), KI4T in Florida (chairman of ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee) and W4HFH at the Alexandria (Va.) Red Cross." W4HFH, operated by the Alexandria Radio Club, has been the ARC HQ's representative to the various HF nets operating through the emergency on 14.313 and 14.303 MHz.

The ARC national HQ station is still under construction. Currently it is using a Yaesu 747. Several manufacturers have agreed to donate ham gear to the project. ICOM is delivering IC-781 and IC-765 HF transceivers. Butternut Electronics and MFJ will also donate equipment.

RFI HYSTERIA IN TUCSON

It looks like yet another amateur is being victimized by Washington's non-policy on consumer RFI. ***Joe Michaels/W4DDV*** is the target of a lobbying and media campaign by frantic neighbors trying to bring down his legal 50-foot tower in the backyard of his new home in Tucson, Arizona.

Michaels, a ham for 50 years, moved from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. to his new QTH in May after searching for a community that does not restrict amateur antennas: "The reason we bought the property was that the deed restrictions expired in 1983," he said.

When Michaels set up his station and began operating, both he and a next-door neighbor experienced cable TVI problems. Michaels had the local cable company replace his cable, eliminating the interference. The company believed that it could mitigate the neighbor's TVI if it could replace the installation at the neighbor's house, but the neighbor allegedly refused to permit any such modifications. We are told that the cable technician's own test TV, hooked up in the neighbor's house, received no interference when Michaels transmitted.

Supervisor says tower legal

In a 1986 action, Pima County supervisors specifically permitted amateur towers no taller than 100 feet. A county supervisor told neighbors in a letter that Michaels has "complied with all requirements and legally the tower is entitled to stand." However, the supervisor reminded residents that the fact that the tower is legal "is not to discourage any of you from consulting an attorney on your own behalf."

On Sept. 19, FCC engineers from the Douglas, Ariz. office of the Field Operations Bureau (FOB) traveled to W4DDV and pronounced a clean bill of health after inspecting the station for four hours. The engineers also wanted to help the next-door neighbor who claimed interference to TV, phones and touch-operated lamps, but the neighbor allegedly refused to allow any FCC personnel into his house.

The Commission also was unable to identify any TVI occurring at other neighbors' homes. As a result, Michaels said the FCC now considers the case closed -- but the next-door neighbor filed suit in Arizona Superior Court to shut down W4DDV. County officials, "saying they were powerless in the situation, have seemingly encouraged the lawsuit" against Michaels, according to the *Arizona Daily Star.*

The court granted an order restraining any transmissions from Michaels' house, but the amateur was not served with the restraining order because he was out of town at the time. A continuance of the matter was granted and it is anticipated that he will be served a restraining order in the near future.

The neighbor asked the FCC to ask W4DDV not to transmit while a guest with a pacemaker was visiting. "Of course I accommodated them," he said. However, neighbors began to complain about the amateur to newspapers anyway. One letter to the editor said that the FCC's request that W4DDV not transmit when a pacemaker user was a guest next door "should be adequate grounds to immediately shut down the illegally constructed antenna."

FCC skeptical about pacemaker danger

Other letters claimed that there is "well-documented FCC concern about amateur radio interference with pacemakers." But FCC FOB public affairs specialist Kate Lawson told the *Arizona Daily Star* that "the FCC has conducted many tests and there never has been one shred of conclusive evidence that one pacemaker has ever been interfered with by amateur radio." Michaels told us that he consulted 3 cardiologists who themselves consulted cardiologists in other states. The doctors could not find cases of pacemaker RFI problems.

Neighbors were apparently not comforted by the FCC statement. According to one newspaper, one citizen "has been relentless in his quest for removal of the antenna. On a hot day last week, he bounded up and down the hilly, winding streets whipping up support. He also has peppered the county, the FCC, congressional offices and the media with notices of his problem." Residents are currently trying various zoning appeals and legal maneuvers to get rid of the tower.

Cooperation = no transmit

The campaign appears to be working. Local media are taking quite an interest in the situation. Headlines such as "Tall Ham Radio Antenna Raises Neighbors' Ire," "Say No To Antennas," "Ham Operator's Tower Has Neighbors Beefing About Interference," and "Neighbors Angered By Ham Radio Antenna, It's Operator's Attitude" have become commonplace over the last several weeks. One resident told the paper that Michaels "claims he's cooperating, but he's still transmitting."

A sympathetic amateur wrote to one paper to say that "many electronic devices are not designed to resist interference... I think the ham operator is being blamed for the failure of equipment that, for a

few cents, could be made less susceptible to interference, but is not."

A reply to the newspaper said that the amateur's letter was "blatantly audacious and utterly pompous... [due to local laws] we are no longer protected from towers, ham radio operators or the interference that has now changed the way of life we all moved here to enjoy." The writer said that his telephone is totally inoperative when Michaels is "broadcasting" and claimed "I have been told by the FCC that nothing can be done to resolve this problem."

"There has been so much press on the antenna case that all the TV stations know me," Joe Michaels told us. "Lately the TV stations have been calling here because of the hurricane situation. They have been recommending that people inquiring about the hurricane call me!" He described the residents' campaign as "total warfare... I've had isolated problems [in other cities] but the problems always have been solved. ...During these 50 years, I've helped during floods,fires, SOSs and helping GIs to talk back home. I'm not going to give up after all these years."

We wanted to know if local ham clubs have become involved in the situation. "There are four very active ham clubs in the area," according to ***Gail Peterson/N7BXX,*** one of the amateurs who is helping Joe Michaels. "I'm trying to keep people informed on my packet bulletin board, but this thing is happening so quickly. There is a lot of concern here, but there's still a lot of apathy. I don't think it's sunk in yet that the same thing could happen to you or me."

Comment

Ultimately, the question will be asked, 'Whose rights are being violated, and why?' The answer may be: 'Both amateur and neighbors' rights are being violated -- by regulators and regulated industries.' W4DDV's rights may be violated if he is ordered to go silent by local and state authorities.

If this happens it may directly contradict the FCC's PRB-1 determination. The FCC recently put this hard-won determination into the new amateur rules at 97.15 (e). The rule reads in part: "State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose."

Local governments across the country have challenged this FCC proclamation, however. We can only hope that W4DDV is able to obtain competent legal counsel to help in this battle.

At the same time, consumers should not have to suffer disruption to their home electronic products. The ARRL was pleased with PRB-1, but it has been fighting for years for responsible FCC action to address the RFI/TVI problem. The League sought and in 1982 obtained specific congressional authority for the FCC to take key actions to reduce RFI/TVI susceptibility in consumer products.

The FCC's *Office of Engineering and Technology* declines to use this legal authority, preferring to rely on "voluntary industry efforts" that have failed to produce robust products immune to amateur and other transmissions found in the modern radio environment. The FCC also twice refused to require labels on consumer products to alert the prospective buyer of RFI-reducing features or of consumer responsibilities in RFI cases.

An important influence on the FCC is the Consumer Electronics Group of the Electronic Industries Association, which represents the TV manufacturing industry. EIA opposed the ARRL's position in some revealing comments we previously reported. EIA said that the interference issue "boils down to a people problem" and that some amateurs "may never acquire the basic skills necessary to avoid interfering with their neighbors' reception of broadcast signals."

Even more galling, the EIA *specifically* urged the FCC NOT to adopt any standards for good engineering design or adequate selectivity characteristics! "Rather," the association said, "the Commission should 'stay the course' by continuing its present approach as regards both amateur radio operators and consumer electronic manufacturers."

"Staying the course" is what's bringing Joe Michaels and his neighbors a fall season of anger and resentment. We think it's time to change course.

(Readers who would like to offer assistance can contact W4DDV at P.O. Box 36295, Tucson AZ 85740. Packet messages can be addressed to N7BXX @ W1FJI.)