

W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

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.

Telephone: (817) 461-6443

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

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Where Things Stand! The Status of FCC Rulemaking

July and August are usually quiet times at the FCC but this year was a little bit different. A complete reorganization of the FCC was announced on August 1st. Some of these changes are still pending Congressional action. They have not occurred yet.

One of the changes is that Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller (an Extra Class amateur, by the way) will become Deputy Chief of a new and much larger Bureau to be called the *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau*.

At this point, no one knows what effect that will have on amateur radio because the structure of the new bureau will be determined by the new incoming bureau chief, Regina Keeney. She is moving from minority counsel for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to a very important position involving emerging communications technology. Her background (and following) in Congress is sure to be an asset!

She is not yet officially on board. Reportedly, she will begin her duties as bureau chief on October 15th. Until she sets up the structure of the Bureau and decides how she wants it organized, no one knows who the players are going to be or what roles they are going to have.

The FCC is currently organized into Bureaus which are further subdivided into Divisions and Branches. The current Personal Radio Branch is really a hybrid of commercial and non-commercial services. It includes the *Interactive Video and*

Data Service (IDVS) and the Part 13 *Commercial Radio Services* which are strictly a commercial services. The Part 95 GMRS (*General Mobile Radio Service*) and *Citizens Radio (CB) Services* involve the business of the family - sort of a land mobile service under the guise of Personal Radio. Then you have Radio Control (R/C) and Amateur Radio. All are considered "Personal Radio."

It is entirely possible that the branch could be renamed to better reflect their activities ...or their responsibilities could be divided up between different divisions ...or the current organization structure could remain intact as is. This will not be determined until later on in the fall.

Ralph Haller really does not yet know what his new duties as deputy are going to be. He was very heavily involved in two new and very important telecommunications initiatives ...PCS, the new *Personal Communications Services*, and the auctioning off of spectrum for the government. Everyone agrees that he did an outstanding job and the best guess is that he will probably continue in these areas.

The functions of the Deputy Bureau Chief are whatever the Bureau Chief needs them to be. There are two deputies in the new *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau*. The other deputy is Gerry Vaughan, currently a Deputy Bureau Chief in the Common Carrier Bureau.

The following "status of amateur radio proceedings" information was gleaned from

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conversations with various FCC staff members this past week.

VANITY CALL SIGNS - PR Docket 97-305

The FCC proposal for vanity call signs provides for allowing amateur radio operators to select an unassigned station call sign of their choice. This proceeding is the really "hot one" that ham operators are following. Everybody, it seems, wants a special combination of call letters. And, judging by the comments, everyone seems to have their own idea as to how the program should (or should not) work. Here is what was what the FCC envisions:

A ham station call sign becomes available for reassignment after two years following license expiration or the death of a licensee ...whichever is sooner. The FCC did not propose any type of 'phase in' program. Instead, all call signs would become available on a first come - first serve basis. This has resulted in much public controversy and could indeed be changed by the FCC in the final *Report and Order*.

The call sign selected must be within the framework of the sequential call sign system wherein certain groups of call signs are designated for each class of operator license. In other words, a Novice can not choose an available Group "A" Amateur Extra call sign - even if he/she held it before. Amateurs may hold only one primary station call sign and must relinquish their current call sign when a chosen "vanity" call sign is assigned. The surrendered call sign then becomes immediately available for reassignment.

A new FCC Form 610-V will permit the amateur to choose a maximum of ten call signs in order of preference. But special call signs won't be free! Congress set a \$70.00 fee for a 10-year term "vanity" station call sign. The American Radio Relay League, however, wants this changed to a one-time \$150.00 processing fee. And this may be happen in time.

This proceeding has now gone through all of the rulemaking steps and is now ready for Commission action. It is expected that the FCC will rule on this matter sometime this fall. It is a foregone conclusion that the vanity call sign program will be adopted. The only unknown is the ground rules and details on how the program will be implemented.

The FCC decision could come as early as mid-October. Many amateur radio rulings are handled by circulating the item among the FCC Commissioner offices for their signatures. Due to the interest this item has generated among the ham radio community, however, the plan is to consider vanity call signs at one of the Commission's monthly agenda meetings.

The various bureaus recommend items for different agendas, but the FCC Chairman's office makes the

decision as to which items go on the agenda. Many times there is a tentative agenda but something comes up that is more pressing. We will not know which items will be considered until the Commission's *Sunshine Agenda* is released about two weeks before the meeting. There is one agenda meeting a month, usually the third Thursday in the month.

TEMPORARY OPERATING AUTHORITY - RM-8288

It was the FCC that initially discussed (at the 1993 VEC Conference) the possibility of a system that could allow new hams to become control operators immediately after passing the required examinations. The objective was to eliminate the up to 3 month delay a new amateur incurs waiting for his/her new call sign to arrive. A temporary call sign would permit the new amateur to go on the air immediately. The instant operation authorization would utilize call signs from the WZ-by-3 prefix block.

A new amateur would use his initials and the appropriate identifier indicating that the examinee had passed the requirements for a specific license class. (For example, WZ1ABC/AG would indicate that a Albert B. Carlson from the first call area was now qualified for the General Class. That call sign would be used on the amateur air waves until his initial license and permanent call sign was received from the FCC.)

On June 25, 1993, the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society VEC of Knoxville, Tennessee submitted a petition seeking to implement the FCC suggestion that was made at the VEC Conference. It was assigned RM-8288.

Officially, the proposal is still "...under consideration." Ralph Haller mentioned at the 1994 VEC Conference, however, that "Instant temporary licensing may not be necessary" ...since the VECs and the FCC are in the process of implementing the electronic filing of FCC Form 610 applications. Under this program, the VECs will enter application information into a PC and transmit the data over the phone lines to the FCC's licensing facility in Gettysburg. According to Haller, "The speed of service will be in hours instead of weeks. ...We hope to send out the license the same day," he said.

ELECTRONIC FILING OF APPLICATIONS

The FCC has already forwarded the input software needed to key in FCC Form 610 amateur radio operator applications to both the ARRL-VEC and the W5YI-VEC. This computer program is currently being tested and the "bugs" worked out. It is anticipated that the initial phases of electronic filing will get underway shortly ...within a month.

The FCC is also in the process of entering into

formal *Memorandums of Understanding* with the VECs so that they may provide the service to the government. Basically, electronic filing involves the keying in of two files (the examination session report data and the information contained on the FCC Form 610 application) using special software and then transmitting the files to Gettysburg. The FCC's data base is then updated and the license granted.

At first, however, both the actual (paper copy) applications and a computer disk containing the files will be mailed to Gettysburg. Even this first step should greatly reduce the time taken by Gettysburg to issue an amateur radio operator license. Since the data is already key stroked, it will get handled immediately. It won't have to await its turn in the backlogged key stroke department. This should speed up the license grant by several "weeks" alone.

Eventually the VECs will only transmit the needed application information to Gettysburg and will retain (and archive) the FCC Form 610 applications they receive from their VE teams. The law that used to require an original handwritten signature on the application has been changed. The FCC can now grant a license without seeing the applicant's signature. The VECs must certify, however, that they have seen the signature. (This is part of the computer input procedure.)

Still to be resolved is how the VECs will get the data to Gettysburg. The exact data transfer system has not yet been nailed down. We have heard talk about telephoning and posting the application and test session data to a computer bulletin board-like arrangement located at Gettysburg. The data will be processed at night and the license granted the following day. At least that is one preliminary plan we heard.

Ralph Haller told the VECs that the FCC might even be able to eliminate the need for an applicant to have the actual license document 'in hand' before beginning operation. The applicant could access another bulletin board which would indicate that their license and call sign has been issued.

LIFETIME AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES - RM-8418

This proposal from the American Radio Relay League suggests that the operator portion of the amateur radio license be recognized for the lifetime of the holder. Current licensees would have their operator licenses extended to lifetime. The station license portion would continue to carry a ten year term. In addition, amateurs whose operator license had already lapsed (on or after a date to be determined by the FCC) would be permitted to regain their previous operator privileges.

A very big advantage to applicants who let their

license expire is they would not have to be retested in order to reapply for their license. They would, however, receive a new call sign two years after their previous station license expired.

The FCC believes that the program could be administered by the VEC System. A volunteer examiner would simply inspect documents supplied by the operator and certify that the applicant had indeed held a specific class of operator license. Any one of a number of documents - even a prior edition of the Radio Amateur Call Book - could be the evidence.

The FCC has not yet decided whether to issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* on this matter.

RECOGNITION OF VE SUPERVISORS - RM-8301

This petition, filed by VEC Rules Committee, seeks to recognize the status of the VE head examiner in the Part 97 Rules. This position is sometimes referred to as the *VE Team Liaison, Chief Examiner* or *Contact VE*. This VE supervisor would be responsible for the integrity of the license examination session.

As it is now, all three VE's are equally responsible - even though it is the head examiner who usually has possession of the examination materials, supervises the other VEs and essentially handles the test session paperwork.

This proposal has gone through the initial *Public Notice* stage and is awaiting a decision by the Bureau as to whether they should go forward with a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*.

INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCAL HAM LICENSING

Both the European (CEPT) and Latin American (CITEL) plans are under active consideration, but may now be handled by the FCC's new *International Bureau*. These two mutual licensing schemes seek to recognize the amateur radio operator licenses of other countries without further examination. There is still a lot of work yet to be done by both the FCC and the State Department before these reciprocal licensing programs can be implemented.

The European version is a joint recognition of the code and no-code ham licenses of countries who enter into Recommendation T/R 61-01 of the European Radiocommunication Committee. (CEPT stands for Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.) The CITEL (Inter-American) reciprocal arrangement takes on the appearance of an international driver's permit.

FAMILY RADIO SERVICE PROPOSAL

The Tandy Corporation (parent of Radio Shack Stores) wants the unallocated spectrum between the current GMRS (*General Mobile Radio Service*)

channels allocated to an unlicensed consumer radio service. The comments from equipment manufacturers and GMRS users are pro and con. GMRS users are infuriated about the possibility of "outsiders" accessing what they perceive as "...their frequencies."

The comments that support the *Family Radio Service* say there has long been a need for quality short range unlicensed UHF-FM communications. They say that CB, due to its HF location in the radio spectrum, is susceptible to interference ...unlicensed Part 15 services do not allow enough power to be useful and amateur radio has excessive licensing requirements. "Family Radio fills a need," they say.

The FCC said the nature of work in the Personal Radio Branch has been changing. No longer is the majority of their rule making effort directed to amateur radio and CB. The major amount of their workload now is being committed to new services (such as the *Family Radio Service*), privatized commercial operator licensing, IDVS (*Interactive Video and Data Service*) and PCS ...the much heralded *Personal Communications Service*. All have a very profound business component of some type.

The FCC told us that they were indeed looking at the comments on the proposed *Family Radio Service* and the different ideas that were suggested. They said they were "...trying to determine if there was something they could come up with..." along those lines.

HF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

HF packet is very controversial. Due to the complexities of high frequency radio wave propagation, unattended (automatic) HF message forwarding stations have the potential to interfere with existing communications. A *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* issued this past June proposes to permit automatically controlled RTTY or data emissions only on certain segments of the HF bands. An exception allows HF data stations to be automatically controlled if they are responding to a station under local or remote control. Commission action is expected next Spring.

PACKET MESSAGE FORWARDING

Phil Karn, KA9Q has asked the FCC to review their thinking on packet message forwarding. He wants the Commission to reconsider their position that the first forwarding station is responsible for the content of messages it introduces into the amateur packet network. He says recent technology makes this difficult ...if not impossible.

The Private Radio Bureau has prepared a response to his *Petition for Reconsideration*, but the Commissioners have not yet acted on it.

GOVERNMENT SPECTRUM SHIFT (Notice of Inquiry)

All amateur spectrum above 2 meters (except 222-225 MHz) is shared with other services - primarily the federal government. Congress has established a timetable for federal agencies to vacate some 200 MHz of spectrum which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder and used for new, emerging telecommunications services. The amateur service has access to some of this spectrum on a secondary basis. The probability exists that amateurs will lose this access when the spectrum is used for other purposes. AMSAT, especially, is not happy about that!

On the other hand, Congress also is on record as wanting the needs of amateurs to be taken into consideration when frequencies to which they had access are reallocated elsewhere. The 13-cm (2390-2400 MHz and 2402-2417 MHz) band is of particular concern. This matter is being handled by the NTIA (*National Telecommunications and Information Administration*) and the FCC's *Office of Engineering and Technology*. (ET Docket 94-32) Reply comments have closed and a verdict is expected in the Spring. The *Private Radio Bureau* won't get involved until a decision is made on which spectrum is to be reallocated.

SHARING OF SPECTRUM AT 219-220 MHz - NPRM

The sharing of 219 to 220 MHz with the amateur service is also an *Engineering and Technology* matter. This spectrum is primarily allocated to maritime interests. The ARRL wants secondary access to this band to construct a nationwide packet backbone network. It will partially replace spectrum lost when 220-222 MHz was reallocated in 1991 to narrow-band Land Mobile operations. The FCC is still reviewing the pros and cons of allowing amateur access to 219-220 MHz, but believes it can be successfully accomplished given the expertise of the amateur service. (ET Docket 93-40)

8N3ITU - SPECIAL ITU STATION IN KYOTO, JAPAN

The JARL (Japan Amateur Radio League) has established a special amateur radio station at the International Congress Center in Kyoto, Japan. The station, 8N3ITU, is for the use of delegates from all over the world who will be attending the *International Telecommunication Union* 14th plenipotentiary Conference now taking place in Kyoto through October 14th. Foreign amateurs may use the station which can operate all modes from 160 meters to 23-cm, including the amateur satellites. 8N3 is not a new country (only JA3). Japanese operators are there only to assist licensed members of the various delegations. All 8N3ITU QSL cards will sent via the JARL bureau. Cards may also be sent direct to: 8N3ITU, JARL-Kansai 3-8-31 Daidou, Tennouji, Osaka 543, Japan

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of September 1994:

Radio District	Gp. "A" Extra	Gp. "B" Advan.	Gp. "C" Tech/Gen	Gp. "D" Novice
Ø (*)	AAØSS	KGØPI	(***)	KBØOTI
1 (*)	AA1KL	KD1WR	N1SZJ	KB1BKN
2 (*)	AA2TP	KF2XI	(***)	KB2RPC
3 (*)	AA3IO	KE3ON	N3TFQ	KB3BEO
4 (*)	AD4WN	KS4BI	(***)	KE4QGF
5 (*)	AB5WP	KK5BL	(***)	KC5JHZ
6 (*)	AE6EP	KO6HD	(***)	KE6LWT
7 (*)	AB7EI	KJ7CL	(***)	KC7FHZ
8 (*)	AA8QD	KG8LA	(***)	KB8UST
9 (*)	AA9LY	KF9XH	N9YKN	KB9JAW
N.Mariana Is.	KHØK	AHØAU	KHØDM	WHØABA
Guam	WH2G	AH2CW	KH2KP	WH2ANG
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6NN	WH6XO	WH6CRI
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8K	AH8AG	KH8BH	WH8ABB
Wake W.Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7PT	WL7WV	WL7CHS
Virgin Is.	WP2O	KP2CD	NP2HQ	WP2AHU
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4XJ	(***)	WP4MSJ

CALL SIGN WATCH: *=All 2-by-1 "W" prefixed call signs have been assigned in all radio districts. Group "A" 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AK block are next assigned to Extra Class amateurs when 2-by 1's are all allocated. (AL-by-2 will not be assigned, however, since this prefix is allocated to Extra Class amateurs in Alaska.)

**=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" are depleted.

***=Group "C" (1-by-3) call signs have now run out in all radio districts except the first, third and ninth call sign areas. According to the rules (adopted by the Commission Feb. 8, 1978, Docket No. 21135), Technician/General class amateurs are next assigned Group "D" (2-by-3 format) call signs when all Group "C" have been assigned.

Upgrading Novices holding a 2-by-3 format call sign in any radio district (except the 1st, 3rd and 9th call area) will no longer be able to request a Group "C" call and will be automatically assigned another more recent 2-by-3 format call sign if they do! The FCC will not go back and automatically reassign unused "K" and "W" 1-by-3 format call signs. Stay tuned, however, for the new "vanity" call sign assignment program which will be coming up shortly! You will be able to purchase a call sign of your choice after paying an FCC fee.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

MAY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

May No. VEC's	1992 18	1993 18	1994 18
Testing Sessions	866	1013	968
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
ARRL	48.8%	57.4%	54.3%
W5YI	36.6	31.2	36.9
CAVEC	3.0	2.6	2.5
WCARS	2.1	2.3	1.4
GtLakes	3.9	1.6	0.6
SunnyV	0.9	0.6	0.8
Others (12)	4.7	4.3	3.5
Year-to-Date Sessions	4230	4392	4880
Elements Administ.	16764	20024	17631
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
ARRL	55.4%	62.6%	57.0%
W5YI	28.5	25.1	28.9
CAVEC	3.0	2.5	3.0
WCARS	2.2	2.5	1.8
SunnyV	2.3	1.3	1.6
GtLakes	2.4	1.8	0.7
Others (12)	6.2	4.2	7.0
Year-to-Date Elements	91699	85116	88676
Applicants Tested	10236	11735	10033
<u>VEC</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
ARRL	54.4%	61.3%	56.9%
W5YI	29.9	25.7	29.4
CAVEC	2.9	2.3	3.0
WCARS	2.3	2.5	1.8
SunnyV	2.1	1.2	1.4
GtLakes	2.6	2.0	0.5
Others (12)	5.8	5.0	7.0
Year-to-Date Tested	54503	49900	51096
May	1992	1993	1994
Pass Rate - All	64.8%	64.9%	65.9%
Applicants/Session	11.8	11.6	10.4
Elements/Applicant	1.6	1.7	1.8
Sessions Per VEC	48.1	56.3	53.8
Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's	1992	1993	1994
Defect. Applications	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%
Late Filed Sessions	1.3%	1.4%	2.7%
Defective Reports	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%

Note: The two largest VEC's, (ARRL/W5YI) accounted for 90.2% of all May 1994 test sessions. (Also 85.9% of all exam elements and 86.3% of the applicants.) Year-to-date, there are 11% (488) more examination sessions. (Also 4% more examination elements and 2.4% more applicants.) The average test session has 10.5 examinees - compared to 11.4 in 1993.

[Source: Personal Radio Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.]

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● As part of its overall plan to improve customer service, the FCC has installed a toll-free 800 number which may be used to call its Gettysburg, PA licensing division. The Consumer Assistance Branch may be reached at 1-800-322-1117 during regular business days (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. eastern time.

The FCC also said in a Sept. 20th Public Notice that "Within the next 18 months customer service standards will be developed for other areas of Commission operations to ensure FCC customers receive the highest quality of service possible. As these new standards become available, the FCC will inform its customers."

● Does a so-called "bulletin station" such as W1AW and K1MAN have a right to broadcast an announcement at a specific time and frequency regardless of the activity on the band. That is the subject of an on-going controversy between the amateur community and multi-band bulletin stations such as those operated by the IARN and ARRL.

Glen Baxter, K1MAN, Belgrade Lakes, Maine is network manager of the *International Amateur Radio Network*. He contends that the IARN bulletins are legal and cannot be stopped. Baxter maintains "We can't move [to a different frequency] because it will just cause problems with some other group so we might as well stay where we are." He believes it is easier for individuals to QSY up or down the band than it is for him to move his bulletin service which broadcasts on several ham bands.

"Our intent is to disseminate amateur radio related information, and we have to do it somewhere." He believes (and obviously so does the ARRL) that a bulletin or information station is a benefit to the amateur fraternity.

K1MAN says "The precedent of amateur radio bulletins [operating] on schedule has been maintained by W1AW [the headquarters ham station of the American Radio Relay League] for over 75 years."

And intentional interference to his IARN network bulletin service is an issue that Baxter says he intends to settle in court. He plans to "...go to a different authority (the U.S. attorney) under Section 333 and prosecute our case independently of the FCC."

One of the frequencies in question is 3.975 MHz on which IARN broadcasts daily bulletins seven times a day (at 1000, 1100, 1300, 1700, 2100, 0000 and 0200 UTC.) One-way information bulletin-type communications are authorized by Section §97.111(b)(6) of the rules.

● Comments closed Sept. 1st on the FCC proposal to provide temporary operating authority for Commercial Radio Operators who have passed the required examinations but whose license document has not yet arrived from the Commission.

PR Docket 94-58 (a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) proposes to provide temporary conditional operating authority to successful examinees when they properly file an FCC Form 756 Commercial Radio Operator application with the Commission.

"For purposes of making log entries, we propose that a commercial radio operator exercising temporary conditional operating authority would enter the PPC [Proof of Passing Certificate] serial number and date of issue in place of the FCC-issued license serial number and expiration date."

A copy of the properly filed application and PPC document becomes the temporary operating authority. "This authority is valid for a period of 90 days from the date the application is filed." Reply comments close on Oct. 1, 1994.

● An FCC Public Notice issued Sept. 20th reminds Commercial Radio Operator examinees that "For a Marine Radio Operator Permit, GMDSS Radio Operator's License, GMDSS Radio Maintainer's License, GMDSS Radio Operator/Maintainer License, and First, Second, and Third Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate, enter "PACR" in the Fee Type Code block on the Form 756 (Application).

Include a check on money order for the \$35.00 (Regulatory) fee payable to the FCC. Note that only one \$35 Regulatory fee is due if the examinee submits both the GMDSS Radio Operator and Maintainer at the same time.

The applicant (or the COLEM if acting as the filing agent) must forward the application package to: FCC, Radio Operator Permits, P.O. Box 358800, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5800.

There is no (Regulatory) fee for the General Radiotelephone Operator License or Ship Radar Endorsement. These applications are submitted directly to the FCC (1270 Fairfield Road), Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245.

Question pools and study material for all commercial radio operator examinations are available from National Radio Examiners (Div. W5YI Group) at toll free 1-800-669-9594.

● A noted ham radio operator is dead at the age of 94. William Gundry Broughton, W2IR, died on July 30th after a short illness. He graduated in 1924 with an electrical engineering degree from Cornell University. He retired from General Electric in 1965, qualified for a law degree in 1968 ... a communications degree 1972.

He donated funds to many different organizations and established a number of endowed funds. In 1990 he established the *William Gundry Broughton Charitable Private Foundation* to operate in perpetuity for the purpose of making charitable, religious, literary, scientific and educational donations after his death.

Bill had been licensed as W2IR for more than 70 years and was a past president of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association. He donated funds to that organization many years ago to provide for the continuing annual *Broughton Memorial Award* to a local amateur radio operator who exhibits "...exemplary service to amateur radio, to the public and to the association" in honor of his father, Henry Primm Broughton. His father, licensed as K2AE, was a pioneer in amateur radio and was assistant to Nikola Tesla at the first public demonstration of wireless communications in St. Louis in 1893, antedating Marconi.

Some years ago, William Broughton donated to the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium the amateur radio station presently operated there by the Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association. (Prepared by James W. Pontius, W2CPB, Executor of the W2IR Estate.)

● Special VB, VG, XO and XN call sign prefixes will begin showing up on the ham bands later this month as Canada marks the United Nations' "International Year of the family."

CODE EXEMPTION DENIED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

On May 19, 1994, Guy A. Matzinger, KB7PNQ of Cheney, Washington filed a petition (RM-8485) seeking relief from the higher speed Morse code requirements for senior citizens. Matzinger, who is a 68 year old Technician Class licensee, requests that applicants for the higher classes of amateur operator licenses who are 65 years of age and older be granted an exemption, if requested, from demonstrating telegraphy proficiency at speeds greater than 5 words-per-minute.

FCC Regulation §97.505(a)(5) provides for 20 wpm code examination credit when an examinee has a severe disability which precludes the person from passing either a 13 or 20 words-per-minute telegraphy examination. Matzinger's petition seeks to equate senior citizens with persons who are so severely disabled that they are unable to pass these higher speed Morse code examinations. The petition also states that, although there are exceptions, the average person's faculties are diminished by the aging process.

Matzinger believes that the amateur service community now supports the change he requests. To support his contention, he supplied the results of a poll he conducted of amateur operators showing that 63 percent of those surveyed support an exemption while 37% are opposed. His petition provides an age profile of the amateur operators that were surveyed but there is no indication in the petition as to the number of persons participating in the survey. Although a public notice of the filing of the petition was given, no comments were filed.

The FCC said that Mr. Matzinger correctly notes that similar petitions have been rejected on the basis that the current operator license classes, requirements, and privileges were developed in accordance with the desires of the amateur service community who expressed their views in various rule making proceedings by filing thousands of comments. "The current operator license classes, requirements, and privileges provide motivation for amateur operators to advance their communication and technical skills," FCC added.

"In addition to the foregoing, we do not accept the premise of the petition that aging, in itself, is a severe disability. [The rules] moreover, already provide the accommodation the petition requests for persons of all ages who are so severely disabled that they cannot pass a higher speed telegraphy examination."

"RM-8485 seeks to reverse a long-standing Commission policy regarding the requirements that applicants must meet in order to obtain a General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra operator license. It presents, neither new facts nor novel arguments that would justify such a policy change at this time." The FCC denied Matzinger's request on September 16, 1994.

[Action by Chief, Private Radio Bureau, FCC]

MORE ON THE PROBLEMS AT WAYNE GREEN, INC.

You will remember the report that we did in our August 1st issue on the financial difficulties at "73" magazine. We interviewed Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 to get his views and they were in stark contrast to the rest of the report. "73" magazine's associate publisher, David Cassidy, now has left the magazine. We recorded the following interview with him last week. Speaking *on the record*, Cassidy indeed painted a very glum picture at Wayne Green, Inc.

W5YI: What is your status now with 73 Magazine
David Cassidy: Wayne laid me off on July 9th. I did some work for them for about two issues in exchange for continuation of my medical benefits through the company. The situation became such that I felt that it was not in my own best interest to continue even that small relationship. About two weeks ago I told them that I would not have any further contact with Wayne other than he was invited to hire me back ...which he said he would do when he laid me off. The story he told you about my leaving "73" was not the same thing he told me ...nor was it the same thing he told the staff of "73."

W5YI: What is going to happen to 73 Magazine?
Cassidy: I don't know. I am no longer privy to the finances of Wayne Green, Inc., so I have no idea what has happened over the last two months. I know ad sales have dropped about \$10,000 per issue since I left. They are usually around \$50 to \$55,000.

As far as making money, I don't think the situation has changed. "73" is the only thing that is profitable. It was not profitable when I came on board.

W5YI: Will "73" magazine continue to publish?
Cassidy: Yes, for the time being but in the relatively near future either of two things would have to happen. Either someone else will come in to run the magazine - in which case it will be able to limp along for the foreseeable future - or the rest of the company will have to be cut to the bone so that the only operating business will be "73."

W5YI: Do you think the magazine will be sold?
Cassidy: Probably not because Wayne is not a good enough business man to know how much it is worth. I offered to buy it from him when I left. I had a cash offer prepared which was about twice what the magazine would be worth on the open market. He pretty much dismissed it and told me that he thinks the magazine is worth \$2 to \$2-1/2 million. That is just not the case. A lot goes into figuring the value of a magazine including the old ten times net or five time gross. A magazine is a very unique business with a very high liability. I was willing to offer him - and had investors lined up - that could have stepped in and gotten him

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out of financial trouble ...plus left him with his pride.

W5YI: What has happened since July?

Cassidy: Judy Walker, their advertising coordinator, was fired last week. She was one of the most skilled people in all aspects of the magazine business that I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Judy has a very low 'B.S. quotient' and when you have personal contact with Wayne you have to have a very high 'B.S. quotient.' He speaks the same way as his editorials and if you read them over an extended period, you have an accurate idea what Wayne is like. ...the repetition, the stories that change every time they get told, the very basic sophomoric knowledge of business that is spouted as if it is gospel and the pearls of wisdom that he has come up with.

The team that I have put together over the last four years are very professional magazine people. They are concerned about getting the job done and getting it done profitably. He likes to think of himself as an entrepreneur. People around here like to call him a carnival barker. I do not know that he has ever had a profitable year ...at least not since forming Wayne Green, Inc.

Bottom-line kind of people generally have a hard time dealing with Wayne and I think that is the real reason Judy was fired ...plus her loyalty to me. As far as I know, there is no one in the building right now that is capable of doing that job anywhere near as well as Judy. You should talk to her, I am only giving you my opinion.

W5YI: Are you doing anything for 73 Magazine at all?

Cassidy: No, I have nothing what so ever to do with them. I have left the door open for Wayne and let him know that if he can put aside his ego, the best thing that could happen would be for him to bring me back. He has got to do it soon because, frankly, I spent four years of my life building that man's magazine into a position where it has never been. That is to be profitable. I am not willing to spend another four years doing it again after it has been destroyed. I have left the door open, but with each passing day, that door gets smaller and smaller.

W5YI: What is working with Wayne Green really like?

Cassidy: Wayne tends to create his own reality. If the reality does not please him, then he just creates another one. His whole interview with you ...and especially regarding me was total fabrication. He said he dismissed me because I had done a great job but that it was time for a change. And that he was not one to wait around for things to start to go bad. I took that as a slap in the face ...intimating that things were about to go bad. The only time that things go bad at WGI, is when he is personally involved in a project.

I won't allow Wayne Green to lie about me and

my record. We took a struggling magazine that was losing \$120,000 a year and turned it into a profitable venture that is making hundreds of thousands of dollars in net profit every year. We did that while the rest of the company was falling apart. The staff really deserves the credit for that ...not me ...the hard working people on that masthead. He can lie about his own life and his own record, but he is not going to lie about me.

He did not dismiss me because it was time for a change. He told me that I was going temporarily in order to show creditors and the IRS that he was serious about paying off his debt. And that within six to eight weeks he would hire me back. I knew it was a lie at the time and then when I read your interview with him - which was only a week or two later, he was telling a different story. I have a lot of friends among the amateur radio population and it is very important to me that those people realize the truth. The truth is something not highly regarded by Wayne Green. I want the people in the amateur radio community who supported me to know that the story he told you is not true.

W5YI: Why then did he fire you?

Cassidy: In my opinion, Wayne terminated me out of jealousy and ego. He surrounds himself with people who are barely competent so that he can shine in comparison. When he does find people who are competent and intelligent, he either wears them down so that they leave or he does what he did to me. He makes up an excuse in his own mind that allows him to look himself in the mirror every day and still get what he wants ...which is to get rid of the guy who is stealing the limelight.

INTERVIEW WITH JUDY WALKER

We decided to call Judy Walker. She also consented to an *on the record* (recorded) interview.

W5YI: What was your capacity at "73" magazine? And why were you terminated?

Judy Walker: I was the advertising coordinator ..and assistant to David Cassidy. I was terminated at the same time David was. We were told that Wayne had to get \$100,000 together for the IRS. He just went by salaries. A good half dozen people went to Wayne and told them that if you let me go, the magazine, "73" is going to go under. They talked him into keeping me and letting one of the sales reps go. I knew my days were numbered then. He is trying to find a way to save money to pay the IRS. They have to meet those IRS payments every week.

W5YI: Just what is going on at "73" magazine?

Walker: Right now Wayne owes the IRS for the

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employee income tax for two and one half years. He has been levied with a fine by the IRS ...I think approximately \$350,000.

W5YI: How can you go that long and not pay payroll taxes?

Walker: Wayne is a great man for putting his head in the sand. 'If I don't see it and I don't admit to it, it is not true.' He knew full well that those taxes had not been paid. I have no idea how he managed to go two and a half years ...but he did. Now he is paying part of what he owed before, the penalties and the current [payroll taxes] to the IRS. He is not off the hook at the IRS.

W5YI: How is everything going at Wayne Green, Inc.?

Walker: Right now, Wayne says all is well. And we are now going to make a lot of money with CDs. [compact disc recordings - his music business.] The CD division is actually losing \$20,000 a week. He thinks it is going to make money ...any minute now. They have no money to pay any bills. They pay the IRS and they meet payroll ...and that's it. They probably owe \$100,000 in just author's payments alone. They owe printers money. They owe for printing August issue of *Radio Fun*. September and October are both sitting on the sidelines because he can not pay the August print bill. The November "73" is supposed to ship to the printer tomorrow. That check has to be to the printer tomorrow to pay for that printing. If *Quad Graphics* out of Thomaston, Georgia does not get their check, they are not going to print.

The August issue of *Radio Fun* was printed and mailed and the bill for printing and postage is due at Eagle Printing out of Massachusetts. They have not gotten their money yet. Subsequent issues have not gone to the printer because Wayne can't pay the printer. He has no money to pay them.

The *Radio Fun* Mail Order Section runs on a three month prepay. The pages are supposed to be printed three months in advance. But he has never been able to do that, but the advertisers still get the discount price. They prepay the three months. That was done to get Wayne some quick cash to quiet down the IRS. The three month one that they are working on right now is August, September and October. Wayne talked in a meeting about closing down *Radio Fun* ...stopping publication on it. I told him we would have to arrange to do a credit or a refund to those people in the mail order section that have prepaid. He said I am not giving any refunds unless you can tell me where I can get the money. I have no money so they are not going to get it.

I think Wayne is going under and he is fighting the best he knows how. And the best he knows how is to deny everything that is going on. He is running

and hiding from a lot of the bills. I just presented him with a bill for overtime, travel and commissions due me for \$10,000 which I do not expect I will see ever. I have given it to my attorney... Tomorrow I go to see 'Wage and Labor' with it.

W5YI: We had heard that several advertisers had gotten form letters from the Internal Revenue Service asking that they send them their advertising payments.

Walker: All those advertisers that were 60 days behind on their bills, the IRS sent them a notice. Those people are calling up and having their artwork returned ...some of our biggest advertisers ...the full page people, ...full color. The advertising is going down 4 pages a month ...an average of \$5 or \$6,000. We closed the November issue, I would say, \$6 to \$8,000 down in sales.

W5YI: Do you think there will be a December issue?

Walker: No, I really don't. The last thing I knew was that the authors were not going to write any more. They were not going to write the departments. We got the November out of them, but they don't plan to do December.

W5YI: At what point will the public hear that Wayne Green, Inc., is history?

Walker: Wayne is not going to tell anybody. The only way the public is going to know is when they suddenly call there and there is no answer ...that the phone has been disconnected. The phones have been cut off once. We went three days without being able to make a long distance call. Then we had to use a code to get outside ...to get into the AT&T network. They switched from MCI to AT&T. It was very strange. If he lasts over 60 days it will be a miracle. I intend to hit him with a \$10,000 lien if I do not get my money.

W5YI: Do the employees know what is going on?

Walker: Oh yes. But they are terrified about losing their jobs. This is an area [where] employment is scarce ...particularly in publishing. This is what most of them do. They need a job. They have a home ...they have a family. They are all hoping that Wayne will straighten this out. And he can't straighten it out. He is trying to get out of it by lying. The problem is that he tells so many lies he can't tell the same one twice because he can't remember them. He is aging so fast. During the past six months he has become a very old man. His skin is shallow. You can see every vein in his body. He has lost weight. He is more stooped than he ever was. He really looks terrible. They memos you get from him as totally disjointed.

The loyalty of the "73" staff is unbelievable. And they are hanging in as best they can. They are proud of the magazine. They are proud of the work they do. They want to get it out. (Recorded: September 21, 1993)

SCHOOL KIDS TALK TO STS-64 ASTRONAUTS!

Amateur radio scored another PR bonanza as the three licensed STS-64 astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery completed spectacular horizon-to-horizon two-way ham radio contacts with several scheduled schools. The mission proved to be very successful for the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment payload! It was also reported to the SAREX Working Group that many general voice QSOs were made between the amateur community and the shuttle crew.

The SAREX station was initially set up on Saturday, Sept 10th by Shuttle Commander Dick Richards, KB5SIW, and checked out during an Australian pass with Graham Ratcliff, VK5AGR. A total of four schools completed their contacts later on that day ...and three more talked to the crew on Sunday.

The first school contact was with the Eisenhower Middle School in Laurel, Maryland. The Goddard ARC, headed by Jim Gass, N3CJN, supported this contact. Eleven students asked a total of 22 questions with sufficient time left over for the contact coordinator and teacher to say a few words and ask a question. Rookie astronaut Jerry Linenger, KB5HBR, was at the mike for this contact and was heard to exclaim "Go Navy!!" when he heard that the teacher was heading for the Navy/Virginia football game right after the contact.

The Eisenhower contact was quickly followed by a successful SAREX contact with students at the Francis Howell Middle School in St. Charles, Missouri and Shuttle Commander Dick Richards, KB5SIW. Dick is from the local area. Ten students were able to ask questions and get responses from Dick during the eight minute contact window. The local press was there - as was CBS, NBC and ABC affiliate stations. The event was also transmitted over the local ATV repeater in real time with some 200 people watching from an auditorium.

Less than one orbit later, the Middleton Grange Middle School in New Zealand had an outstanding QSO with Linenger, KB5HBR. He answered 18 questions. The event was covered by all the New Zealand national television services and was retransmitted throughout the country on VHF and on HF.

The Step/STAR Schools Young Astronaut group, located in Spokane, Washington, talked to the space shuttle astronauts through a special telebridge lash-up. This contact was broadcast live via the Satcom C1 satellite on transponder 18.

The Springfield Plains Elementary, in Clarkston, Michigan had an excellent 9 minute contact with mission specialist Jerry Linenger, KB5HBR, with some 26 questions asked by the students.

At the Crystal Lake South Elementary school in Illinois, the students got an "elementary" demonstra-

tion of circular polarization. The technical team at the school demonstrated to the students that left hand polarization of their antenna provided up to a four S-unit improvement in the signal over right hand circular polarization for some portions of the pass over the Chicago area. Six children were chosen to ask questions, and each got to ask two questions!

Other school group contacts which were successfully completed included the Grizzly Hill school in North San Juan, California, the Central Square Middle School in Central Square, New York, and the Morocco Elementary School in Morocco, Indiana. Coordinators at all of the schools were appreciative of the outstanding educational program that SAREX provides the students.

Shuttle power conservation measures, required to support an extra (10th) day of flight, resulted no packet radio operation until later in the mission. (The SAREX hand-held transceiver is battery operated and requires no power from the shuttle.). Once it was determined that electrical power consumption was running below pre-flight predictions the crew was given the go-ahead for 145.55 Mhz packet operations. After several days of being silent on packet, the STS-64 SAREX payload came alive on packet on Saturday, Sept. 17. The following two packet messages were copied locally:

18-Sep-94 19:54:57 W5RRR-1*>QST <I;0,0>: Greetings from the Space Shuttle Discovery. We are in a 130x130 nm orbit and have only one more day on-orbit. Will be operating in packet mode for the next 24 hours for those who want to connect. Enjoyed the QSO's from everyone - 73 from KB5SIW, KC5HBS, and KC5HBR.

18-Sep-94 19:54:59 W5RRR-1*>QST <I;0,3>: 261/ 11:00 Zulu Time or Mission Elapsed Time 8/12:38 -- This may be Space Shuttle Discovery's last day on-orbit, so expect Packet termination approximately 15 hours from this time. Glad we could connect with so many Hams from around the world. 73 from KB5SIW, KC5HBR, and KC5HBS

Monday's shuttle landing postponement also gave the amateur community another day to contact the astronauts on 2-meters. This crew was particularly active making random voice contacts during the additional day, ...until they had to stow the equipment again for landing on Tuesday, September 20 which had to detoured to Edwards Air Force Base, CA.

The next SAREX mission is planned for January 12, 1995 when the Space Shuttle Endeavour launches on a 14 day mission with Stephen Oswald, KB5YSR in command. Also on board STS-67 will be Payload Specialist, Ronald Parise, WA4SIR (Advanced Class.)

Both are veteran astronauts. Steve Oswald last piloted the April 1993 STS-56 mission aboard the Shuttle Discovery. Ron Parise was aboard STS-35 (Shuttle Columbia) in December 1990.