

# 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.

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## ARIANE 501 SPACE LAUNCH FAILS!

### Phase 3-D Amateur Satellite Scheduled for Ariane Flight 502

It wasn't much of a story in national press, but it sure was big news among the amateur satellite community!

Europe's newest unmanned satellite-launching rocket, the Ariane 5, exploded just seconds after it took off on its maiden flight. The launch took place on Tuesday, June 4th, from the Guiana Space Centre, Europe's Spaceport, at Kourou in French Guiana - located on the north east coast of South America. Aboard Ariane 5 was the European Space Agency's four Cluster satellites, a \$500 million science mission to study Earth-Sun interactions. The good news is that no amateur radio spacecraft were aboard including AMSAT's \$3 million Phase 3-D communications satellite.

The unmanned rocket was on its first voyage after years of intense development by some of Europe's leading scientists. The European Space Agency estimated that total development of the Ariane 5 super rocket cost more than \$8 billion. Phase 3-D was initially scheduled to be aboard the initial flight of the Ariane 5 series. Fortunately it got bumped to the second flight.

At a height of about 2 miles and 30 seconds into the launch, the Ariane-5 vehicle appeared to roll off course, began tumbling and then exploded. The director of France's space agency said "The launcher was destroyed by ground control. The mission's security service detonated the rocket at

1235 GMT due to a deviation in the launcher's trajectory." No injuries were reported on the ground. Launch officials said the flaming debris fell into a protected area near the launch complex.

It was the first flight test of an entirely new vehicle. Each of its parts had been successfully tested on the ground. There are, however, no absolute guarantees. A launcher's capability can be demonstrated only in flight under actual launch conditions. The Ariane 5 was 10 times as powerful than the Ariane 4 rocket it was expected to replace.

The failure was a huge setback for western Europe's bid to increase its dominance of the lucrative world commercial satellite launch market into the 21st century. The European Space Agency had touted the Ariane 5 as a new age in commercial satellite technology. It was unclear what caused the failure but the electrical and on-board software systems are suspected. The spectacular failure of the unmanned rocket recalled the 1986 mid-air explosion of the U.S. space shuttle Challenger, in which seven astronauts were killed.

An inquiry board has been formed to investigate the explosion of the Ariane 5 rocket. It is to submit, by mid-July, an entirely independent report identifying the causes of the incident and proposing modifications designed to prevent any further incidents.

## AMSAT's P-3D on next flight

An ESA official stated at the press conference that they would try again with the second test flight coming as early as September. Before that, the reasons for the setback will be established and corrections made for a successful second test.

Ham operators around the world have been carefully watching the progress of the Ariane 5 program. So far, amateurs have spent more than \$3 million to build their own satellite. The Phase 3-D amateur communications satellite currently under construction, is now manifested on the second flight test of the Ariane 5 series (Ariane 502) which, according to ESA's latest schedule, is to be launched in the fall of this year.

AMSAT officials believe that it is too early to know what the effect of the Ariane 501 failure will have on the 502 schedule, or on the possible Phase 3D launch date, or the vehicle on which it will ride. A schedule stretch out beyond the anticipated year-end re-entry of AO-13 cannot be ruled out.

AMSAT-DL President Karl Meinzer DJ4ZC and AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan W3XO, expressed their sadness on hearing the news. In a joint statement they said, "We, at AMSAT, have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with ESA for over fifteen years, and we are, quite naturally, distressed to hear of this unfortunate occurrence"

They further noted that except, for the RS (Russian) and Fuji (Japanese) satellites, all successful amateur satellite launches since the early 1980s have been on Ariane vehicles. On behalf of the amateur radio satellite community, they extend sincere condolences to ESA, Arianespace, CNES (the French Space Agency) and the Cluster Project.

Both expressed confidence, however, that the ESA team will overcome this setback and develop a most successful launch vehicle. DJ4ZC and W3XO said that they are together in anticipating a successful launch of Phase 3D on an forthcoming Ariane 502 mission.

There are several low-altitude amateur radio satellites in orbit, some with cameras that transmit pictures back to earth, which can be picked up on personal computers linked to radio equipment. But it is the two existing high-altitude satellites, Oscar 10 and 13, which provide radio users with the ability to communicate for long periods and with other users further away.

Oscar 13 is expected to reenter the earth's atmosphere and burn up in December. Oscar 10 has been in orbit since 1983 and its computer memory is failing, as are its solar rechargeable batteries.

The planned successor to the Oscar satellites, Phase 3D, is intended to provide radio users with better sound and pictures than they have had before. Made up

of components built in 14 countries, the satellite is being assembled in Orlando, Florida, from where, if all goes well, it will be shipped to French Guiana for launch by Ariane.

Its transmitters will be more powerful than those on earlier satellites. A set of spinning wheels on Phase 3D will reorient the satellite in orbit so that its antennas always point towards the earth. On Oscar 10 and 13 the antennas sometimes point towards space, making communication difficult.

The Phase 3-D spacecraft is not insured and to do so - especially after the failure of the first Ariane 5 vehicle - would be prohibitive. To insure P3-D would probably cost \$1 million - more than the cost to replace it. Phase 3-D replacement cost would be substantially less since all of the development and engineering work would not have to be completed again.

AMSAT Executive VP Keith Baker, KB1SF said, "We don't yet know what the impact (if any) will be on our P3D launch. Until then, we are pressing 'full steam ahead' with the completion and testing of Phase 3D." AMSAT organizations around the world chipped in about \$1 million to pay Ariane to launch Phase 3-D. The launch cost actually less than at first anticipated. The satellite's 16-hour orbit will make it visible (usable) from the Northern Hemisphere for about two-thirds of each day.

ESA remains confident that the next launch will be successful. The European Space Agency said, "Ariane 5 is a major challenge for space activities in Europe. The skills of all teams involved in the programme, coupled with the determination and solidarity of all the political, technical and industrial authorities, make us confident of a successful outcome"

According to the latest ESA press release, Ariane 502 will still launch on schedule assuming of course that they find out what went wrong with 501. ESA said the Ariane-5 rocket and the four satellites were not insured because it was an experimental launch.

The last such accident was in December 1994 when an Ariane-4 rocket exploded in mid-flight, sending two telecommunications satellites plunging into the Atlantic Ocean. In 86 launches, the Ariane rocket family has failed only seven times, a low failure rate by international standards. The last successful launch of Ariane-4 was only two weeks ago. He said European governments remained totally determined to go ahead with the Ariane-5 program, western Europe's first heavy launcher.

Arianespace, the space agency's commercial satellite launching arm, is backed by 53 European shareholders and dominates about 60 percent of the world's commercial satellite launch market. *(The above story was adapted from several press releases and interviews.)*

## WAYNE GREEN, INC., FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

On June 4th, Wayne Green, Inc., owned by W2NSD - self-appointed "El Supremo" of *73 Amateur Radio Today* filed for bankruptcy. While a shock to many - some people were not surprised. The petition for liquidation under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code was filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire. The Clerk of the Court made a public announcement of the case (No. 96-11550-JEY) on June 12th. We sent for and received all of the paperwork which are public documents.

Under the bankruptcy code, creditors are prohibited from demanding repayment ...or instituting collection or foreclosure action. A creditor's meeting has been scheduled for July 12 at the Federal Building (6th floor) in Manchester, NH. Additional creditors have until October 10, 1996, to file a claim.

### A little Wayne Green history!

There can be no doubt that Wayne Green W2NSD has led a very colorful Amateur Radio life! For one thing, he is the only person ever to run (in 1988) for Vice President of the United States. Actually Wayne's publishing career began in 1951 with a newsletter called *Amateur Radio Frontiers*. He became editor of CQ magazine in 1955 ...a position he held for five years. After being fired at CQ, Green launched *73 Magazine* in 1960. During the early days, his first wife Virginia assisted. They divorced in the mid-1960s.

In 1974, Green was convicted of felony tax fraud and fined \$20,000 plus court costs - a bill he couldn't pay. And *73 Magazine* was floundering. Although divorced from Green, Virginia agreed to assist him in exchange for control of the business and she became its CEO.

A prolific writer/publisher, Green Publishing, Inc., is often credited with founding *Byte* magazine and American Mensa. Neither statement is really true. In any event, when Virginia left Green Publishing, she took the ultra successful *Byte* magazine with her. The best that can be said about his starting Mensa USA, is that he was an early member and even then there is a question as to whether he cheated on the test.

Wayne Green, Inc., was sold to the International Data Group in 1983 ...primarily so IDG could obtain some of Green's more successful computer publications. *73 Magazine* did not fit their mold, however, and Green eventually got it back.

Much of this background is from what has become to be known in industry circles as "*The Little Yellow Book*" ...a short (72 page) biographical booklet written about Wayne Green in 1988 by Gordon Williamson. He was an attorney who worked at *Byte* magazine with Virginia and later became his wife. Williamson said he wrote the book to warn voters about Green's Vice

Presidential candidacy. He said "...it is my opinion that a worse national leader would be hard to concoct."

Green never legally contested any of the highly uncomplimentary things Williamson had to say about him. But then, most of Williamson's research ammunition came from Green's editorials which spanned several decades.

### "El Supremo" appears, "Publisher" disappears

Up until late-1995, Green was listed as the Editor/Publisher of *73* magazine. Then the term "El Supremo" began to appear on the masthead. What does that mean? Basically it means he was no longer the owner of *73 Magazine*.

The June 20th *Peterborough Transcript*, quotes Wayne Green's third wife, Sherry Smythe-Green as saying she bought *73 Magazine* from Wayne Green "for 'about \$750,000 cash' in April 1994 because WGI had been badly mismanaged and the profitable magazine was in danger of being put out of business." She also was quoted as not knowing about "...corruption in the business as a result of terrible management" until last July when the IRS demanded \$250,000 in back taxes.

On January 12, 1995, two previous *73* magazine employees were awarded a total in excess of \$25,000 as a result of back wage claims. The Cheshire County Superior Court upheld the award. To avoid payment, the two employees allege that Green then transferred the ownership of *73 Magazine* - his "...only significant asset" to an unregistered firm, Shabromat Way, Ltd., controlled by Sherry Smythe-Green, "...an insider of Wayne Green, Inc." An April 1996 petition to the court alleges that the transfer was made "...for an inadequate consideration and was therefore fraudulent as to existing creditors..."

The plaintiffs believe "Defendant Wayne Green, Inc., became insolvent as a result of the transfer, and that "...Sherry Smythe-Green had "...participated in the fraudulent transfer."

In short, the plaintiffs believe that *73 magazine* was transferred to Green's wife to release him from having to pay the judgement since he had no money or assets. The petition further charges that Green "...failed to properly publish notice of the transfer of ownership of the magazine in accordance with United States Postal Regulations as required by 39 U.S.C. 3685."

A "Petition to Attach" was sent to Green notifying him of the employee's intention to attach the "property, inventory, equipment and fixtures" of Shabromat Way, Ltd. The Court ordered Green to respond to the suit by June 4, 1996."

On June 4th, however, Green filed a voluntary petition for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. He estimated his assets as "Under \$50,000" with more than \$1 million in liabilities. Green listed 19 different company names that he had operated under during the past five years including "*73 Magazine, Radio Flash* (we believe this is a misprint

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which should be *Radio Fun*) and *Uncle Wayne's Books*." Many of the companies were music industry related.

The included "Statement of Affairs" shows that Wayne Green, Inc., realized nearly \$750,000 from the sale of *73 Magazine*, *Radio Fun* and *Uncle Wayne's Books*. While gross income (sales) from business operations was \$1,656,127 in 1994, 1995 showed only \$283,321 ...with none coming from his now sold amateur radio pursuits. And \$210,962 of that income was for "management fees." (According to the statement, *73 Magazine* had sales of \$422,342 in 1994.)

Various attachments showed more than \$60,000 in unpaid legal judgements against him and a checking account balance of only \$18.99. Accounts receivable was listed as \$88,912.41 - with most being at least 120 days past due.

There were three claims for "employment-related damages" - two from former Wayne Green, Inc., managers totaling \$241,989.79 and another \$60,747.17 breach of contract claim against a San Antonio ham operator/investor (K5CB) involving a failed WGI attempt to publish *Cold Fusion*, an experimental energy magazine.

We assumed the damage claims were for the alleged mismanagement. But we spoke to both of the managers involved and neither said they were aware of any claim for damages against them. K5CB, on the other hand, said he was aware of the dispute concerning *Cold Fusion* magazine.

Of the \$391,649.37 in assets claimed by Green, \$302,736.96 were for the four claims for the unpaid damages mentioned above. Liabilities: (all secured and unsecured creditors) total \$1,273,417.42.

Creditors included: \$22,010.52 owed to IRS, \$23,000 to AT&T and \$42,000 to MCI and \$132,604.01 to "U.S. Optical Disc" which has begun foreclosure. A public auction is scheduled for July 17. Strangely, according to the bankruptcy papers, Wayne Green, Inc., still owes \$246,475.83 to his wife, Sherry Smythe-Green and another \$471,715 to Wayne Green (himself.)

On the last page of the Voluntary Bankruptcy Petition is a "Declaration under Penalty of Perjury." Just above Wayne Green's signature is the statement "I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read the answers contained in the foregoing statement of financial affairs and any attachments thereto and that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge." The words "penalty of perjury" have been strangely lined out. A subsequent paragraph notifies the signor that "Penalty for making a false statement: Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both."

As to the future of *73 Magazine*, we assume that it will continue to be ghost published by his wife (and now owner) Sherry Smythe-Green with "El Supremo" continuing on the masthead. That is, unless the Cheshire Superior Court rules that Green improperly transferred *73 magazine* to his wife. (Researched from public documents.)

## VANITY CALL SIGN PROGRAM NOW IN OPERATION

Larry Weikert of the FCC's Gettysburg, PA licensing facility advises that most Gate 1 "Vanity" call signs are being issued without a problem.

Gate 1 got underway on schedule May 31st ...the first day that applications could be accepted. Unfortunately several applications had to be returned since they were received early. In the interest of fairness, strict adherence to the "starting bell" is being observed. This will be particularly important once Gate 2 opens and thousands of "Vanity" call sign applications begin pouring in for choice station call signs. The opening of Gate 1(A) for clubs to obtain a deceased members call sign *in memoriam* is expected any day now.

Gate One permits amateurs to reclaim previously held call signs. There are three categories:

- (1.) Previously held call signs may be requested. You do not have to hold an appropriate Group call sign. (For example, you may request a Group "A" 1-by-2 format call sign even if you are currently a Technician Class operator providing you can document that you held that call sign in the past.)
- (2.) Station call signs of close relatives (defined as a spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or in law.) may be requested provided your current call sign Group is at least that of the deceased. Important: Use only these words! Do not indicate "son" or "daughter" instead of "child."
- (3.) Club stations may request previously held call signs. The trustee does not have to hold a class of operator license required for any Group.

Nearly 2,000 amateurs have already applied to have their call signs changed - about 1,300 have been issued. Here is a list of the receipts for Vanity call signs for the first couple of weeks:

Date	No.	Date:	No.	Date:	No.
May 31	371	June 3	696	June 4	146
June 5	68	June 6	164	June 7	102
June 10	136	June 11	39	June 12	68
June 13	76	June 14	70	June 17	16

About 60% to 70% of the requested station call changes are going through "automatically" but several are hitting the "WIPs" (work in progress) error list and require manual handling. One of the biggest problems seems to be amateurs requesting the call sign of a deceased relative whose call sign is still in the active amateur database. Nobody has requested that the deceased amateur's call sign be canceled. The proper way to cancel a deceased amateur's call sign is to send a signed letter to the FCC (1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325) with a copy of the death certificate or an obituary from a newspaper. No other way is acceptable.

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

• **You might want to hold off buying a new VCR and get ready for the Digital Video Disk and DVD Player roll out!** DVDs are 5-inch plastic disks that look like CDs that can store up to 17 gigabytes of information on a single side - enough for a two hour plus movie. One DVD can hold as much as 30 CDs!

You'll see them on store shelves within three months! Toshiba says their DVD-ROM player will be available for Christmas selling. (DVD-ROMs can also play CD-ROM disks but not vice-versa.) Video games, music with video and movies-on-disk will get the opening push.

The picture and sound quality is breath-taking and exceeds anything yet available. There is none of the "snow", ghosted images or visible signal degradation commonly associated with analog video cassette recorders.

The worldwide market is huge! There are some 350 million TV households and 250 million have a VCR. It is not expected that DVDs will be popular for 2 years due to the necessity to phase in the hardware. That means that early DVD disks will be mostly remanufactured CD titles.

There are only about 50 million "computer families." The first PC-equipped DVD-ROM players are also expected by year end. And look for the PC to migrate from the desk to the living room. For the first time, music, game, movie and PC application software can be stored on the same medium. Expect many PC programs to contain video clips.

## COMPUTER INFO

■ **Be sure your next PC supports the MPC-3 (multimedia PC version 3) standard.** MPC is defined by the Multimedia Marketing Council formed in 1989 out of an alliance between Microsoft, IBM and Tandy. There are tons of new voice and video software products coming on the market. Some allow voice mail attachments to e-mail, vocal collaboration on documents, audio "post-it" notes, and real-time video images. MPC-3 includes MPEG-1 video-playback at 30 frames/sec., at least a 75-MHz Pentium processor, 8MB of memory, 540 MB of

hard drive, quad-speed (4X, 250 ns access) CD-ROM, 16-bit sound card with wave-table synthesizer and 3-watt stereo speakers. Sound expensive? Not really. MPC-3 machines cost in the \$1,500 to \$3,000 class with upgrade kits selling around \$400.

■ **Monitors aren't covered by the MPC-3 standard,** but you need 0.28 mm dot pitch resolution or less with a 70-75 Hz "refresh" rate to eliminate flicker. (This is the number of times the screen is redrawn in one second.) There are no federal rules concerning screen size so manufacturers use the picture tube size and include the portion hidden behind the case. Be aware that 15-inch monitors (\$350) are about 11-inches wide with 13 to 14-inch diagonal images. A 17-inch monitor is closer to 15-inches and costs twice as much for 30% more viewing area.

■ **Prices are dropping drastically for PCs. Be on the alert for bargain prices!** The June 18th *Wall Street Journal* says cheaper parts are causing new personal computers to sell for 40% less than last fall! "A year ago, a Compaq Computer Corp. PC running on a 100 megahertz microprocessor cost \$2,999. Today, a nearly identical model retails for \$1599 - a 47% drop!" Dynamic RAM (memory) chips have dropped 60% since January! Intel's 166-MHz Pentium processor was introduced in January at \$740. "...the 200-MHz Pentium rolled out last week ...at \$599." And price cutting will worsen as the holiday season approaches.

■ **Sony is the newest company to enter the PC business!** They introduced a new line a couple of weeks ago at New York's PC Expo. "PC by Sony" goes on sale this fall. The machine, which hopes to capitalize on the Sony name, will actually be made by Intel.

## INTERNET NEWS

• **Huge, new revenue stream in the works for the nation's airlines? Seat-back wagering could join seat-back telephoning.** You can gamble on a cruise ship, but not on an airliner since in-flight casinos are illegal in the United States. But that could change if the airlines get their way. They want to get the

barriers lifted so high rollers with time on their hands can shoot craps, play blackjack and pull slots at 30,000 feet. Some countries permit seat-back casinos via a color screen and keyboard. AirView and in-Flight Entertainment already offer airborne multimedia web-surfing, movies-on-demand, interactive games and E-mail to 10-inch seat-back color screens.

■ **More "making-money-by-giving-it-away" marketing.** "Planet Direct" is a new software package for Internet users available free to local Internet Service Providers. It bundles e-mail, chat groups, yellow pages and other information for use by ISP subscribers. The idea is for the *Planet Direct* to have a large installed user base so they can sell advertising.

■ **The national Internet Service Providers (ISP) are going local!** AT&T will be taking a local approach to its Internet roll out. The AT&T *Hometown Network* will shortly be popping up in 70 cities around the country. We heard they were budgeting over \$100 million to launch the network. The idea is to give a local flair to Internet access to combat local ISPs (there are some 1,400 of them) ...and to sell advertising. Microsoft is doing the same thing with its *CityScape* which will focus on entertainment options in major cities. America On-Line has its *Digital Cities* concept. Look for many ISPs to shut up shop ...or to concentrate on business customers. *Pipeline* has already closed down and *Netcom* is moving away from entry-level subscribers.

■ **Are Internet taxes far away? Probably not!** Internet Service Providers took in more than \$2 billion last year in subscriber fees and the states are looking for ways to tax it. Some are already adding sales and service taxes. Another area being looked at is a tax on sales made in cyberspace - even when the seller does not have a physical presence in the state. It is estimated that \$125 billion will be transacted over the Internet by the year 2000 and state treasurers want a piece of the action. We also heard rumblings about an NISF (*National Information Superhighway Fund*) tax - the goal of which is to bring net connections to schools and libraries.

■ **Renting your way onto the Internet!** Wyse Technology, Inc., of San Jose, CA has unveiled a \$500 terminal

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that allows consumers to rent software by the hour and to surf the Internet. Cost is \$40 a month for the hardware and \$1 per hour to use Microsoft and other software. The programs can't be pirated because the software is never transferred to the users' terminals. Instead it resides on servers operated on the Internet and is accessed through high speed modems.

■ **Update on "Battle of the Browsers"** The bottom line is that Microsoft stock is going up, Netscape down! The Microsoft Explorer is coming on strong against the Netscape Navigator - which still has a commanding lead. Analysts predict that by year end, however, after Microsoft ships their Version 3.0, 10 million of the 30 million surfers will be using the Explorer. Microsoft just added another 20 download links so the public can obtain a free copy of "Beta 1" of Version 3.0. They now have 40 servers spewing out Explorers around the clock!

## WASHINGTON WHISPERS

■ Speaking at a wireless communications seminar, **FCC Commissioner Susan Ness spoke about "our most valuable and renewable resource ...the radio spectrum."** Big business has already paid over \$20 billion at six auctions for portions of it already and "The demand for useable spectrum greatly exceeds the supply." Here is a one column recap of a six page speech...

Ness highlighted eight principles guiding the allocation of spectrum:

1) The spectrum belongs to the public; "Because spectrum is a national resource, the public must be compensated for its use. Auctions are one source of payment. Meaningful public interest obligations and user fees are two other ways of paying for use of this public good."

2) We must review and reallocate spectrum expeditiously.

"...the Commission has not always responded as rapidly as we should to accommodate advances in technology."

3) We must promote efficient use of both licensed and unlicensed spectrum. "[commercial] licensees operating in the 220 MHz band demonstrated products that transmitted voice and data in extraordinarily efficient 5 KHz channels. That is 5 times more efficient than typical FM systems. ...The Commission must also promote spectrum efficiency in the unlicensed bands ...adapting technologies to avoid interference."

4) We must give licensees greater flexibility to respond to marketplace needs. "I believe that we should provide greater ser-

vice flexibility, particularly for emerging technologies."

5) We must generally avoid mandating standards.

"The marketplace should resolve the debate between competing technologies."

6) Licenses must be issued expeditiously.

"The Commission is streamlining its licensing processes. ...the wireless bureau has instituted electronic filing. This can take weeks of license and renewal response times. License modifications can also be made 'on line.' Our licensing databases also are being placed on the Internet ...we have relied upon the private sector whenever possible to perform many ministerial tasks."

7) Not all spectrum or services were created equal.

"Public safety and amateur radio are two other areas where auctioning may not serve the public interest."

8) We must coordinate internally to lead externally.

"The United States has a strong international leadership role to play."

## ■ Landmark First Amendment decision in a Philadelphia federal court!

The Communications Decency Act (CDA) is a provision of the far ranging telecommunications legislation signed into law February 8 by President Clinton. The CDA was passed by Congress with little knowledge of the Internet - what it is and how it works. Distributing "indecent" or "patently offensive" content even through a "link" to another website became a felony offense punishable by a \$250,000 fine and two years in jail!

Its primary sponsor was Sen. James Exon (D-Neb) who convinced his associates to vote for the measure by escorting them into a Senate cloakroom and showing them dirty pictures culled from the Internet. None wanted their constituents to think that they supported pornography so they felt compelled to vote for it.

Their stated objective was to outlaw what they believed to be pornography that could be accessed by children. But it had the effect of banning all questionable content to everyone. And there were already laws on the books that prohibited child pornography and obscenity.

Furthermore, and most important, unlike the broadcast media, the Internet is an around-the-clock, multi-time zone global medium. What is indecent in one country may not be in another. The French, for example, consider violence (permitted by CDA) as indecent, but not bedroom antics. How do you make a global network conform to all local community standards?

Internet access is similar to cable-TV

...not like over-the-air broadcasting which is uses "public airwaves" and is theoretically accessible to all. You have to subscribe (and pay) for the Internet.

Even if the law was allowed to stand, there was no absolutely no way to enforce it since no one knew where to draw the line, who should draw it ...or what yardstick to use. For example: Is "How to use a condom" or frank discussions on STD's from the "safersex.org" website indecent? Apparently many people think so. And how do you block out just portions of websites?

In a 175-page decision, the three federal judge panel blocked enforcement of CDA by granting a preliminary injunction. They ruled that:

- 1) Congress must extend as much liberty to cyberspace as they extend to any other medium ...including the printed word. "The Internet is a profoundly democratic channel for communication which must be nurtured as the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed ..and not stifled. The Internet deserves the highest protection from governmental intrusion."
- 2) The wording of CDA was vague and unenforceable since 40% of Internet content comes from abroad.
- 3) Protecting children from indecency has a "chilling effect" on adult speech.
- 4) Technical solutions can't consistently protect children from indecency since they were likely to come across indecent material by chance. The three judges even tested software that screens out indecent material and concluded that offensive material is best addressed by parents and teachers.

The bottom line, according to the panel was "There is no effective way to limit the effective reach of the CDA to adults, because there is no realistic way to ascertain the age of those accessing their materials." The full text of the ruling is on the American Civil Liberties Union website at: <http://www.aclu.org>.

You can expect a Justice Department (and Christian Coalition) appeal ...all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. Most experts believe, however, the high court will agree with the Philadelphia decision. In the meantime, the (sometimes racy) Internet continues on as it has in the past.

## FCC INUNDATED WITH 10,000 E-MAIL MESSAGES!

In our last issue we told about a potential threat to the 2-meter and 70-cm ham bands caused by the possibility that these bands could be reallocated to commercial LEO (low earth orbiting) satellite use. These are two of the bands under consideration by a WRC-97 Industry Advisory Committee considering the Mobile Satellite Services.

When the working group refused to withdraw the 144-148 and 420-450 MHz bands from consideration, the American Radio Relay League suggested that amateurs provide input to the committee members. The five member committee received thousands of electronic messages which completely shut down their ability to communicate by e-mail.

We have now received a letter from the FCC's representative to the IWG-2A working group. Cecily C. Holiday is with the International Bureau, Satellite and Radio-communication Division in Washington, DC 20554. He writes:

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The W5YI Group, Inc.  
Fred Maia, W5YI - Editor  
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Dear Mr. Maia:

In recent days, over 1,000 members of the Amateur Radio community have contacted me regarding the upcoming 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva and expressed strong concern that U.S. proposals will impact adversely on spectrum allocated for Amateur bands. My purpose in writing to you is to respond to these concerns and to provide you with additional information regarding the WRC-97 preparatory process and its relation to existing services.

Many of the comments I received have focused on a list of "candidate" frequency bands discussed at the May 7 meeting of the WRC-97 preparatory Industry Advisory Working Committee Informal Working Group 2A (IWG-2A). The comments suggest that the Amateur Radio Service bands, specifically the 144-148 and 420-450 MHz bands, have been targeted as a source of spectrum for future Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) operations.

First, I want to assure the amateur radio community that no amateur bands have been selected for reallocation. The list of bands generated on May 7th represent only the IWG-2A's initial efforts to study spectrum use below 1 GHz in order to assess the feasibility of proposing world-wide MSS allocations in that range. Before recommending preliminary proposals for consideration by the Commission, IWG-2A participants must first conduct sharing studies among a range of services using frequencies below 1 GHz. These studies are necessary in order to determine the feasibility of sharing between services, and whether recommending any specific frequency band will be fruitful.

Second, the bands listed reflect only the initial component of a long-term effort to conduct sharing studies before submitting the Committee's proposals to the Commission for review. We intend to conduct sharing studies in bands currently occupied by government and non-government users. In any case, I want to emphasize that the survey on spectrum use is an international matter which involves all frequencies below 1 GHz.

Finally, the current WRC-97 preparatory process, as in years past, operates under a Congressional statute designed to encourage maximum participation by all interested parties. Therefore, all written and electronic comments received at the Commission to date by Amateur Radio operators have been included as part of the public record on WRC-97 proceedings. However, in the interest of efficiency, we have created a designated FCC office and e-mail site to channel future WRC-97 comments directly to the WRC-97 Committee Chairs. I have included our latest Public Notice outlining these changes and urge you to share it with your members.

I appreciate the many valuable contributions the amateur radio community has made to the progress of radio technology and to ensuring the safety of the American public. I look forward to working with you so that we can continue to advance the use of exciting telecommunications technology both in the U.S. and abroad.

Sincerely  
s/ Cecily C. Holiday,  
Director, WRC-97 Preparatory Team  
Enclosure

Federal Communications Commission  
Public Notice - June 6, 1996

## PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS TO THE WRC-97 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On March 14, 1996, the Committee released Public Notice (No. 61997) (Streamlining Notice), that announced its new streamlined World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) preparatory process. Under this new process, formal Notice of Inquiry (NOI) proceedings are eliminated in favor of developing WRC proposals in the Commission's WRC-97 Advisory Committee.

This removes the redundancy that was inherent in our previous "NOI-WRC Advisory Committee" process and enables the United States to respond more effectively to the rapidly evolving international environment and to the ITU's new two-year WRC schedule.

The Streamlining Notice included general guidelines for submission of public comments to the Advisory Committee. The Notice states that procedures would be developed to ensure that members of the public continue to have full opportunity to participate in the development of WRC proposals under the new streamlined process, including those parties who do not attend meetings of the Advisory Committee and IWGs.

Since the release of the Streamlining Notice, we

have gained experience with our new process. We now provide these procedures for submitting comments to the Advisory Committee.

- Comments on Ongoing Advisory Committee Matters: Parties who wish to comment on the ongoing deliberations of the Advisory Committee and its IWGs may do so at any time.
- Comments on Preliminary Proposals: As announced in the Streamlining Notice, preliminary WRC proposals developed by the Advisory Committee will be released by the Commission in periodic Public Notices. These Public Notices will allow an opportunity for public comment and will provide the appropriate procedures, such as filing deadlines, to be followed.

In either case, parties wishing their comments to be considered directly by the appropriate Advisory Committee group and to become part of the Advisory Committee's public record should submit their comments in writing to:

Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

or by e-mail at "wrc97@fcc.gov." Commenters are requested to file an original plus one copy.

The comment should reference the Advisory Committee public record file number "Reference No. ISP-96-005" and the appropriate Advisory Committee Informal Working Group, if known, in which their submission should be considered. The FCC staff will ensure that comments filed are considered in the appropriate groups.

For the most expeditious and efficient consideration of their comments, parties should refrain from filing comments directly with the Chair of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Informal Working Groups, with individual FCC staff members or private sector participants in the Advisory Committee process.

For additional information, contact Cecily C. Holiday, Federal officer of the WRC-97 Advisory Committee, or Damon C. Ladson, Alternate Federal Officer at (202) 418-0749, or consult the WRC-97 Homepage on the Internet - (<http://www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc97/>)

## ONE-BY-ONE - SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGNS

After an eighteen lapse, one-by-one special event amateur station call signs are once again available. The program was originally requested by the American Radio Relay League as part of the "Vanity" call sign program. Although final action on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making has not yet been approved, the FCC has gone ahead and implemented the program on a temporary

basis.

Our understanding is that the League's attorney, Chris Imlay, N3AKD, (of Booth, Freret & Imlay, 1233 20th Street NW, Suite 204, Washington, DC 20036) wanted special event call signs allocated for the World Radiosport Team Competition (see page 10.) The FCC agreed to allow the program to get started early provided the ARRL maintained the database of special event call signs for the FCC. Full commissioner approval of the program is expected shortly.

Special event call signs consist of a single prefix letter (K, N or W), the region number (0 to 9) and a single suffix letter (A-Z, except the letter X). There are 750 such call signs. There is no charge to obtain the call sign. Imlay simply completes a form letter and walks it over to the FCC.

You must indicate the nature of the event and certify that the event is of special significance to the amateur community. The special event call sign can be used for a period not to exceed that of the special event, or for 15 days, whichever is less.

Station call sign W3A went to the Potomac Valley Radio Club to commemorate the 95th anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic transmission. The World Radiosport Team Competition got 50 different one-by-one's. They originally applied for 52 call signs, but K6X and W6X could not be issued since call signs with the letter "X" following the numeral are allocated to experimental (non-amateur) stations.

And W7F ("F" as in "Fish") will be running a special events radio station September 21 and 22 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Hatchery located at Leavenworth, WA to commemorate the 1996 Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. They will operate on (20 meters) 14.252, (40 meters) 7.252 and (80 meters) 3.855 MHz. QSL cards go to: "Fish", General Delivery, Leavenworth, WA 98826.

■ Tandy/Radio Shack has notified their employees through a notice in their company newsletter that the FCC has eliminated the conflict of interest rules and Radio Shack employees can now serve as volunteer examiners for Amateur Radio license testing.

■ There have been reports that pirate stations located in Lebanon are using 435.100 MHz. which is interfering with AMSAT 70-cm Mode B OSCAR-10 satellite communications. The non-amateur stations keep the channel clear by transmitting with a tone generator ...except when they want to access the frequency. In addition, there has been Lebanese interference on the Mode JA 145.850, 145.900 and 145.975 MHz uplink frequencies used by the UO-22, KO-23 and KO-25 amateur communications satellites.



# W5YI REPORT

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #9

July 1, 1996

## NATIONAL FREQUENCY COORDINATOR'S COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST B.O.D. ELECTION

On June 16th, Dick Wormser, K6LEW, Chairman of the newly established National Frequency Coordinator's Council sent out an e-mail ballot for the first NFCC Board of Director's election. The NFCC is an organization formed to serve as the communications channel between the repeater community and the FCC. Fourteen candidates are running for five NFCC Director slots. They are:

Dave Barrow, N9UNR (Attorney)  
 Whit Brown, WB0CJX (Colorado Coordinator 25 yrs.)  
 William Creighton, K8TUT (Professor Emeritus Ohio Univ. College Engineering/Technology)  
 James T. Fortney, K6IY; (Repeater Owner/1958)  
 Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW; (Pres. Texas VHF-FM Society)  
 Dick Isely, WD9GIG; (MACC Pres./Ret. Airline Capt.)  
 Bill Kelsey, W6QC (SCRRBA Chairman)  
 Jim Mozley, W2BCH (Lic. 1939/Ex.Cl., Coord. Chrmn.)  
 Dave Ship.ett, AC4MU (SERA Pres. - Ret. USAF);  
 Don Smith, W6NKF (Lic. 46 years - NARCC president)  
 Ralph S. Turk, W7HSG (Lic. 41 yrs/AZ Coord Chrmn.)  
 Willem Van Aller, K3CZ (Lic.49 yrs - TMARC)  
 Bill Werner, W3EAO (Lic. 37 yrs - TMARC)  
 Owen Wormset, K6LEW (Lic. 44 ys - T-MARC Pres.)

All candidates have stated their willingness to serve on the initial NFCC Board of Directors. A rather complicated "proportional voting system" is in effect for this and all subsequent NFCC elections. The number of votes each state/organization has is based on the total number of amateurs within a particular state (from the 1996 Call-book census) which are apportioned to the various coordinating organizations covering those states.

### 1996 NFCC STATE VOTE CALCULATION

State/Area	Licensed	%	Votes	Organiz.(s)
Alabama	10,165	1.47	3	LCARC
Alaska	3,099	0.45	1	
Arizona	4,198	2.05	4	ACARC
Arkansas	6,340	0.92	2	ARC
California	105,023	15.18	30	Note 1
Colorado	11,247	1.63	3	CCARC
Connecticut	9,287	1.34	3	TSARC
Delaware	1,462	0.21	1	TMARC
Dist. Columbia	537	0.08	1	TMARC
Florida	42,079	6.08	12	FRC
Georgia	14,020	2.03	4	SERA
Guam	548	0.08	1	
Hawaii	3,376	0.49	1	HSRAC
Idaho	3,637	0.53	1	IACC
Illinois	24,437	3.53	7	IRA
Indiana	15,217	2.20	4	IRC
Iowa	6,996	1.01	2	IRC

State/Area	Licensed	%	Votes	Organiz.(s)
Kansas	7,507	1.09	2	KARC
Kentucky	8,416	1.22	2	SERA
Louisiana	7,437	1.08	2	LCARC
Maine	4,303	0.62	1	NESMC
Maryland	11,955	1.73	3	TMARC
Massachusetts	15,939	2.30	5	MESMC
Michigan	21,130	3.05	6	MARC/UPARRA
Minnesota	10,699	1.55	3	MRC
Mississippi	4,553	0.66	1	SERA
Missouri	12,549	1.81	4	MRC
Montana	2,769	0.40	1	MT FC
Nebraska	3,056	0.59	1	NE FC
Nevada	3,908	0.56	1	CARCON
New Hampshire	4,736	0.68	1	NESMC
New Jersey	17,754	2.57	5	ARCC/TSARC
New Mexico	4,812	0.70	1	NMFCC
New York	36,737	5.31	11	Note 2
North Carolina	16,752	2.42	5	SERA
North Dakota	1,696	0.25	1	ND FC
Ohio	31,330	4.53	9	OARC
Oklahoma	8,953	1.29	3	ORSI
Oregon	12,392	1.79	4	ORRC
Pennsylvania	25,649	3.71	7	ARCC/WPRC
Puerto Rico	8,697	1.26	3	PR&VI FC
Rhode Island	2,608	0.38	1	NESMC
South Carolina	6,251	0.90	2	SERA
South Dakota	1,536	0.22	1	SD FC
Tennessee	13,460	1.95	4	SERA
Texas	40,892	5.91	12	TVHFS
Utah	6,920	1.00	2	UVHFS
Vermont	2,134	0.31	1	VIRCC
Virgin Islands	355	0.05	1	PR&VI FC
Virginia	16,510	2.39	5	SERA/TMARC
Washington	23,555	3.41	7	IACC/WWARA
West Virginia	5,976	0.86	2	SERA/TMARC
Wisconsin	10,436	1.51	3	WAR
Wyoming	1,592	0.23	1	WY FC

Note 1 - California: NARCC/SCRRBA/TASMA/220SMA  
 Note 2 - NY: SLVRC/TSARC/UNYREPCO/VIRCC/  
 WNYSORC

### 1996 NFCC ORGANIZATION VOTE LIST

ORGANIZATION	STATE/ VOTES
Alabama Repeater Council	AL 3
Alaska Frequency Coordinators	AK 1
Arizona Council of Amateur Radio Clubs	AZ 4
Arkansas Repeater Council	AR 2
Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs	CO 3
Florida Repeater Council	FL 12
Guam Frequency Coordinator	GU 1
Hawaii State Repeater Advisory Council	HI 1
Iowa Repeater Council	IA 2
Illinois Repeater Association	IL 7

ORGANIZATION	STATE/ VOTES	
Indiana Repeater Council	IN	4
Kansas Amateur Repeater Council	KS	2
Louisiana Council of Amateur Radio Clubs	LA	2
Minnesota Repeater Council	MN	3
Missouri Repeater Council	MO	4
Montana Frequency Coordinators	MT	1
Nebraska Frequency Coordinators	NE	1
New Mexico Freq. Coord. Committee	NM	1
North Dakota Frequency Coordinators	ND	1
Ohio Area Repeater Council	OH	9
Oklahoma Repeater Society Inc.	OK	3
Oregon Region Relay Council	OR	4
South Dakota Frequency Coordinators	SD	1
Texas VHF FM Society	TX	12
Utah VHF Society	UT	2
Wisconsin Association of Repeaters	WI	3
Wyoming Frequency Coordinators	WY	1
Area Repeater Coordination Council	E.PA, S.NJ	6
Combined A. R. Clubs of Nevada	N.NV	1
Inland Amateur Coordination Council	E.WA, N.ID	1
Michigan Amateur Repeater Council	Lower MI	5
N. Amateur Repeater Council of Calif	N.CA	11
New Engl. Spectrum Mgt. Council	MA, ME, NH, RI	8
Puerto Rico & Virgin Island Freq. Coord.	PR, VI	4
Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council	NY	1
SouthEastern Repeater Assn	GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, S.VA, W.WV	23
S. Cal. Repeater & Remote Base Assoc.	S.CA	9
220 Spectrum Management Association	S.CA	4
Two Meter Area Spectrum Mgt Assn	S.CA	6
The Middle Atlantic FM & Repeater Council	DE, DC, MD, N.VA, E.WV	7
Tri-State Amateur Repeater Council	CT, N.NJ, NY	10
Upper New York Repeater Council	NY	3
Upper Peninsula Am. Radio Relay Assn	Upper MI	1
Vermont Indep. Repeater Coord Comm	VT, NY	2
W. NY & S. Ontario Repeater Council	NY	2
W. Pennsylvania Repeater Council	W.PA	3
W. Washington Amateur Repeater Assn	W.WA	6
Florida Amateur Digital Comm. Assn	FL	1
Hognet Packet Radio Association	AR	1
Indiana Digital Experimenters Association	IN	1
Kansas Digital Coordination Committee	KS	1
Michigan Packet Council	Lower MI	1
N. Illinois Packet Radio Freq Council	N.IL	1
S. Carolina Amateur Radio Digital Society	SC	1
Twinslan	MN	1
Charles Robertson, KG7WV	WA	1
Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Assn	WI	1

Deadline for posting the ballots is 1200 Midnight PDT, Monday, June 17th.

## 1996 WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM COMPETITION

Fifty-two competing teams plus two exhibition teams of the world's top ham radio HF contest operators will travel to the San Francisco area July 10-15 to compete in the second World Radiosport Team Competition (WRTC-96.)

The first was held in 1990 with 22 competing teams. The defending champions - both from CQ Communications, Inc., John Dorr, K1AR (General Manager, CQ) and "Doug" Grant, K1DG (Editor, CQ Amateur Radio Almanac) are returning for this year's competition.

The 1996 event, which features HF radio operator competition carried on by a two-member team, is being held in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship DX Contest. The idea is to try and work as many stations around the world as possible on phone and CW. To make the competition as meaningful as possible, all teams run exactly 100 watts using identical antennas from the same location. The WRTC stations will be on the air from 12:00 UTC July 13 until 06:00 UTC July 14 on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. You can work a WRTC station only once on CW or SSB on each band. They will be easy to spot since the FCC has authorized 50 special "one-by-one" W6A-W6Z and K6A-K6Z call signs (The experimental calls W6X and K6X can not be used.)

The competition is being assisted by a special grant of \$5,000 provided by world renown HF DX operator, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG. Lloyd purchased a life insurance policy in 1994 and named the ARRL as beneficiary. The ARRL Colvin Award is awarded in the form of grants to promote Amateur Radio and international good will.

Yaesu Musen (Tokyo) and Yaesu USA are sponsoring two of the teams: Team Finland and Team PRC from the People's Republic of China.

The selection of Team Finland recognizes Finland's outstanding per-capita contribution to the improvement of DXing and Contest competition over many years. Team members OH2IW (Captain) and OH1JT both have an extensive record of world championships to their credit despite their youth.

Support of the Chinese Exhibition Team at the San Francisco competition is an extension of Yaesu's long standing support of Amateur Radio in China since its re-birth in the early 1980's, as well in other countries such as Albania through the 1991 ZA1A IARU Albania Project.

It will be a historic moment when Chinese operators BA1OK and BA4RC hit the airwaves from American soil, the first FCC-sanctioned operation by Chinese citizens in the United States in the Postwar period.

Team Finland and Team PRC will be provided with the latest FT-1000MP transceivers for use during the competition, to enhance their competitiveness in this exciting competition, plus Yaesu support personnel for technical and planning assistance. (Thanks, K7RA)