

W5YI

America'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.

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IARU Region 2 Amateur Societies Hold Triennial Conference

The officers, directors, and member-societies of IARU Region 2 converged on Guatemala City, Guatemala on September 30th to meet at the XIV Session of the IRU Region 2 General Assembly of Delegates. These conferences are held once every three years in each of the three IARU Regions. IARU Region 2 follows the same geographical boundaries as ITU Region 2, i.e. North, Central, and South America.

The Region 2 Conference was held from October 1 to 5, 2001 ...with the day before being devoted to a Special General Assembly to consider updating the Region's By-Laws, Constitution and Standard Operating Procedures for IARU Region 2. The proceedings of the week-long conference were governed by the new documents.

The Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala (CRAG) was the host Society. The conference was well organized by Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD, President of the Committee and Samuel Arévalo, TG9CC, Secretary. It was held at the Marriott hotel in downtown Guatemala City.

About half the possible national societies were represented. Thirteen attended in person and another eight were represented by proxy votes. Wives and relatives not participating in the working sessions were treated to alternate activities such as visits to the city, churches, museums and shopping centers.

An amateur radio station was installed at the

Marriott Hotel for the use of the delegates which used the callsign TG0IARU. The Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala also issued a temporary permit to the delegates which allowed them to operate under their own callsign with a TG9 prefix.

Organization of the Conference

The Conference was organized along Working Committees. Each of the accredited Delegates and Observers were invited to take part in a Working Group of their choice. The Working Groups consisted of Committee "A" - Administrative Matters; Committee "B" - Technical and Operational Matters; Committee "C" - VHF/UHF/Satellites/Digimode and Committee "D" - Finances and Credentials which was presided over by the Treasurer.

Committees A, B and C each selected a President and Secretary and presented their final committee report on Thursday, October 4th for discussion and approval by the Second Plenary Assembly on Friday, the last day of the Conference.

Proposals approved by the Second Plenary Assembly become the Guatemala Conference Decisions and Recommendations. Decisions are taken by majority. Each Principal Delegate voted for his/her Society and some voted by proxy for absent Societies.

The Final Plenary Session chose the upcoming Executive Committee members.. Elected were Pedro Seidemann YV5BPG (Venezuela) who replaced

Thomas B. J. Atkins, VE3CDM (Canada) as President. Other officers elected were Vice President Dario Jurado, HP1DJ (Panama), Treasurer Noel Donawa, 9Y4NED (Trinidad and Tobago) and ARRL International VP Rod Stafford, W6ROD was elected Secretary.

Additional Executive Committee Members and Area Directors included (re-elected) Reinaldo (Ron) Szama, LU2AH (Argentina) and new members: Tim Ellam, VE6SH (Canada), Pedro Rodriguez CO2RH (Cuba), Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD (Guatemala) and Gustav de Faria Franco, PT2ADM (Brazil.) The Region II Executive Committee met on Saturday morning, October 6th with the IARU Administrative Council meeting following later in the day.

Conference matters

On the conference agenda were some very important issues including the proposed realignment of the 40 meter band and possible changes to the ITU regulations governing Amateur Radio. Much of the discussions at "Guatemala 2001" was centered on WRC-2003 issues and the future of Amateur Radio in the Americas.

The 2000 World Radiocommunication Conference (Istanbul, Turkey) adopted the following agenda items for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference.

- 1.7 to consider issues concerning the amateur and amateur satellite services
- 1.7.1 possible revision of Article S25;
- 1.7.2 review of the provisions of Article S19 concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services in order to provide flexibility for administrations;
- 1.7.3 review the terms and definitions of Article S1 to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article S25.

Article S25 - Amateur Services

Article S25 has been carefully studied over several years by the IARU's Future of the Amateur Service Committee (FASC), chaired by Michael Owen, VK3KI. This committee developed a strategy that was adopted by the IARU Administrative Council. The approach is based on a belief that the interests of the Amateur Services would be best served by suppression (elimination) of the current S25.5, which reads:

"Any person seeking a license shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear texts in Morse code signals. The administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz."

Further, the FASC recommended the incorporation by reference in Article S25 of a new ITU-R Recommendation on Amateur operator qualifications, which has been adopted by ITU-R Study Group 8 and is being circulated to administrations for final approval. The belief is that in-

corporation by reference of a recommendation will ensure the most flexible definition possible of at least a minimum level of qualification.

One of the major benefits to the Amateur Services of incorporating minimum qualifications by reference is the opportunity for the IARU, as a Sector Member, to participate in the work of ITU-R Study Group 8 (SG 8) which has jurisdiction over Amateur matters. The IARU is limited to observer status at WRCs but has full membership and participation rights in ITU Working Parties and Study Groups. It was felt by the Conference that the IARU can satisfactorily influence the output product of a Study Group Working Party rather than risk future changes to Article 25 at future World Radiocommunication Conferences.

It was also thought that the Region 2 Conference in Guatemala would require the ARRL to vote on the controversial S25 International Morse Code testing issue. Instead the Conference sidestepped the issue by endorsing the ability of each sovereign nation to decide their own requirements on Morse examinations in the Amateur Service.

The Conference went along with a revision of Article S25 of the International Radio Regulations that was first suggested by the FASC in 1997 and proposed by the IARU Administrative Council. The proposed new S25 reads:

ARTICLE S25 - Amateur Services

Section I - Amateur Service

S25.1 1. Administrations shall verify the technical and operational qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. A person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall be required to demonstrate a knowledge of the topics specified in ITU-R Recommendation M.[RAM.QUAL].

S25.2 2. (1) Transmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service or of a personal character.

(2) Except with the authority of the relevant administration granted to meet a particular operational need, transmissions between amateur stations shall not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.

S25.3 3. Administrations are urged to take the steps necessary to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in the event of a natural disaster.

S25.4 4. An administration may, without issuing a license, permit a person who has been granted a license to operate an amateur station by another administration, to operate an amateur station while that person is temporarily in its territory, subject to such conditions or restrictions it may impose.

Section II - Amateur-Satellite Service

S25.5 5. The provisions of Section I of this Article shall apply equally, as appropriate, to the amateur-satellite service.

S25.6 6. Administrations authorizing space stations in the

amateur-satellite service shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to ensure that any harmful interference caused by emissions from a station in the amateur-satellite service can be immediately eliminated.

Incorporation by Reference

The ARRL and the Conference supported the recommendations of the FASC, including the proposed revision of Article S25 incorporating by reference Recommendation ITU-R M.[RAM.QUAL]. This Recommendation reads:

DRAFT NEW RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.[RAM.QUAL] Minimum Qualifications of Radio Amateurs

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,
considering

- a) that No. S1.56 of the Radio Regulations (RR) defines the amateur service as: A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest;
- b) that No. S1.57 (RR) defines the amateur-satellite service as: A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purpose as those of the amateur service;
- c) that certain minimum operator operational and technical qualifications are necessary for proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station,

recommends

- 1. that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station;
- 2. that any person seeking a license to operate an amateur station should demonstrate theoretical knowledge of:
 - Radio Regulations
 - international
 - domestic
 - Methods of radiocommunication
 - radiotelephony
 - radiotelegraphy
 - data and image
 - Radio system theory
 - transmitters
 - receivers
 - antennas and propagation
 - measurements
 - Radio emission safety
 - Electromagnetic compatibility
 - Avoidance and resolution of radio frequency interference

Article S19 - Formation of Call Signs

WRC-03 agenda item 1.7.2 had its origin at WRC-2000 as a result of a proposal from Finland and endorsed by the *Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations* (CEPT) seeking additional flexibil-

ity in the formation of amateur call signs.

The International Radio Regulations limits amateur and experimental call sign suffixes to "a group of not more than three letters." This restriction places a limit on the number of possible call sign combinations and their formulation.

The Region 2 Conference agreed on a revision that would increase Amateur callsign suffixes from three to four letters. Such a change would considerably expand the number of possible call sign combinations and provide administrations with increased flexibility without creating conflict with the call sign formats specified for stations in other services.

Article S1 - Terms and Definitions

The Conference saw no need for any changes to Article S1 at this time and believes that opening up basic service or station definitions risks unintended consequences.

Harmonization of the 40 meter band

Consideration of realignment of the 7 MHz band allocations is also on the agenda of the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) and represents an opportunity to improve the condition of the Amateur Services in the 40 meter band.

The 7 MHz band is very heavily used by radioamateurs around the world and is a key band for domestic and international communications in times of natural disaster. But parts of this Amateur band is frequently unusable in Region 2 since it is allocated in ITU Regions 1 and 3 to HF broadcasting.

WRC-2003 agenda item 1.23 will "...consider re-alignment of the allocations to the amateur, amateur-satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis, taking into account Recommendation 718 (WARC-92)."

This Recommendation states that it is desirable to have exclusive worldwide allocations to the amateur and broadcasting services in the 40 meter band and recommends that a future WRC consider this re-alignment, with due regard to the requirements of other services.

At WARC-92, the United States proposed a worldwide Amateur allocation in the band 6900-7200 kHz but this proposal was not adopted. The current ITU frequency allocations between 7000 and 7300 kHz are as shown in the following table:

ITU Region 1	ITU Region 2	ITU Region 3
7000 - 7100	AMATEUR, AMATEUR-SATELLITE	
7100 - 7300 BROADCASTING	7100 - 7300 AMATEUR	7100 - 7300 BROADCASTING

Concludes on Page 10:

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

DivX compression technology is a free "Windows-98" (and later) software application that compresses digital video so it can be downloaded over DSL or cable modems in a relatively short time with no reduced visual quality. It was originally developed by hackers.

The new DivX (a trade-marked brand name) format promises to do for digital video what MP3 did for digital music. And like MP-3, DivX started out being associated with the piracy of copyrighted media ...Hollywood movies traded over - and downloaded from - the Internet. But DivX Networks, Inc., wants the technology to take a legal path and eventually be a legitimate commercial product.

Up until now, huge video files curbed the distribution of movies over the Internet. And even if downloaded, the compressed files were of poor quality. DivX compression technology solves these problems and the quality is very close to that of commercial DVDs.

DivX uses video compression technology based on the MPEG-4 compression standard. MPEG - an acronym for "Moving Pictures Experts Group" - is a standard for compressing sound and movie files into a format that allows for easy downloading across the Internet.

The latest (fourth) generation, MPEG-4 compression reduces an MPEG-2 video (the same format used for DVD or Pay-Per-View) to ten percent of its original size. Video on regular VHS tapes can be reduced to about one hundredth of their original size.

You can now download a full-length, full-motion, full-screen, DVD-quality feature film using a standard broadband (DSL/Cable) connection in about half the time it takes that video to play ...and store it on a single CD. For example, a one hour video will take about 30 minutes to download. See: <www.divx.com>.

Live video from a war zone. Those green screens with explosive flashes are actually live video images of the bombings in Afghanistan. CNN has reporters with "videophones" stationed on mountain tops a few miles from the target areas.

The 20-pound gadget streams the low-bandwidth video images over a portable satellite telephone. While the images are primitive, they are a big improvement over voice-only reports from correspon-

dents in the field during previous conflicts.

The \$7,950 videophone is made by London's 7E Communications Ltd. CNN reporters also used videophones after the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack to get closer to "ground zero" than satellite-uplink broadcast trucks could go.

To stream the video, the videophone is connected to a satellite phone which relays the signal via a geostationary communications satellite. <www.7e.com>.

In the United States, there is roughly one camera for every adult! According to new research from InfoTrends, in five years two-thirds of all cameras sold worldwide will be digital cameras. ...which means that conventional film camera sales are headed for the doldrums.

Today's 2 or 3-million pixel digital images are indistinguishable from - and more reliable - than the chemical methods of film prints. Furthermore, a digital photo can be viewed immediately and re-shot if necessary. And images are already in "jpg" format ...ready for uploading to the Internet.

Most people won't need higher resolution than 640 x 480 pixel resolution if they are going to e-mail snapshots or post photos to the web. Buying the resolution that you need lets you save money and hard disk space.

Dr. Edwin Land's "Polaroid" instant photo camera has already fallen on hard times and has filed for Chapter Eleven bankruptcy. The Gee-Whiz technology of the Sixties is a no-show in the new millennium.

Polaroid's stock is selling for 28 cents a share. A \$50,000.00 investment made just four years ago (when PRD sold for more than \$60 a share) is worth less than \$250 today ...a 99.5% drop.

Internet Acceleration -- SRI International has a patent-pending method of reducing the download time of Web sites in half by intelligently avoiding congestion for all types of Internet traffic.

SRI International, founded as Stanford Research Institute by Stanford University in 1946, is an independent, non-profit research institute. In 1969, SRI's host computer was the first to be accessed via the ARPANET, the first computer network and predecessor of today's Internet.

SRI has also developed a handheld bio-sensor for real-time biological agent detection.

Smart building bricks make walls transparent to signals - The radio spectrum is now so crowded that the only space available for new services to carry the wide bandwidths needed for mobile multimedia and Internet access, are at frequencies above 3 gigahertz.

Radio waves above 2 GHz can not easily pass through house and office walls. A patent pending device called a "Bricksat" is actually a hollowed out standard-size masonry brick that contains a low-power wide-band radio amplifier connected to printed circuit antennas on opposite surfaces of the brick. The Bricksat can pass signals in both directions.

The Bricksat can be powered by house current or a rechargeable battery that is trickle-charged by a solar panel. The main market is luxury house builders.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

There is now widespread doubt as to whether the approaching third-generation wireless phones will be a profitable venture. It will cost significantly more to use your wireless 3G cell-phone as a computer. Do people really want to download MP3 files, watch television, play games and participate in video-conferences over tiny screen mobile phones? Cost of the handset alone will be several hundred dollars more. Many analysts believe the killer app for 3G will be the same as it was for 2G (digital): voice. (Analog cell phones were the first generation.) The big advantage of 3G will be increased network capacity.

On the other hand, using cell phones for non-voice purposes is expanding -- Sending short (up to 160-character) messages is wildly popular overseas. Some 750 million SMS (Short Messaging Service) cell phone messages are sent every day worldwide. SMS use is practically non-existent here in the United States ...but it is increasing. Carriers say this increased demand is prompting them to add more SMS-capable phones to their hardware lineup.

Verizon Wireless, the nation's biggest wireless carrier, introduced a text messaging service nationwide earlier this year and now sells 10 SMS-capable handsets.

Sabre (which owns most of Travelocity.com) now delivers personalized airline information to confirmed air travelers carrying Web or SMS-enabled

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wireless phones who sign up at their <www.virtuallythere.com> website. Included are real-time information on flights, delays cancellations, gate assignments and weather. Also recommended is destination information such as restaurants, sporting events and sightseeing. The service is available in seven languages.

The world's No. 1 handset maker, Finland's Nokia has introduced a weird looking wireless phone that doubles as a pocket-size digital music player, stereo FM radio, enhanced messaging machine and a games platform.

The phone comes with various short messaging service (SMS) features, including picture messaging, multiple SMS chat, SMS sending to multiple recipients and the sending of long SMS text messages in smaller pieces.

The Nokia 5510 device does not look like a cellphone at all, instead having phone buttons and a full "QWERTY" keyboard either side of a small full color screen. Basically Nokia took a cellphone, turned it sideways and added a full keyboard

Aimed specifically at the teen and young-adult (16 to 25 year old) markets, the bulky 5.5 ounce device has 64 MB of memory for storing up to two hours of music, voice dialing, Internet access and other features.

The provided Nokia Audio Manager PC software and connectivity cable enable users to rip music files from their own CDs and download them to the Nokia 5510. Users can listen to music either on the music player or the FM radio and simultaneously play games.

It will be available first overseas where 3-G wireless is being rolled out. Cost is 399 Euros ...about \$360 USD.

Another hot non-voice cell phone commodity overseas are personalized "ring tones." These are digitally delivered music files that play melodies for up to 30 seconds when an incoming call is received. People customize their phones with their favorite song. Ringtone royalty revenues in Japan alone are estimated at \$300 million. The songs must be licensed from music publishers.

Unless people participate in a discount calling plan, just picking up their phones and placing international long distance calls can be expensive! On Oct. 11, 2001, the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau and the International Bureau presented a report to

the Commission highlighting the wide range of prices American consumers can pay for the same international long distance call.

Generally, long distance calls are billed by the minute. If consumers have made no advance arrangements with their phone company to participate in a calling plan, and they just pick up their phone and place an international call, they will be paying basic (non-discounted) rates.

In addition to offering basic rates, telephone companies offer a variety of other ways to charge international calls. Calling plans, dial-around, pre-paid cards, and callback services often offer rates that are much lower than a company's basic rates.

An example given by the FCC said that the Basic Rate to call France was \$1.99 per minute while the cost of a Calling Plan dropped to 17¢ per minute plus a \$3.00 monthly fee. Dial-Around Services offer this call for 22¢ per minute plus a 10¢ connection fee.

The FCC has a brochure on international long distance calling which can be downloaded from <www.fcc.gov/cib/-consumerfacts/hello.html>.

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

Newsweek is reporting that better handling of Zacarias Moussaoui, a French-Moroccan man in custody as a material witness, might have alerted them to the upcoming attack on the World Trade Center.

It seems that the FBI in Minneapolis seized Moussaoui's computer in mid-August after a flight school reported to them that the 33-year-old French citizen had sought training only in making turns — not take-offs and landings — and specifically asked about flying over New York air space.

The FBI requested permission to check out the hard drive under the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)* after French intelligence revealed that Moussaoui had been associated with members of an Algerian terrorist group and may have traveled to Afghanistan. After the Sept. 11th attack, data on crop-dusters was found on the computer.

Moussaoui has consistently refused to cooperate with U.S. law enforcement and many officials are now highly suspicious of his conduct. Rejection of the FISA warrant has produced tension between the FBI

and the Justice Department. Law enforcement officials believe that better handling might have yielded sufficient clues about the impending plot.

INTERNET NEWS

Online travel has now fully recovered after nosediving in the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks. As of the first week in October, traffic was slightly ahead of pre-September 11 levels. This may be because many carriers are now offering special reduced fares to bring users back online.

Internet service provider Excite-At-Home Corp. has filed for bankruptcy and has stopped accepting new cable modem customers. Controlling shareholder, AT&T Corp. is buying the company's high-speed access business for \$307 million. Excite-At-Home provided high speed Internet service to 3.6 million AT&T Broadband, Comcast Corp. and Cox Communications Inc. cable television subscribers.

According to a survey from Dun & Bradstreet, about 85 percent of all small business owners have Internet access. And over half of those also have a website.

Some 1.2 million businesses have applied for the new ".biz" Internet suffix, one of seven new domain names that are being added to lessen overcrowding in names ending in ".com." More than a million of them, however, have applied for an Internet address also picked by someone else. So more than 50,000 ".biz" addresses are on hold. It seems that a California court thinks the operators of the ".biz" suffix may be running an illegal lottery since when multiple firms apply for the same ".biz" address, a winner is drawn at random and the losers are not returned their application fee. The ".biz" addresses began being activated on October 1.

Microsoft Corp. has updated its "Windows Messenger" effective October 25th to allow consumers to use their PCs to make free voice calls to telephones. Telephone connecting service will be provided by Callserve Corp., Delta-three and Net2Phone.

Major retailers including the top five (Wal-Mart, JCPenny, Kmart, Sears and Target) have seen the

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number of visitors to their online shopping sites increase dramatically with 1.6 to 2.1 million people accessing these sites every month. Nielsen/NetRatings said "The bottom line is that having strong brand recognition and a large established customer base has proven to be a winning formula for brick-and-mortars."

PricelineMortgage (49% owned by Priceline.com) allows consumers to name-your-own-mortgage rate and get guaranteed closing costs. PricelineMortgage guarantees that it will get borrowers the lowest-cost loan on the market at the time or pay them \$300 through Nov. 30. Refinancings are surging because of lower interest rates. <<http://tickets.priceline.com/NewFinance>> .

New E-commerce "EasyAsk" search technology responds to full sentences, phrases, or key words allowing you to find products by just entering "plain English" search words. It narrows down the results, eliminating getting an excessive number of "hits" that you must tediously wade through. For example, you enter "men's black shirts under \$20" to find shirts that fit that request. Try it out at the <www.LandsEnd.com> website. Developed by: <www.EasyAsk.com> .

Online brokerage E*Trade is opening investing centers in Target discount stores complete with terminals allowing customers to open accounts, access stock quotes, portfolio reviews and financial research.

You can listen to tapes of actual radio transmissions between police officers and firefighters and their dispatchers at the scene of the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11. The tapes cover the period just before the first tower collapse at 10 a.m. through the second collapse and the chaotic aftermath. See: <www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-tapesgallery.htmlstory> .

People outside the U.S. are using more U.S.-based online media. Thirty-six percent of CNN.com's traffic during the 11 hours following the Sept. 11 attacks came from non-U.S. users. And more than half the traffic at the FBI site that day came from abroad, according to ComScore Networks.

The UK Government website at <www.number-10.gov.uk> received so many hits that it collapsed in September under the pressure when a document linking Osama bin Laden to the terrorist attacks on September 11th was pub-

lished on the site. It is now back online. The No. 10 site was the first to publish the document.

Want round-the-clock updated information on what is going on in Afghanistan? Check out Pakistan's most widely circulated English language newspaper. Check: <www.dawn.com> .

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

Some of the terrorists from the Sept. 11th attack were in the U.S. on expired visas. Others entered the country on student visas ...but never showed up for school. **Legislation before the Senate would require identification cards bearing a foreigner's digitized fingerprints before entry into the United States.** The bill would require extensive background checks and screening of visa applicants and allow tracking of visa holders while in the U.S. Foreign visitors would be required to carry the identification card containing their fingerprints at all times. Federal officials would be automatically alerted that they have overstayed their visit if they do not present their card when they leave the country.

The FBI is reportedly investigating whether the Sept. 11th hijackers bought a \$500 Garmin GPS-based navigational device intended for use in airplanes to help pinpoint the World Trade Center buildings and the Pentagon. Garmin, with \$345 million in sales, is the market leader in consumer GPS devices. The gadget can tell a pilot location and altitude. There is even talk about new restrictions on GPS technology ...possibly a scale back on accuracy.

The 28-satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) was originally built for military use. It was opened up to civilian use in the early 1980s by President Reagan and on May 1, 2000, President Clinton signed an order ending SA (selective availability) making civilian GPS accurate to 10 meters. There are no controls on who can build a GPS receiver or buy one.

It now appears unlikely that the frequency bands used by Asia and Europe for third-generation wireless (3G) services will be the same in the United States. The Sept. 11th terrorists' attacks have convinced the Dept. of Defense that it is not in the national best interest to relinquish spectrum in the 1710 MHz to 1850 MHz band just because that

same spectrum is used commercially overseas for 3-G cellphones.

The CTIA (*Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association*) says that the DoD will encounter interference from 3-G wireless devices if it conducts overseas missions. But Defense disagrees ...saying their electronic equipment is more powerful and while it may interfere with cell-phones overseas, they will not be adversely impacted.

The Bush administration is establishing three new anti-terror posts.

Bush appointed former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to the newly-created Cabinet-level **Office of Homeland Security**. Ridge will have a staff of about 100 who will work with security officials, the Justice Department, the military and agencies such as FEMA ...the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The new **Office of Counter-Terrorism** led by retired Army Gen. Wayne Downing will coordinate intelligence and military resources.

And the **Office of Cyberspace Security** will have Richard Clarke (a former counter-terrorism official in the Clinton Administration) as its chief. His job will be to protect a wide range of information systems, including telecommunications, banking and finance, transportation, energy, manufacturing, water, health and emergency services networks.

Warning about a "digital Pearl Harbor," Clarke says that several nations have formed information-warfare units and are creating technology to bring down our computer networks. "An Internet-based attack crippling the nation's power grids and communications networks could provoke mass confusion and death."

The American Civil Liberties Union said it is "bitterly disappointed" with the new Anti Terrorism legislation that is quickly moving through Congress toward becoming law. The objective of the bill is to increase the government's power to spy on, detain and punish suspected terrorists.

The ACLU said "Most Americans do not recognize that Congress has just passed a bill that would give the government expanded power to invade our privacy, imprison people without due process and punish dissent."

The Senate has passed its so-called *USA Act of 2001* (S. 1510) and the House passed their version called the *PATRIOT Act of 2001* (HR 2975). The two

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versions are virtually identical, but some differences may have to be worked out before sending to the President for signature. This could happen very quickly.

The ACLU said the most troubling provisions include:

- **Permits Information Sharing:** Allows information obtained during criminal investigations to be distributed to the CIA, NSA, INS, Secret Service and military, without judicial review, and with no limits as to how these agencies can use the information once they have it.
- **Authorizes "Sneak and Peek Searches":** Authorizes expanded use of covert searches for any criminal investigation, thus allowing the government to enter your home, office or other private place and conduct a search, take photographs, and download your computer files without notifying you until later.
- **Allows Forum Shopping:** Law enforcement can apply for warrants in any court in any jurisdiction where it is conducting an investigation for a search anywhere in the country. This would make it very difficult for individuals subjected to searches to challenge the warrant.
- **Creates New Crime of Domestic Terrorism:** Creates an entirely new type of crime, which (according to the ACLU) is unnecessary for the prosecution of the "War on Terrorism." By expanding the definition of terrorism in such a way, the bill could potentially allow the government to levy heavy penalties for relatively minor offenses, including political protests.
- **Allows the CIA to Spy on Americans:** Gives the Director of Central Intelligence the power to manage the gathering of intelligence in America and mandate the disclosure of information obtained by the FBI about terrorism in general - even if it is about law-abiding American citizens - to the CIA.
- **Imposes Indefinite Detention:** Permits authorities to indefinitely detain non-citizens, without meaningful judicial review.
- **Reduces Privacy in Student Records:** Allows law enforcement to access, use and disseminate highly personal information about American and foreign students.
- **Expands Wiretap Authority:** Minimizes judicial supervision of law enforcement wiretap authority in several ways, including: permitting law enforcement to obtain the equivalent of "blank" warrants in the physical world; authorizing intelligence wiretaps that need not specify the phone to be tapped or require that only

the target's conversations be eavesdropped upon; and allowing the FBI to use its "intelligence" authority to circumvent the judicial review of the probable cause requirement of the Fourth Amendment.

(Source: ACLU press release at: <www.aclu.org>.)

Gartner: "The Internet is the lifeline for business communications — one that may work when others do not." In a teleconference call to its clients and the media, research firm, Gartner Consulting (Stamford, CT) says it expects the Web will be used as a terrorist weapon.

"As we start waging war, there will be attempts to hack U.S. Web sites. ...War games to simulate cyberattacks have already been carried out." Cyberterrorism could be used as "a distraction or precursor" to physical terrorist attacks.

All companies should be updating antivirus and other security software as a matter of course, the firm said.

The Bush Administration is in the process of setting a new priority system for cell phone use which will ensure service for police, fire and other authorities during a crisis. When the fixed number of wireless telephone lines on a cellular tower are in use, new callers are placed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Massive cell phone use overwhelmed the New York City cellular networks preventing critical calls from being completed in the Sept. 11th attack aftermath. The new system would let those with special priority access codes jump ahead ...with some priority users being ranked higher than others. The plan calls for space for 500 priority users in two months, and 50,000 by year's end.

The U.S. is also planning an Internet of its own to ensure that important government voice and data communications will be protected. The new secure "GovNet" would be physically separate from the current World Wide Web and safe from hackers, terrorists and the latest virus strain.

"GovNet" would be managed by a private firm and leased to the government. The U.S. is in the process of picking a contractor. Proposals are due by Nov. 21st and the network is planned to be up and running by next summer.

The System Administration, Networking and Security Institute (SANS) said weak password protection and nonexistent or inadequate data backups are the two biggest information security problems facing both govern-

ment and private sector computer networks.

The three-year Sales Tax Moratorium on Internet transactions due to expire Oct 21st is likely to continue for some time. Bills under consideration extend the moratorium for two or five years ...another makes it permanent. But a two year extension seems to be the most likely.

A study found that the state and local governments could lose some \$13.3 billion in sales tax revenue this year ...and more than \$150 billion over five years. With losses of that magnitude, state and local governments would be forced to choose between raising taxes or cutting services such as schools, law enforcement and fire protection, the study's authors said.

The moratorium does not actually forbid collection of sales taxes. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court said states and cities need approval from Congress before they can collect sales taxes from businesses that don't have a substantial physical presence within their borders.

Mayors, city council members and governors across the country have lobbied Congress to allow collection Internet sales taxes, but supporting new taxation is not a popular subject among lawmakers or their constituents.

Legislators now have an excuse, Congress says they need to devote their energies to more pressing national security issues since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The U.S. Government's watchdog, the General Accounting Office (GAO) says the Government's plan to enact an "Electronic Government" is not going too well. The 1998 *Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA)* requires all federal agencies to put their most important forms and processes online by Oct. 21, 2003. GAO is concerned that many agencies will miss GPEA's deadline because of ill-timed or unscheduled projects. Many projects have deadlines in 2003 and GAO found that 3,860 activities have not been scheduled for paperwork elimination at all.

Get ready for digital "Pay Public TV" — compete with commercial advertising. The FCC, in a 3-1 vote, has OK'd plans for PBS affiliates and other public TV stations to sell commercial ads on some of their upcoming data or subscription services. The nation's 354 public television stations now are funded through private donations and federal

subsidies.

The *Telecommunications Act of 1996* clearly permits public TV stations to charge a fee for secondary channels they broadcast. Under the FCC ruling, public stations would be able to run commercials in shows on their new fee-based channels or display banner ads within educational course material or other data services.

The commission retained the current advertising ban on public TV's free over-the-air programming. The FCC also ruled that a "substantial majority" of a station's entire weekly digital capacity must remain non-commercial.

Public broadcasters need a new revenue source to help finance the required switch to digital TV by 2006 when they (like all TV broadcasters) must return their analog channels to the government for auctioning to other uses.

AMATEUR RADIO

On September 17th, the FCC's Advisory Committee for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference updated the following Preliminary Views concerning the Amateur Services.

Agenda item No. 1.7.2 calls for the review of the provisions of Article S19 concerning the formation of call signs in the Amateur Services in order to provide flexibility in amateur station call sign structure, especially to commemorate special events or for special situations.

Approved was a draft proposal providing for Amateur call signs consisting of "...one character and a single digit (other than 0 and 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter."

Also approved was the suppression of the regulation that prohibits amateur station call signs commencing with a digit when the second character is the letter "O" or the letter "I". This unnecessarily limits the call selections of administrations that are allocated such international call sign series.

In the case of Yemen, which has been allocated only the international call sign series 7OA-7OZ, no amateur call sign can be formed that conforms to the rules.

Agenda Item No. 1.7.3 calls for a review of the terms and definitions of Article S1 to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article S25. The U.S. does not support any changes to the definitions of the Amateur and Ama-

teur-Satellite Service which currently read:

S1.56 *Amateur Service*: A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

S1.57 *Amateur-Satellite Service*: A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purpose as those of the Amateur service.

On the 40-meter **Agenda Item No. 1.23**: The U.S. supports the alignment of the bands around 7 MHz to eliminate the Regional differences between the allocations to the broadcasting service and the Amateur services. The U.S. supports the allocation of a contiguous 300 kHz of spectrum around 7 MHz on a worldwide primary basis to the Amateur services.

The NTIA recommendation was slightly different: "To accommodate the desire to have the same spectrum allocation in all three Regions for the Amateur-/Amateur-Satellite services in the frequency spectrum range around 7 MHz, the U.S. believes that careful consideration will need to be given to the needs of the fixed service and the broadcasting service in this part of the frequency spectrum. The common amount of spectrum and its specific location for any adjustments of the Amateur/Amateur Satellite Services allocation will need to be determined at WRC-03 to the satisfaction of all these services."

The next meeting of the FCC's *IWG-6 (Informal Working Group)* considering Amateur matters is scheduled for Nov. 13, 2001, from 10:00 am - 12 noon at: FCC headquarters, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. - 7th Floor South Conference Room (7-B516).

The next *WRC-03 Advisory Committee* meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2001 in Room TW-C305. The WAC meeting scheduled for Sept. 28th was canceled.

New Zealand has updated its tele-communications regulations. The *Radiocommunications Amendment Act of 2000*, which becomes effective Oct. 12, 2001, is the first significant update of the Act since its inception in 1989.

Among other things, it seeks to harmonize New Zealand's regulations with Australia.

From that date, a single Amateur Radio Morse exam at 5 words-per-minute replaces a two tier arrangement of 6 and 12 wpm. The policy of the administration continues to be to get rid of Morse testing.

But while there are treaty obligations they include Morse testing to access Amateur spectrum below 30 MHz.

PZK, (Polski Związek Krótkofalowców, the Polish Amateur Radio society) also advises that Poland now only requires 5-wpm Morse code proficiency for full access to the HF bands.

The International Space Station could get new ham band antennas by early 2002.

ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO said the antennas are expected to be transported to the ISS in late November aboard the shuttle Endeavour.

The antenna systems are expected to be loaded into Multi-Purpose Logistics Module and flown on the STS-108/UF-1 flight. The new antennas will be located around the perimeter of the Service Module and will give HF, VHF, UHF L-band and S-band capabilities.

The HF antenna is a 2.5-meter long flexible tape that will definitely work on 10-meters and possibly 15 and 20-meters. The antennas were developed by a joint U.S., Russian and Italian team.

Frank KA3HDO said prototype units have already been tested to see if they withstand the temperature extremes and "thermal shock" of space. Technical testing for SWR and pattern also has been completed.

The new antennas could be installed during a space walk early next year after the Expedition 4 crew is aboard. Once the appropriate gear is in place, ARISS operation could extend from HF through 2.4 GHz. (AMSAT News Service)

The German "national WRC-2003 preparation committee" voted to oppose continuation of Morse testing as a prerequisite for Amateur HF operation at WRC 2003, with the DARC (the national German amateur radio society) voting to continue it.

While the DARC is aware that the IARU is supporting M1544, which includes only "theoretical knowledge of Morse" the organization incorrectly claimed in the preparation committee meeting on Sept. 17th that the "IARU up to now supports a mandatory CW exam" and "no consensus was reached within IARU."

Further, they wanted the German government not to have a national position concerning CW, because "...everybody should stick to an international consensus which should be defined by IARU alone." This was soundly rejected by the Ministry and all other members of the preparatory

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body.

DARC also incorrectly translated the "radio telegraphy" from M1544 into "Morsetelegrafie" which means "Morse telegraphy" when reporting about the IARU text in their October issue of CQ DL (their monthly journal.) This of course is wrong as "radio telegraphy" comprises more modes than just the Morse protocol.

The DARC misinformation was revealed by the session chairman in public. The chairman, a major representative of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, announced that the IARU text contained "theoretical knowledge ... of radio telegraphy" and not a practical proficiency demonstration.

A small majority favor (52% to 48%) within the DARC favor keeping the CW exam. This is because many no-code hams have abandoned the DARC over the past 20 years. Half of all German radio-amateurs hold no-code licenses. Tipping the scales in favor of continuing Morse testing is the fact that eighty-eight percent of current DARC members have passed the Class 1 (Morse) exam.

Right now, there is "a dirty campaign" by several hardliners against the RSGB within German Packet Radio claiming that the RSGB (with its relaxed "Morse Assessment" requirement for HF operation) is killing amateur radio. (Reported by Dr. Ralph P. Schorn, DC5JQ)

Ham radio has lost one of its best known instructors and authors.

John Abbott, K6YB (Newhall, Calif.), author of the well known cartoon license manual, "Ride the Airwaves with Alfa & Zulu" succumbed to prostate cancer at age 68. He had been licensed for 54 years. His Technician Class study guide was aimed at youngsters, women and other "non-techies." It was sold by Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and the ARRL.

Taxi cabs in San Luis and Sonora, Mexico are using 2 meters for commercial communication. These issues have been addressed by Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK, the IARU Liaison with Federacion Mexicana de Radioexperimentadores and the Mexican authorities.

The taxicabs have been especially troublesome because their signals have been picked up by the uplink receivers of several OSCAR satellites and have been rebroadcast over wide areas of North America. (AMSAT News Service)

Trivia: The original Morse telegraph invented in 1832 and pat-

ented by Samuel F. B. Morse on May 1, 1849 used neither the dot-dash sequences of today's Morse code nor audio sounds of any kind. It simply marked dots and dashes on strips of paper.

It wasn't until 1851 that the "spaced dots" of the original American Morse code was replaced by the "Continental" or "International" Morse code.

Morse's invention transformed communications almost overnight. Within ten years after the first telegraph line opening in 1844, 23,000 miles of wire criss-crossed the country. The development of the telegraph had a significant impact on the development of the West, made railroad travel safer, and allowed businessmen to conduct their operations more quickly and profitably.

See a photo of it on the Smithsonian's website at: <www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/morse.htm>. Alexander Graham Bell's weird looking 1876 "box telephone" is also online at: <www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/boxphone.htm>.

CRAG, the Guatemalan IARU member society, said in its report to Region 2 that government authorities there have returned 430-440 MHz to Amateur Radio use, effective June 2001. Commercial users (which had purchased the auctioned frequencies in this band) will be relocated elsewhere. At WRC-03, Guatemala will request a footnote making Amateur Radio the primary user at 430-440 MHz, CRAG reported. (AMSAT News Service)

A Virginia federal court has convicted Khalid Kubweza of Richmond, VA for operating an unlicensed FM broadcast radio station on 91.7 MHz from his residence in Richmond Virginia. Previous FCC and court actions over the past five years had failed to stop Kubweza and the FCC and U.S. Marshals Service were forced to seize his station equipment. Sentencing is scheduled for December 12, 2001. He faces heavy civil and criminal fines and imprisonment of up to one year.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Ramon D. Florimon, KB2PRV (Elmhurst, NY) has been cited for allegedly operating a repeater on 448.975 MHz in Brooklyn, NY without a control operator. He is to forward complete information concerning the location, coordination and operation of this repeater to the FCC within 30 days.

Timothy A. Dreas, KE4GDX (Vienna, VA) has been contacted by the

FCC for allegedly violating the amateur station identification rules.

Maxton R. Valois, KG4KEY (Ft. Pierce, FL) was also warned about broadcasting music in the Ft; Myers, FL area. Both of these violations took place on two-meter simplex.

Michael E. Guernsey ND8V (Parchment, MI) is to respond within 20 days to a complaint that he transmitted retaliatory disruptive communications on 14.315 MHz after receiving interference to his communications on 2 kHz lower. ND8V just came off a nine month suspension.

The Truck-N-Travel store chain (a Division of Eugene Trucking Haven, Inc., of Coburg, OR) was found by FCC agents from the Portland office to be offering for sale several unauthorized high-power CB radio transceivers. They were given 14 days to respond to the violation. They face fines of \$10,000 per day for each violation, up to a maximum of \$82,500.

STI Towing and Repair (Walton and Florence, KY) was cited for installing Amateur Radio transceivers in their tow trucks. Unlicensed and/or commercial operation of these radios will subject them to a \$7,500 to \$10,000 fine.

Robert C. McCoy, N4ZTA (Florence, KY) was asked to explain his alleged installation of the Amateur Radio transmitters in the STI Tow trucks.

John N. Hudson, WA6HYQ (San Diego, CA) was given 30 days to supply the FCC with justification for the many club call signs he has been issued "ten of which were granted on the same day."

Sidney L. Martin, KD4YBC (Surfside Beach, CA) has notified the FCC that he has discontinued to marketing of linear amplifiers and kits in violation of the FCC's certification rules.

Paul M. Warren, N5WLK (Oklahoma City, OK) has been cited for alleged deliberate interference to other operators in the CB Service including "...playing music and other sound effects and using profanity/obscenity." Information has it that he is "rebroadcasting Amateur communications over CB, and CB communications over two meter repeaters."

The FCC also reports that six of the nine Alaska fishermen previously using Amateur radios on commercial vessels have agreed to cease using the HT units.

Continued from Page 3:

The IARU Region 2 Conference endorsed a 40 meter Amateur allocation of at least 300 kHz, amateur exclusive on a worldwide basis, while attempting to achieve harmonization between the Amateur and Broadcasting Services in this band. The requirement is even greater today than in the past, owing to the increasing number of amateur stations and the expanding diversity of emission modes.

Participation in Field Day

The role of the Amateur Radio Service in supplying communications in the event of natural disasters has always been recognized in Region 2 and now is gaining increasing recognition worldwide. The ARRL's annual Field Day gives radio amateurs an opportunity to exercise their skills in setting up portable stations under conditions similar to what might be experienced following a disaster. The use of alternate power sources and temporary antennas is emphasized.

It was agreed that the Field Day rules be modified to support full participation by Amateurs in all Region 2 countries. The new rules will be announced by next spring. Field Day next year is the weekend of June 22-23, 2002.

Additional allocations to the amateur service

The conference endorsed additional bands being allocated at 135.7-137.8 kHz, 160-190 kHz and suggested that the Region 2 Executive Committee study the possibility of an Amateur allocation near 5 MHz similar to the domestic allocation requested by ARRL in the United States.

These new allocations would provide radio amateurs with the opportunity to participate in and contribute to an exciting new aspect of radio communications and which would be consistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service and would further the self-training in the radio art that is a principal obligation of the Amateur Service.

Many other countries already have Amateur allocations in the low frequency range including 73 kHz, 135.7-137.8 kHz, and 160-190 kHz.

The Conference also approved a three year budget providing for additional contact by members of the Executive Committee with other member societies of the Region.

The conference voted to hold its 15th General Assembly in 2004 in Trinidad & Tobago

IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL SUPPORTS "NO CODE"

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union met Oct. 6-8, 2001 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, following the 14th General Assembly of IARU

Region 2. Presiding over the meeting which was attended by representatives of all three IARU Regions was IARU President Larry Price, W4RA.

The principal business at the Guatemala City meeting was to continue preparations for WRC-2003.

The WRC-2003 agenda items of concern include harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, possible revision of Article S25 of the International Radio Regulations, changes to terms and definitions in Article S1 as a result of amendments to Article S25, review of provisions concerning the formation of amateur call signs in Article S19, additional allocations for Little LEO satellites, study of a possible allocation to the earth exploration-satellite service for synthetic aperture radars (SARs) near 435 MHz, and possible identification of globally harmonized frequency bands for use by agencies and organizations dealing with public protection (such as police) and disaster relief.

IARU objectives with regard to these agenda items were affirmed.

The IARU Council adopted the following resolution:

Considering

the approval without opposition of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544, which sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs,

Recognizing

that the Morse code continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs, but

Further recognizing

that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio,

Resolves that

member societies are urged to seek, as an interim measure, Morse code testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute;

Setting aside any previous relevant decisions

IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.

The present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services were reviewed, updated and approved.

The theme for World Amateur Radio Day, 18 April 2002, was selected as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held on September 11-13, 2002, in the vicinity of San Marino, immediately before the Conference of IARU Region 1.