

# 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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## Two More Ham Petitions for Rulemaking Filed With FCC

The FCC has received and put out two more Amateur Radio petitions for comment. In a December 18th Public Notice, the Commission invited comments on the two proposals designated RM-10620 and RM-10621. They join seven other petitions that have been languishing at the FCC ...some for nearly two years.

**RM-10620 was submitted by Dale E. Reich, K8AD, of Seville, Ohio, on November 9, 2002.**

Dale says that while the reduction in Amateur Radio licenses to three in 2000 "...was long overdue," the FCC did not address the number of Novice or Advanced licensees that would be renewing in the future. He asks that the FCC issue "merit" and "service" credit to allow some of the remaining Novice and Advanced Class licensees to automatically advance to the next class without taking an exam since (he believes) they passed a tougher exam previously.

According to K8AD, only Novices and Advanced class license holders who have been licensed 20 or more years would be eligible for the special "Conditional Merit and Service" upgrade to the Technician and Extra Class. The upgrade would be authorized by the VE/VEC System but no Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) would be issued. Instead, no upgrade would be issued until reviewed and approved at local FCC field offices.

Reich also requests that Novices who do not have 20 years of operating be allowed to operate

on the previous Novice phone band that was available to Novices "...from the era of the 1950's to 1970's." He adds, "In real emergencies, ...Novices need real voice communications on VHF at 2-meters and 6 meters like in the past."

The original Novice license, begun in 1951, was a one year term non-renewable license which authorized 75-watt crystal-controlled limited HF CW and 2-meter phone privileges at 145 to 147 MHz. The phone privileges were abolished in 1968 as part of Incentive Licensing but the license term was doubled to 2 years.

The petitioner said the new Novice 2-meter power level should be "...an RF power limit of 40 watts output or an ERP (effective radiated power) not to exceed 75 watts." Also proposed is an additional CW segment from 28.5 to 28.8 MHz for Novices and Technicians with code credit. The current 10-meter authorization for these licensees is from 28.1 to 28.5 MHz.

Reich also states that "All Novices would also regain the use of the 6-meter band between 51 and 52 MHz." [Editor's note: We are not aware that Novices ever were authorized use of 6 meters.]

The Advanced Class "...merit conversion to Extra would allow all normal Extra privileges, however, the FCC could revert the license back to Advanced..." for serious FCC violations.

Another feature suggested is that license lapses due to non-renewal during military service would be forgiven. "The time must be accounted

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for and proved by letters and documents submitted to the VEC/VE [which would be] relayed to the FCC licensing bureau." Reich adds that additional "...input from the public as to additional restrictions or limitations is requested."

## Comments on RM-10620

As a general rule, the amateur community is opposed to K8AD's proposal. Here is an sample of the nearly 150 comments the FCC has received so far:

"To offer the current Novice and Advanced amateurs the ability to upgrade without testing will further undermine goal-setting spirit of the hobby. We need to cease giving away licenses to hams unwilling to put any effort into our hobby otherwise it will become just another citizens band or family radio service."  
*Tim Hagfors, N4XSQ, Taylor Mill, KY*

"While the basic idea may be the instant upgrading of holders of the Novice and Advanced licenses, the rest of the "request" appears to be a 'Christmas' wish list that the petitioner should have sent to Santa Claus. This petition has many contradictory points and contains significant historical errors that display the petitioner's serious lack of knowledge and understanding of the Amateur Radio Service, not to mention the legal processes by which the Commission operates." *William Houlne, WB6BNQ, National City, CA.*

"The system Mr. Reich proposes is based on the fundamental premise that time passage is a substitute for knowledge ...a flawed premise." *Steven E. Matda, KE4MOB, Bristol, VA*

"The petition requests a restoration of 145 to 147 MHz that was removed from the Novice class through previous rule making proceedings. By allocating just this amount of spectrum, the Novice class licensee only has access to those repeaters with input/output frequencies located between 145.000 MHz and 147.000 MHz as well as the recognized simplex channels in this range." *Nathan Bargmann, N0NB, Bremen, KS*

"RM-10620 is flawed in that just because a licensed Novice has been licensed for 20 yrs., doesn't mean that he/she has the knowledge required for the higher class license." *John A. Reynolds, N7QF, Bountiful, UT*

"Providing upgrades solely on the basis of merit for public service or for some public service need completely ignores the requirement that amateurs must be technically proficient as well." *Thomas H. Busch, WB8WOR, Bloomington, IN*

"While this proposal represents a natural extension of the restructuring efforts of April 15, 2000, it seems to me to be overly complicated and burdensome. I recommend that this proposal be modified to simply automatically upgrade ALL Novices to Technician with HF privileges to upgrade ALL Advanced class licensees to Extra class at the next license renewal." *Randy Perkinson, AG4TN, Hixson, TN*

"I am in support of these proposed changes. They align with the spirit and objectives of recent FCC actions pertaining to streamlining the process and improving the efficiency of this communications resource." *Barry B. Diamond, W4KVJ, Miami, FL (Advanced Class)*

"I support the upgrade of advanced class licenses in the Amateur service to the next level under the current licence restructuring. Now that the code portion at 20 wpm is no longer re-

quired, it seems fair that the upgrade be made. Additionally, upgrading Advanced licences would expedite moving to a three license structure." *Bill Goff, K16DJ, Sutter Creek, CA (Advanced Class)*

"Certification of 20 years of operation by the FCC is a concept that is fraught with opportunities for abuse. The FCC has already demonstrated that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to document the licensing history of all Amateur Radio Operators." *Bill Strickland, Athens, GA*

"I feel if a Novice can't pass a Tech test, or have been inactive for 10-20 years, then it's time to study and get active. These petitions sound like poor attempts for unmotivated people to get something for nothing." *James T. Ferrell, N8QOQ, Utica, MI*

"I believe RM-10620 has a lot of merit for amateur radio operators who have over 20 years of operating experience and without any citations." *Richard P. Sullivan, W0RPS, Des Moines, IA (Advanced Class).*

"I support this proposal not only because it's fair and it makes sense, but also because it would reduce the burden on the FCC of maintaining Novice and Advanced class licenses in the FCC database. It appears that the only opposition to the proposal is from existing higher-level hams who do not want to make things any easier for other hams. This is similar to much of the opposition to lowering the code barrier." *Steven Karty, N5SK, Vienna, VA*

"Having held an amateur radio operator's license for well over 43 years, I am in favor of this proposal, not to gain additional privileges, but as a first step in returning those privileges that were lost in 1967." *Glen E. Zook, K9STH, Richardson, TX (Advanced Class)*

"I feel, especially, that Novice class operators have more than fulfilled the requirements of the Tech class, and former Tech Plus class, amateur radio licenses. I feel that it is absurd that Novices, regardless of how long they have been licensed, do not have access to the 2 meter band that every other license class can operate on." *David Crusan, KX8N, Jackson, OH.*

"Earn the upgrade to the higher class of Amateur Radio License. No test, no upgrade. This gimme (Give Me) society has got to halt, once and for all. I personally do not want to be upgraded to Extra, 5 wpm Morse Code, not me, I earned my class Advanced at the required 13 wpm. The entire Amateur Radio License Class structure is a complete down grade. Lower standards for quantity and no quality." *Raymond J. Yakesh, K7PIG, Sierra Vista, AZ (Advanced Class)*

"A Novice should be tested on the VHF and UHF privileges that a Technician license will give him/her. If an individual has been a Novice for 20+ years and has not upgraded to Technician during that time, I would have grave doubts as to their knowledge (surely not expertise) about the additional privileges that a Technician license will grant." *Scotty W. Neustadter, W4WW, Huntsville, AL*

"If amateur radio is to provide our nation with needed communications expertise in time of war or major disasters, a trained knowledgeable pool of communicators is desirable not just license holders who have 'put in their time'" *Jose Berrios, WB2BWU, Forest Hills, NY*

"If they can't upgrade after 20 years with study, they probably aren't qualified to be at the next level anyway." *Gary Steinbeck, W0SDI, Primghar, IA*

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RM-10621 was submitted on December 2, 2002 by Dr. Perry I. Kline, W3PK, V.P. Government Liaison, Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, Washington, DC.

AMSAT-NA asked the FCC to drop its presently required 27-month pre-space notification to the FCC's International Bureau for Amateur Satellite launches and substitute a pre-space notification within 30 days of a launch commitment.

Kline said "As a practical matter, the 27-month deadline requirement has proven to be an unnecessary burden both for amateurs and the Commission. Secondary payload launch commitments rarely become available as far as 27 months in advance. Thus, the Commission inevitably received a request to waive all or part of Section 97.207(g.) Moreover, specific frequency plans may be finalized as little as 30 days in advance of launch." Kline added that "The ITU Radiocommunications Bureau must be informed of space stations in the amateur-satellite service when these satellite operate in bands shared with other services. However, no filing time requirements apply."

AMSAT asks that the Part 97 rules be replaced with the following:

## Section 97.207 Space Station.

(g) The license grantee of each space station must file a written pre-space information document with the International Bureau, FCC, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days after receiving a launch commitment. This document shall give all information relevant to the space station's identification and interference potential of the types described in Appendix 4 to the Radio Regulations. If any material item described in the original information document changes before launch, a replacement written pre-space information document shall be filed with the International Bureau. The replacement filing shall be made no later than 30 days after such changes are made and, in any case, before launch.

## Comments on RM-10621

The amateur community was overwhelmingly in favor of reducing the 27-month pre-launch notification to thirty days. Here are some sample comments.

"As this proposal made by the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation is deregulatory in nature and is narrowly defined, I suggest that the Commission issue an order on its own motion granting the request as presented. If it is not seen fit to grant an order, I support the issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rule-making." *Stephen M. Kellat, KC8BFI, Ashtabula, OH*

"I agree the 27 month waiting period is too long. With changing technology shorter time periods must be considered." *Mark Ryan, KM5WV, Northglenn, CO*

"Given that the Commission would no longer be required to process waivers of the 27-month notification, it is also in the Commission's own interest to approve this proposal." *James E. Whedbee, N0ECN, Kansas City, MO*

"A 27 month pre-launch notification is excessive given that it is

now possible to prepare payloads much faster than when the original rule was formulated. The proposed 30 day notification appears to be adequate, however the commission may find that 60-90 days notification best serves the public interest." *Joseph B. Edmonds, Jr., N4NQY, Mechanicsville, VA*

"Amateur satellites are all built and launched by volunteer and not-for-profit entities for the sole purpose of expanding scientific knowledge and education. Launch opportunities that are available and affordable to these groups most often occur on an ad-hoc basis. The FCC has routinely granted waivers to accommodate the requestor. By modifying the extended pre-launch notification period to 30 days, the commission has the opportunity stimulate participation in this area and make better use of their own assets." *Howard DeFelice, AB2S, Bayport, NY*

"I find the 27 month period of time exorbitant for a non-orbital space attempt. The wording should be changed to 'orbital' operations not just space operations." *Harold C. Bacon, KA1ILH, Plantsville, CT*

"Requiring a 27-month advanced notice could in some cases hamper satellite launch or at worst scuttle a mission. A revised 30 day period seems to be more then adequate to meet the intent of the required advanced notice." *Randy Bynum, NR6CA, Reno, NV*

"With today's rapid forms of communications, 27 months pre-space notification seems unnecessary. Since the Amateur Satellite frequencies are accepted pretty much worldwide, 30 day notification should be more appropriate." *Paul T. Mason, WA6EUZ, Richmond, CA.*

"Thirty days is too short. The process should be between 90 - 120 days so that all authorities and agencies will be notified." *Michael D. Price, WA5ZWQ, Bossier City, LA*

"The proposed modification developed by AMSAT is reasonable and will make the administrative burden less on the FCC and the satellite operators." *Stephen J. Horan, AC5RI, Las Cruces, NM*

"Thirty days is acceptable given the difficulty of securing an affordable launch for amateur payloads. Unlike commercial interests, amateur satellites are designed, constructed, delivered to the launch facility, and launched by a non-profit corporation, with donations. Under these circumstances, finding an affordable launch opportunity is difficult. This is largely due to last-minute decisions made at the launch site." *Kyle A. Yoksh, K0KN, Olathe, KS.*

These comments and others may be found on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System on the web at: [www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html](http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html). Once there, click on the "Search for Filed Comments" link located on the right side of the page under "ECFS Main Links." Then enter the Rulemaking number, either RM-10620 or RM-10621, and you will be taken to the electronically filed comments. The petitions themselves are located at the end of the list of comments.

The 30-day preliminary comment period closes on January 17, 2003. If the FCC decides to go forward with these proposals, another round of comments will be solicited from the public at the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking stage.

You will find a list of the other seven petitions that the FCC is holding on page 10.

## CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

In a special "Trends and Forecasts for the Next 25 Years," Report, the World Future Society predicts

- By 2007, hybrid cars that combine electric and combustion engines will be common.
- By 2009, widespread usage of voice, handwriting, and optical recognition features will permit ordinary personal computers to interact with humans.
- By 2010, hydrogen may supplant fossil fuels as automakers develop fuel-cell-powered cars that convert hydrogen and oxygen into electricity.
- By 2012, schools and colleges will routinely offer "distance" learning via computerized teaching programs and interactive television lectures and seminars.
- By 2012, Optical computers using photons rather than electrons to code information will enable processing to run at the speed of light.
- By 2012, high speed rail or mag-lev trains will be available in most cities in developed nations.
- By 2012, "designer babies" will avoid inheriting malfunctions and parents will plan and create their "ideal" child.
- By 2015, computers will be able to routinely translate languages in real time with the accuracy and speed necessary for effective communications.
- By 2015, computerized highways regulating traffic flow will be used to reduce highway congestion.
- By 2020, there will be more than one billion people older than age 60. Three quarters of them will be in developing countries.
- By 2020, automated highways will allow people to use their own cars without the trouble of driving them.
- By 2022, cars will be powered by ceramic engines that withstand heat and wear much better than steel.
- By 2022, a manned mission to Mars will be completed.
- By 2023, hypersonic passenger aircraft traveling at more than five times the speed of sound will be used for the majority of transoceanic flights.
- By 2025, nanotechnology-based medical therapies will clear clogged arteries and destroy cancer cells before they become tumors.

- By 2030, synthetic (artificial) meats and vegetables will be commonly consumed, providing optimum, health benefits.
- By 2040, 3.5 billion people will run short on water.
- By 2043, world population will double.
- And web-based control over transportation could eliminate drunk driving. Smart cars connected to public databases might automatically run a series of network checks on drivers before they can move. Sensors would collect and analyze your breath for signs of alcohol, for instance. Fail a test, and you won't go anywhere.

## EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

**H**aving problems with your cell phone service? You are not alone! According to Consumer Reports, about a third of cell phone users are considering changing providers because of frustrations with such problems as complicated calling plans, dead spots in coverage areas, dropped calls and billing problems.

Another survey showed 15 percent of the users attempting to use a cell phone to call 911 emergency services in the previous year had difficulty getting through.

The Consumer Reports survey evaluated wireless service in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. provided by six carriers: Verizon Wireless, Cingular Wireless, AT&T Wireless, Sprint PCS, Nextel and T-Mobile. Additional information is available at: <[www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org)>.

Consumers Union is also launching <[www.consumersunion.org/wireless](http://www.consumersunion.org/wireless)> for consumer information on wireless calling plans and filing complaints about wireless service.

**M**icrosoft and Yahoo both have Instant Messaging (IM), but it is AOL Time Warner that owns the patent. The big question is whether AOL is entitled to royalties.

The fact remains, however, that Instant Messaging existed long before Mirabilis, developer of the ICQ instant-messaging service, filed the patent application in 1997. AOL bought Mirabilis a year later for \$287 million.

The U. S. Patent Office issued patent No. 6,449,344 on Sept. 10, 2002, for AOL's implementation of "a communica-

tions network ...which can be employed by users to communicate ... [and] the user not necessarily being identified with a given communications terminal." AOL has not said whether it intends to enforce its broad ownership rights. You can check out the patent at: <[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)>.

More than 180 million people are registered IM users. AOL says more than 2 billion instant messages are sent across its network daily. The technology represents a potential 'killer application' for cell phone text-messaging when the wireless Internet becomes widespread.

## COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

**T**he U.S. Military is in the process of deploying a digitized patient record (DPR) system that should serve as the model for civilian doctors. All military personnel health records are now online for easy around the clock access by military doctors anywhere in the world. It serves some 8.7 million beneficiaries.

Using computers in the medical field has proven to be a more accurate, efficient way of handling medical records. For example, the database provides a "symptom surveillance" to alert health officials to a possible epidemic or even a biological or chemical attack.

Military physicians order all medications on computers today. Most doctors in the civilian world still fill out paper prescription slips and keep paper records in folders.

**M**icrosoft had a banner year in 2002. It rang up record revenue in its most recent quarter, launched a flashy new X-box video-game service and rolled out the Tablet PC, a pet project of CEO Bill Gates. And the software powerhouse scored big when a federal judge approved the company's antitrust settlement with the U.S. Justice Department.

Microsoft is quietly working on its next version of its Windows desktop operating system. Code-named "Longhorn," the software will have greatly improved "Palladium" computer security, data storage and a brand-new faster file system that essentially treats everything on your computer as entries in a database. It will focus on reliability and "Trustworthy Computing".

Longhorn, originally scheduled for

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2003, probably won't be ready until late 2004 or early 2005. A major problem is making the system compatible with existing programs ...including those made by outside companies.

In the meantime, there are rumors of an interim release to update Windows XP. Gartner Group analysts believe Microsoft's strategy is to release a new Operating System every 24 months and a new consumer OS enhancement pack every year.

**D**ell Computer Corp. (Round Rock, TX) has introduced retail check-out computers that do more than just keep track of cash. Targeted at medium to large consumer retailers, the new software and hardware system automates all store operations ...including sales, inventory management, accounting, and customer data.

## GADGETS & GIZMOS

**V**ideo phone calls. Korea's Samsung Electronics is introducing a mobile phone and video recorder all in one. The mobile phone, which can be used as a 110,000-pixel digital camera or as a camcorder, is capable of recording video files of up to 20 minutes. The device will enable users to make phone calls while looking at the other caller's face.

**T**he Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) said 304,920 digital TV sets were sold in November representing nearly \$514 million in sales. CEA president Gary Shapiro said "The total for the year through November now stands at 2,179,114 units representing more than \$3.7 billion invested in the DTV transition over the past 11 months."

November unit sales rose 56 percent over the previous year and 48 percent in dollar sales. CEA projects 2.5 million units will be sold in 2002, 4 million in 2003, 5.4 million in 2004, 8 million in 2005 and 10.5 million in 2006.

The CEA defines a digital television set as one that has a HDTV tuner included or a monitor that is "ready" for a HDTV tuner.

**A**ccording to research firm NPD Techworld, large-screen projection televisions which typically sell for \$2000 to \$5000 accounted for the most DTV sales. More than 1.6 million

were purchased between January and November of 2002, up 30 percent over the same period a year ago.

NPD Techworld said that through November, 3.6-million High Definition or Enhanced Definition televisions have been sold in the United States. The majority of the digital television sales are HDTV Rear Projection Monitors that do not have an integrated digital tuner.

**M**any digital TV set buyers are purchasing them to watch DVDs.

Through the first three quarters of 2002, DVD software shipments totaled 425.6 million, up from 226.8 million in the same period last year, according to the DVD Entertainment Group.

Nearly 33 million U.S. households owned at least one DVD player heading into the fourth quarter. This amounts to 40 percent of all U.S. households, the trade group said. DVD players were first introduced in 1997.

**P**ersonal-video-recorders (PVRs) that record high definition television are on the horizon. Tivo Inc., (San Jose, CA) plans to offer a widescreen HDTV recorder in conjunction with direct broadcast satellite provider, DirectTV, later this year. Tivo's design will support 480i, 480p, 720p and 1080i formats. Price has not yet been set.

TiVo has more than 500,000 subscribers, and in 2004 expects that figure to double, topping 1 million. FCC chairman Michael Powell got a regular TiVo for Christmas and said it is his favorite. He called it "God's machine."

Zenith also announced a forthcoming high-definition personal video recorder with built-in 80-gigabyte hard drive which should be available beginning this spring.

And EchoStar is looking into distributing an HDTV set that only receives the DISH satellite TV signal. EchoStar could lease or sell the equipment, as it does with its receivers. EchoStar also revealed a high-end receiver at the Consumer Electronics Show capable of storing 40 hours' worth of high-definition programming.

## INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

**H**oliday online sales exceeded expectations. Jupiter Research expects a 20 percent to 24 percent gain for

the final two months of 2002. Nielsen/NetRatings said online spending increased more than 24 percent to \$13.7 billion, from Nov. 2 through Dec. 27, up from \$11 billion in the year-ago period. And ComScore Networks Inc., said that online sales were up 20 percent to nearly \$20 billion during the Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 period.

Amazon.com said their customers ordered 56 million items worldwide from Nov. 1 to Dec. 23, up from 37.9 million holiday orders last year. Reason for the big increase? Free shipping at most e-commerce sites and no sales taxes!

Online sales make up less than 2 percent of total sales. Traditional brick-and-mortar stores (such as Wal-Mart and Target) generally reported weak holiday sales due to a sluggish economy, threat of war, high unemployment and an uncertain stock market.

**T**he doctor is online. Blue Shield of California is the first major health insurer to cover online Internet consultations between patients and their doctors. They will pay doctors \$20.00 for a Web house call.

Patients simply log into a secure Web site designed by RelayHealth Corp., a provider of Web-based, doctor-patient communication services to renew prescriptions, schedule appointments or to have non-urgent "WebVisits" with their doctor.

To speed things up, RealHealth has a "Smart Symptom Wizard" that questions patients and turns their answers into a return medical advice message. More at: <www.relayhealth.com>.

According to a Harris Interactive poll, 90 percent of patients who use e-mail want online communication with their physicians, and 37 percent are willing to pay something for it. (70 percent want to pay less than \$5 for each "Web visit.")

**A** new report from Pew Internet Research entitled "Counting on the Internet" highlights how 60 percent of U.S. citizens having Internet access routinely access the Web for information about health care, government services and consumer products. And almost 4 out of 5 people surveyed expect a business to have a Web site so they can obtain additional information about their products.

In March 2000, 40 million Americans – or 48 percent of Internet users – had purchased a product online. That number grew to 72 million – or 62 percent of

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Internet users – by the beginning of October 2002.

For news, 85 percent of Americans Internet users expect to be able to find reliable, up-to-date news online. More at: <www.pewinternet.org>.

**C**oming to a cable TV channel near you! New in-home "watch and wager" off track horse race betting ...from your living room armchair.

Magna Entertainment Corp. -- which owns, manages or operates 13 tracks in North America -- has come out of the gate with HorseRacing TV.

The 24-hour "Nags Network" provides 15 hours daily of live wire-to-wire thoroughbred, harness and quarter-horse racing action from some 70 tracks in the United States and Canada, along with post parades, odds and race results. Replays and racing-related shows will fill the rest of the time. HRTV programming originates from the network's new studio at Santa Anita Park.

All live racing content on HRTV is available for wagering, where permitted by law, via the phone or Internet through <www.xpressbet.com> Magna's national web-based account-wagering system. <www.youbet.com> will also take bets. You simply make a bet online and print out the bet confirmation slip.

HRTV, available to cable operators free-of-charge, offers a new guaranteed revenue stream for cable system operators by offering a percentage of revenue bet in their area if it exceeds a minimum figure. HRTV hopes to gain distribution by providing a carriage fee to cable operators in 34 states, most of which accept XpressBet in-home wagering.

Magna's racetracks include some of the most prestigious names in the sport, notably Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows in California; Gulfstream Park in Florida; Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie in Texas; and Pimlico Race Course -- home of the second jewel in thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown, The Preakness -- and Laurel Park in Maryland.

**V**irtual panhandling is catching on! Remember the piece we did on Karyn, the Brooklyn, NY gal who ran up some \$20,000 in credit card bills and then went begging on the Internet to pay it off? Her site, <www.savekaryn.com> kept a running total until contributors bailed her out. And that they did. She is

now debt free. Well, online begging is growing rapidly.

A Florida couple (Tricia and Jeffrey) want children but can't afford the \$20,000 fertility treatments. They have set up a cyber-begging site at <www.fundmyinfertility.com>. And there are several others, most legitimate, some questionable.

Penny from Washington needs \$70,000 to fund her divorce and nursing training at <www.helpmeleavemyhusband.com>; Jennifer at <www.helpjennifer.com> needs \$50,000 to pay off her Lyme disease medical bills; Heather from Arizona needs \$6,000 to cover surgery and radiation treatments for ovarian cancer; Annie (age 10) needs \$6,000 in orthodontic work; Elaine panhandles for opera voice lessons and to pay off her student loans ...and <www.Lendmeabuck.com> is another gal with a huge credit-card debt.

"Odd Todd" simply stands on a virtual Internet corner and panhandles for dollar bills that you insert in his Pay-Pal "tip jar" ...and the Internet Squeegee Guy stands at a stoplight on the Internet Superhighway and will clean the inside of your computer monitor for spare change.

## WASHINGTON WHISPERS

**I**t used to be that the Military Affiliate Radio System, or MARS) was the principle means of sending holiday messages to servicemen deployed overseas. Now the Dept. Of Defense is using the Internet.

"Operation Dear Abby" allows citizens to send a special message to our men and women in the military defending American freedom worldwide.

In 1967, Sgt. Billy Thompson wrote Abigail Van Buren asking for a Christmas present for our service members -- "Just a letter from home," American citizens have been sending their best wishes to the troops every holiday season. "Operation Dear Abby," has brought joy to hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel deployed away from home and around the world. Concerns about regular mail delivery, however, have prompted the military to suspend the year's letter-writing campaign...

However, Dear Abby, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy provided a private and secure online re-

source that allowed people to send a Sailor, Marine, Soldier, Airman, or Coast Guardsman a holiday greeting or message of support.

The Operation Dear Abby Website is at: <anyservicemember.navy.mil>. Click on "Send a Message." To read the thousands of messages sent to our overseas troops, click on "Read a Message."

While you are at it, check out the Department of Defense's Website at: <www.defenselink.mil>. It contains DOD news and direct links to all parts of the U.S. Dept. Of Defense including the Pentagon and all branches of the military.

**T**he new 108<sup>th</sup> Congress just opened for business and already bills have been dropped into the House and Senate legislative hoppers seeking to make the current moratorium on Internet taxes permanent.

In all probability, Congress will just settle on another extension as legislators work with states seeking to impose sales taxes on online purchases. The states claim to be losing some \$50 billion in taxes.

The original three-year moratorium was enacted in 1998 and extended for another two years in 2001. The current moratorium expires in November.

**T**he FCC is seeking public comment on the Dec. 19 agreement between TV manufacturers and the cable industry over 'plug-and-play' digital TVs that work with cable without the need for add-on converter boxes. Comments are due March 28; replies April 28. The deal sets technical standards for plug-and-play sets and must have FCC approval.

If approved, consumers will soon be able to receive high-definition television programming from cable companies without the need for an additional (and expensive) set-top box. The agreement overcomes the biggest obstacle to wider acceptance of HDTV: compatibility with cable, which provides television content to about three-quarters of the country.

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) and cable operators, led by the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) said the Memorandum of Understanding must be approved quickly if the sets are to be available in 2004, as hoped.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said "Plug and play will be good for the future

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of these industries, good for the digital transition, and most importantly, good for consumers. We will act expeditiously after other interested parties have had the opportunity to comment." (NPRM Jan. 7, 2003)

**F**CC investigations have uncovered massive fraud and financial shenanigans in the \$2.25 billion E-Rate program that subsidizes Internet connections to thousands of schools and libraries. It may also be enriching unscrupulous contractors, according to a report released by the Center for Public Integrity in Washington.

"E-Rate" – often referred to as the "Gore Tax" – was created in 1996 by Congress to offer 20 percent to 90 percent subsidies. The program is funded by taxes on telephone bills with the highest rates go to the poorest schools.

A report released last fall by the FCC's Inspector General found that E-Rate was "subject to unacceptably high risk of malfeasance through noncompliance and program weakness" and called for more money for auditing and oversight.

**A**re you receiving unsolicited pre-recorded voice or faxed telemarketing messages on your telephone? If so the FCC wants to know about it. They recently cited 13 firms for violating the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (TCPA) in the last quarter of 2002.

These actions follow nearly \$7 million in fines imposed and a total of 205 TCPA citations issued since Dec. 1999. Detailed information on the Commission's enforcement actions in this area is available at: <[www.fcc.gov/eb/tcd/working.html](http://www.fcc.gov/eb/tcd/working.html)> .

Prerecorded calls are unlawful when placed to a residential telephone line unless: the call is for emergency purposes; the recipient has given consent or has an established business relationship with the caller; the call is non-commercial or does not contain an unsolicited advertisement; or the caller is a tax exempt non-profit organization.

All unsolicited fax ads are illegal when they are sent to a fax machine without the recipient's prior approval, or when the sender does not have an established business relationship with the recipient.

Consumers can file a complaint by completing the on-line Consumer Complaint Form at <[www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html)> or by sending a letter summarizing the complaint to the FCC Con-

sumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

## AMATEUR RADIO

### Spanish-language NCVEC question Spools now available on the Web.

According to the ARRL: For the first time, a National Committee of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) question pool has been translated into Spanish and published on the Web to benefit of non-English speaking candidates in Puerto Rico.

"The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL), which has prepared Spanish-language question pool translations for the last eight years, has agreed to make available its Element 2 (Technician) Spanish-language question pool and corresponding graphics to other VECs.

"It is a very accurate translation of the original version using Puerto Rican Spanish with insertions of English words when translated words are confusing or non existing," said PRARL Secretary Victor Madera, KP4PQ--who also happens to be ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager.

The ARRL VEC Puerto Rico volunteer examiner team has offered Spanish-language tests at the Technician and General-class levels since 1994 and will now allow other VECs serving the Commonwealth to use its pool to generate their examinations.

Exam-generating software is in the works and will be available on the Web as soon as it's ready, Madera said. The PRARL also has produced study guides in Spanish, and these are available through local clubs to all interested persons. Visit the PRARL exam Web site located at <[prarl.org/servicios.html#Examen](http://prarl.org/servicios.html#Examen)> for more information.

**T**he national amateur radio societies of the Cameroon (in western Africa) and Macau (located off the coast of China) are the latest members of the International Amateur Radio Union. The Association des Radio Amateurs du Cameroun (ARTJ) was formed in 1998 and has 14 members, seven of whom are licensed. The Associacao dos Radioamadores de Macau (ARM) was founded in 1992 and now has 85 members. Macau became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China on December 20, 1999.

## FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

**T**he Duquesne Light Company (Pittsburgh, PA) has been advised by the FCC that it may be causing harmful interference to G. Robert Thacker, K3GT of Allison Park, PA .

The FCC said power-line equipment is classified as an "incidental radiator" and must not cause interference to authorized radio stations. Section 15.5 requires RF devices causing such interference to cease operations and not resume until the condition has been corrected.

Thacker has attempted unsuccessfully to work through the power company's usual complaint resolution process. The FCC said it prefers that such problems be solved without FCC intervention, but will conduct its own investigation if necessary.

The utility company has been directed to locate the source of any interference caused by its equipment and make the necessary corrections. The power company also is to advise the complainant of the steps being taken to resolve the interference. The FCC is to be notified if the problem is not corrected within 60 days.

**D**aniel Granda, KA6VHC (Whittier, CA) has been advised by the FCC that he has not answered a letter sent him on December 4, 2002, concerning interference to other repeaters.

Granda's repeater is apparently not properly coordinated and he was to have responded to interference and language allegations within 20 days. The FCC said it also received an additional complaint about his operations on January 6. "We request that in your response you address the issues raised in that letter as well."

Granda's license expires this year and will not be renewed until this matter is resolved.

**M**ichael E. Guernsey, Sr., ND8V (Parchment, MI) has had his final warning withdrawn. The FCC wrote Guernsey, "On November 25, 2002, we sent you a Warning Notice regarding complaints we had received about your station operation on the 20 Meter Amateur band. In that letter we requested you to refrain from operation on 20 Meters. You may disregard that warning letter and the request not to operate on the 20 Meter Band." Guernsey is apparently embroiled in a long running dispute with K1MAN's use of 14.275 MHz.

## IARN AMATEUR RADIO PEACE CORPS KIDS PROJECT

Belgrade Lakes, Maine, Jan. 7, 2003; Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, and John Palmer, WB8TUZ, of Dallas, Texas, announced today the kick-off of their new IARN AMATEUR RADIO PEACE CORPS KIDS PROJECT.

This nationwide and even world wide project will systematically introduce Amateur Radio to minority kids world wide for educational, motivational, and discipline learning purposes with the intent of "Helping kids to make good career choices" according to Mr. Palmer, a Radio Amateur from Dallas, Texas and former Engineering Technician with the Heath Company in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

The first IARN KIDS PROJECT international conference will be held in Belgrade Lakes, Maine this Summer. Mr. Palmer will appear as Glenn Baxter's special guest in a weekly series about the KIDS PROJECT over the K1MAN amateur radio short wave bulletin service beginning with the 12 January 2003 program. There is also a new web page for the IARN KIDS PROJECT. Go to <www.K1MAN.com> and click on IARN AMATEUR RADIO PEACE CORPS KIDS PROJECT. Mr. Palmer can be reached for further comment at (214) 375-8958. His E-Mail is: <jwpalmer3wb8tuz@earthlink.net>.

Mr. Baxter, K1MAN, is a former Industrial Engineer with the Collins Radio Company (Automatic Process Division) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Baxter stated that "I can't imagine any Radio Amateur who would be any happier than those who have been in the engineering cultures of the Heath Company or the Collins Radio Company. Mr. Palmer brings much of the fabulous Heath engineering culture into our IARN and AARA organizations, and we are all thrilled to have him aboard.

Mr. Palmer's dad was a black high school principal in Missouri, and also brings a culture of innovative teaching and the education of bright children into IARN and AARA. The American Amateur Radio Association is a major sponsor of the IARN AMATEUR RADIO PEACE CORPS KIDS PROJECT, said Mr. Baxter. For more info go to: <www.K1MAN.com>. [K1MAN Press Release]

● **On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the New Jersey Legislature honored the role of Amateur Radio operators in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.** "I would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your hard work and efforts," said Assembly Speaker Albio Sires. "During times of disaster, your group has displayed superior service and dedication to the safety of our citizens. I applaud the efforts of the independent radio operators and thank you for your selfless actions on September 11, 2001." (Source: ARRL)

● **Radio tower appeal goes to court.** The Hampshire Gazette (Northampton, MA) carried a story on January 9th about how Richard Chedester, KB1IPR, of Whately, MA who would like to build a 140-foot ham radio tower on his property on Haydenville Road, has decided to ask

the courts to rule on it. Chedester's neighbors said the tower was a "potential eye sore that would bring down property values." The Zoning Board of Appeals then revoked the building permit issued by the county. Chedester said that he believed federal and state law were clear about amateur radio tower use, which is that towns must make a "reasonable accommodation" for them.

● **The January 8<sup>th</sup> Knoxville News-Sentinel tells how Shelia Tallent, KB4G of Farragut, TN came to the rescue when a tornado sliced through Morgan County.** "Tallent, 50, is the state coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES, an all-volunteer force of ham radio operators who did what they do best during the recent storm, providing a reliable communications link to take the place of non-working telephones and the many incompatible radio channels used by emergency and police agencies."

"Within 15 minutes of the storm, volunteers and their radios were on their way. For most of the next 48 hours, they relayed communications among police departments, rescue squads, firefighters, demolition and repair crews, Red Cross emergency workers and many more. "Conservative estimates of the total value of the communications provided to Morgan County range between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Dozens of ham radio operators worked round the clock with many taking vacation days from work."

● **The Saudi Arabian Space Research Institute of KACST (King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology) has successfully launched its third amateur spacecraft, SaudiSat-1C.** The launch and separation were accomplished flawlessly on December 20<sup>th</sup> from a modified SS-18 Russian intercontinental ballistic missile. The German-made SAFIR-M Amateur Radio payload also went into orbit during the same launch.

SaudiSat-1C carries several experiments, including a new 'mode J' FM amateur repeater operating on 145.850 MHz uplink and 436.800 MHz downlink. The repeater has been activated and made available to amateurs worldwide as power permits. The repeater is accessible using a 67.0 Hertz CTCSS tone on the uplink, for on-demand activation. AMSAT assigned OSCAR, SO-50 to the new Saudi spacecraft. (Source: AMSAT News Service.)

● **The ARRL has allowed its WA2XSY 5-MHz experimental license to expire and is now awaiting an FCC decision on a new (U.S. only) secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz.** Discussions continue on how to accommodate amateur operation in the band, which is primary for several governmental agencies including the military. Many have expressed reservations about the new 60-meter ham band. ARRL's David Sumner said "We have every reason to believe the FCC will act on its proposal early this year, [but] what the outcome will be as far as 5 MHz is concerned, we cannot predict." (Source: ARRL.)



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## CES: WORLD'S LARGEST CONSUMER GADGET SHOW

The 2003 edition of the International Consumer Electronics Show ran from January 9 to 12 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. This year's theme: "Defining Technology's Future." Digital, wireless and "smart" gadgets were everywhere. While the November COMDEX technology show is going down hill, CES thrives.

The Consumer Electronics Association, which organizes the annual show, said it sold a record-breaking 1.2 million square feet to more than 2,000 exhibitors – more than for any other in the show's 36-year history.

Among the 100,000 who attended were a dozen members of Congress, along with top officials from the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Commerce and FCC chairman Michael Powell. Federal officials without travel funds had their expenses paid for by CEA.

CEA President and Chief Executive Officer Gary Shapiro said that total consumer electronics sales this year from manufacturers to dealers are forecast to top \$100 billion.

The first CES, held in 1967 in New York City drew 17,500 visitors. It showcased the latest in transistor radios, audio cassettes and small-screen black-and-white TVs. Other products that debuted at CES include: Video-cassette Recorder (VCR) 1970, Camcorder 1981, CD Player 1981, DVD 1996, High Definition Television (HDTV) 1998, and the Microsoft Xbox 2001. This year's product trends were just as exciting.

Microsoft's Bill Gates was the opening keynote speaker on Wednesday evening, January 8<sup>th</sup>. His 90-minute address was titled "Smart Living in the Digital Decade." Security was tight for the world's richest man. Police stood watch with trained dogs and show personnel searched people's bags.

Bringing advances in devices, connectivity and services together, Gates said, is a technology initiative called Smart Personal Object Technology (SPOT), which he first discussed during his COMDEX 2002 keynote address 2 months ago.

- Microsoft's SPOT uses "DirectBand" FM subcarrier transmissions to wirelessly import data to various gadgets. Smart watches (about \$150) have a 120-by-90 pixel digital screen that can display all kinds of information from the Internet ...such auto-updating time when a person passes from one time zone to another. And an alarm clock automatically downloads weather and traffic news while you sleep.

- Garmin International, the Global Positioning System technology, people unveiled a Palm Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) complete with internal maps enabled by GPS. It won an Innovations Award from CES. The \$589 GPS-enabled handheld lets users know where they are and uses voice guidance to give street-by-street directions to where they want to go.

- Instead of leashing computer users to a desk, smart displays allow folks to wander the house or office with a screen that links wirelessly with the mother ship PC. Smart Displays differ from another recently launched Microsoft platform, the Tablet PC. These are also portable displays that can be carried like a clipboard, but unlike Smart Displays they are also

full-fledged PCs that run applications locally. Users can write directly on both platform screens using a digital pen stylus.

- The \$6,000 Bernina Artista web-surfing sewing machine can download thousands of stitch and embroidery patterns to its hard drive from the Internet.

- Ray-O-Vac introduced fast-charging batteries. Its nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries recharge in only 15 minutes and can be recharged up to 1000 times. A charger and NiMH battery as a set cost about \$30. Unlike the Nicads, NiMH batteries contain no cadmium or other harmful metals.

- Dolby Laboratories showed new headphone technology that lets consumers enjoy the dramatic surround effects of a 5.1-channel (six speaker) soundtrack through any ordinary set of headphones.

- Producing digital movies at home is easy using Cyber-Link's PowerProducer software. It offers complete digital video production capability ...from video capture, editing, authoring, and burning to playing and streaming on PCs. The program takes advantage of the rapidly growing CD- and DVD-burning market, and is intended to provide tools for novice users.

- Motorola released its first line of faster Wi-Fi 802.11g products that are faster -- 54 megabits per second versus only 11 Mbps for 802.11b gear -- but backwards compatible with 802.11b products already on the market.

- "Hot Spots" are areas in restaurants, hotels, airports where you can get wireless high-speed access to the Internet. Today, there are an estimated 15-thousand Hot Spots ...and expanding fast. Intel wants Wi-Fi on every laptop and has introduced new advanced technology under the code name Baniyas ...recently changed to the Centrino brand name. The Centrino Mobile Platform chipset has lower power consumption (yielding two hours extra battery life) and wireless 802.11b capability built in.

- The Toshiba DVD-RAM RD-X2 records TV programs to an 80-gigabyte hard drive. Users edit out the commercials and then burn them to a DVD.

- The Exertris Interactive Exercise Bike has a video screen that allows people to play video games as they work out. Pedal faster to fire more bullets in a spaceship shoot-'em-up game. Also plays digital music as you pedal away pounds.

- Microsoft unveiled its Media2Go Portable Media Player platform. Intel-based PMPs, small enough to fit in a coat pocket, allow people to take video, still pictures and music with them wherever they go. It looks like a Walkman but has a 4-inch screen and a 20-gigabyte hard drive that allows for 175 hours of digital video, 8,000 songs and up to 30,000 pictures. Several firms (including Sanyo and Samsung) plan to sell the Media2Go portable media players this fall. The different types of media can be transferred to a PMP from a PC or a Personal Video Recorder using a fast Hi-Speed USB 2.0 connection. Cost will average \$300.

- Sony showed a new NW-MS70D Network Walkman that weighs only 1.9 ounces! Size is only 1.4 inches by 1.9 inches by .7 inches. It has 256MB of internal memory, which is enough for 11 hour-long CDs encoded using Sony's new Atrac 3 plus digital music format. You connect the device to your PC to encode music into the new format. The battery lasts for around 30 hours before recharging.

- KVH Industries unveiled a car-mounted 4-inch-high disc antenna that pulls in satellite TV. The \$2,000 antennas, already in use by the U.S. military, devote an array of tiny gyroscope-guided dish antennas to lock onto a satellite during the twists and turns of the road.

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## AMATEUR RADIO PROCEEDINGS UNDERWAY AT THE FCC

**RM-10413 – Filed March 22, 2002 by the American Radio Relay League (Newington, CT)**, seeks to "refarm" (eliminate) the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands and reuse the spectrum in part to expand the 80 and 40-meter phone allocations for higher class licensees. Novice and Technician Plus licensees would operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200 W output.

ARRL also asks that (1.) Spread Spectrum emission be permitted on the 222-225 MHz band, (2.) the special event call sign program be expanded to provide for prefixes that do not have a mailing address, (3.) the rules be clarified to indicate that modulated CW (MCW) is permitted for repeater station identification; and (4.) incorporate into the rules a 1990 FCC waiver authorizing amateurs in certain areas of Colorado and Wyoming to operate on certain segments of the 33-cm band.

**RM-10412 – Filed February 11, 2002, by Nicholas E. Leggett, N3NL (Reston VA)**, asks that commercially made Amateur Radio transmitters and transceivers to be manufactured in such a way so that they can be easily repaired in the field.

Leggett believes that most amateur radio systems are not easy to repair in the field which is important "...because it enhances emergency communications preparedness and the growth of technical knowledge."

He wants amateur radio equipment manufacturers to be compelled by rule to include such capabilities as field-replaceable modules or circuit boards, minimum spacing between components, test points and jacks for taking measurements, chassis with doors and removable shielding, service manuals containing schematic diagrams with specified voltages, currents and waveforms, etc.

Leggett concedes that this might cause some manufacturers may drop out of the amateur market but they would be replaced by others.

**RM-10355 – Filed December 27, 2001, by Glenn L. Williams AF8C, (Bay Village, OH)** secretary of the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center Amateur Radio Club of Cleveland wants the rules to additionally permit retransmission of manned spacecraft communications from the International Space Station in addition to the Space Shuttle. Current rules permits only amateur retransmission of NASA manned shuttle communications.

**RM-10354 – Filed by Novice licensee John S. Rippey W3ULS, (Montross, VA)** on December 27, 2001 wants increased frequency privileges for entry-level licensees who have demonstrated proficiency in telegraphy.

Rippey, first licensed in the 1950's, let his General Class license lapse for 45 years. He regained his previous W3ULS call sign under the Vanity call sign program after retesting in 1999. He maintains "...the HF operating privileges authorized today for a Novice or Technician Plus license fall far short of providing adequate value." He argues that "a basic license allowing significant HF operating privileges on phone and CW is a good way of encouraging new entrants into the amateur radio service."

He proposes to add additional CW spectrum for Novices at 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters and new phone privileges at 17 and 12 meters which he feels "...will add significant value to the Novice license."

**RM-10353 – Filed by Gary R. Harrison, K0BC (Bolivar, MO)**, president of The Quarter Century Wireless Association

(QCWA) on December 17, 2001, wants to change the vanity call sign system rules to permit amateurs to designate a specific ham radio club to receive their station call sign after their death.

The QCWA says current vanity rules "excludes current licensees from speaking for themselves" while they're still alive. Instead, club trustees must request a written statement from a close relative "...attesting to the person's association with the club and showing consent of the relative to the request."

**RM-10352 – Filed on September 17, 2001 by William R. Tippett, W4ZV, (New London, NC) and Jeffrey T Briggs K1ZM (Hopewell Junction, NY)** seeks to separate wideband and narrowband activity in the 160-meter band.

They ask that the 160-meter frequencies from 1.843 to 2.000 MHz be FCC-allocated to wideband emissions such as SSB, AM and SSTV with 1.800 to 1.843 MHz being reserved for narrowband modes such as CW and digital. The petitioners chose 1843 kHz to ensure that the lower edge of a LSB signal would not extend below 1840.

They say that a FCC-mandated subband "...is essential to supplement the newly-revised ARRL 160M bandplan which we believe will prove ineffective in maintaining a separation of wideband and narrowband modes." The ARRL Board approved a 160M voluntary bandplan in July 2001 which excludes wideband operation below 1840 kHz.

**RM-10313 – Filed May 1, 2001 by Thomas C. Wineland (Suwanee, GA)**, president of Kenwood Communications Corp. requests that the FCC relax the frequency restrictions on auxiliary operation which Kenwood contends is "poorly defined" in the rules and "significantly over-regulated." Now limited to above 222.15 MHz, Kenwood wants to extend auxiliary operation to 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 MHz, except on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz..

The petition actually is another effort by Kenwood to make its "Sky Command" remote station control system legal in the U.S. The device allows a fixed HF station to be controlled using a pair of dual-band (2-meter/70-cm) transceivers. In July 2000, the FCC ruled that use of Sky Command did not comply with rule Sec. 97.201(b) and refused to grant a waiver allowing use. The ARRL agreed and has refused Sky Command advertisements in QST.

**The following three petitions filed by the American Radio Relay League have successfully reached the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking stage.** (OET Docket No. 02-98 released May 15, 2002.)

**RM-10209 – Filed July 24, 2001** requests a new ham band near 5-MHz. The domestic secondary HF allocation of 150 kHz between 5250 and 5400 kHz would improve emergency and disaster relief communications between the U.S. and the Caribbean.

**RM-9949 – Filed July 17, 2000** seeks to upgrade the existing secondary Amateur Radio Service allocation in the 2400-2402 MHz band to primary status and to add a primary allocation for the Amateur-Satellite Service in this band. Hams already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz.

**RM-9404 – Filed October 22, 1998** seeks a Low Frequency allocation for the Amateur Radio Service at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. Use will focus on advanced techniques to communicate during adverse conditions with limited facilities. (FCC did not approve 160-190 kHz.)