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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Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P. O. Box 565101, Dallas TX 75356
Electronic mail: <W5YI@w5yi.org> • Website: <http://www.w5yi.org>
Tel. 817-461-6443 FAX: 817-548-9594

In This Issue...

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FCC Asks for Comments on WRC-2003 Draft Proposals

On January 15, 2003 the FCC's Advisory Committee for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference approved and adopted the various recommendations to the Commission on issues that WRC-03 will address. The WRC-03 Advisory Committee was established by the Commission in January 2001 to assist it in the development of proposals for WRC-03.

The FCC's International Bureau, in coordination with other Commission Bureaus and Offices, has tentatively concluded that it can generally support the proposals recommended by the WRC-2003 Advisory Committee. The Commission is now seeking public comment on these draft recommendations.

In addition, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has submitted letters to the Commission containing draft proposals that have been developed by the Executive Branch Agencies and comments are requested on those also.

The FCC will consider the draft proposals and comments provided in its upcoming consultations with the U.S. Dept. of State and NTIA in the development of U.S. proposals to WRC-03. Once agreed to by these Government agencies, these proposals will be used by U.S. delegations at bilateral, regional and international meetings. The draft proposals may change somewhat as we get closer to WRC-03 which will be held in Geneva beginning June 9 and lasting until July 4, 2003.

The complete texts of these draft proposals are available by accessing the FCC's WRC-03 world wide web site at <www.fcc.gov/wrc-03>.

To comment on the proposals, an original and one copy of your comments should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554 with a courtesy copy to Alex Roytblat, FCC WRC-03 Director, Room 6-A738. Refer to: Public Notice No. DA 03-91.

When possible, these comments should also be forwarded to the Commission via the Internet at: <wrc03@fcc.gov>. Comments should refer to specific proposals by document number. The deadline for comments on the draft proposals and NTIA letters was January 31, 2003.

Following is an up-to-date list of the WRC-03 agenda items and draft proposals impacting the amateur service.

Doc. IWG-6/051, June 15, 2001

Agenda Item 1.7: to consider issues concerning the amateur and amateur-satellite services:

Agenda Item 1.71: – possible revision of Article 25. (International regulations applying to the amateur service.)

Background:

At WRC-95, one administration (New Zealand) proposed to delete from Article 25 the requirement that amateurs demonstrate Morse code capability to be licensed to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz. Instead, a review of Article 25 was placed on the preliminary agenda for WRC-99. At WRC-97, this agenda item was moved to the preliminary agenda for WRC -01. At WRC-2000, the item was confirmed on the agenda for WRC-03.

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The current Article 25 contains 11 paragraphs, only one of which relates to the Morse code requirement. In 1996, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), an ITU Sector Member, initiated a review of the entire Article by publishing a discussion paper and soliciting comment. Several iterations of the paper and discussions at three regional conferences over a three-year period culminated in the adoption of a consensus view in 1998. This consensus view supports the following principles:

- Retention of the requirement that administrations shall verify the technical and operational qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. The specific qualifications are subject to change over time and more appropriately belong in an ITU-R Recommendation. Accordingly, Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 was developed in Working Party 8A.
- Protection of the non-commercial nature of the amateur and amateur-satellite services.• Inclusion of specific provisions to recognize the disaster communications role of the amateur service and to facilitate global roaming by amateur stations.
- Relief from existing prohibition on transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties.
- Elimination of the provision forbidding radiocommunications between amateurs of different countries if the administration of one of the countries has notified that it objects to such communications.
- Elimination of redundant provisions that simply repeat regulations that apply generally to all radio services.

DRAFT PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 25

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.

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 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.

Reasons for changes:

- **Previous Article 25.2** is modified to eliminate obsolete restrictions while retaining the non-commercial nature of the amateur service and to update the 'plain language' requirement by replacing it with 'not encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.'
- **Previous Article 25.5** which required demonstrated Morse code proficiency is eliminated and left to the various administrations to determine if this requirement is necessary.
- **Previous Article 25.3** is no longer required and eliminated. Privatized telecommunications services do not require protection from bypass. The cost of telecommunications services is now so low that the amateur service is not an attractive alternative except in rare cases of isolated stations. Other regulations are sufficient to protect the non-commercial nature of the service.
- **New Article 25.3** recognizes the disaster communications capability of the amateur service consistent with Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-1, which recommends that administrations encourage the development of amateur networks capable of providing communications in the event of natural disasters and that amateur organizations be allowed to exercise their networks periodically during normal non-disaster periods.
- **New Article 25.4** makes it clear that administrations are authorized and encouraged to permit visiting amateurs to operate without being required to issue them a license.
- **Previous Article 25.7 §3** is eliminated since Article 15.2 already provides that "Transmitting stations shall radiate only as much power as is necessary to ensure a satisfactory service."

Doc. IWG-6/051, June 15, 2001

Agenda Item 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.

Background:

Agenda item 1.7.2 was the result of an administration proposal, endorsed by CEPT, to provide more flexibility in amateur station call sign structure, especially to commemorate special events or for special situations. There is some demand in the United States for amateur station call signs that do not conform to Article S19.

For example, in 1997 the FCC authorized the use of call sign NN50CIA to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Central Intelligence Agency. At other times the FCC has granted permission for amateur stations to use call signs that are at variance with Article S19 to commemorate, for example, US hosting of the Olympics and the bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States.

DRAFT PROPOSAL

Modification of S19.68 to:

- one character (see No. S19.50.1) 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, ...

Current rule permits only a three letter call sign suffix.

Suppression (elimination) of S19.49:
This paragraph 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 No. S19.49.

Doc. IWG-6/052, June 15, 2001

Agenda Item 1.7.3 – review of the terms and definitions of Article S1 to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article S25.

Background information:

One administration, with CEPT backing, was the basis for this issue at WRC-2000. The U.S. attempted to have this item withdrawn and succeeded in adding the provision "to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article S25.".

DRAFT PROPOSAL

At this time the United States does not support changes in Article S25 that would require consequential changes in the terms and definitions in Article S1.

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.

Note: The "Preliminary View" and initial "Draft Proposal" [completed in IWG-06] supporting a 300 kHz HF allocation at 40 meters is now being opposed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Here are the documents covering Agenda items 1.23 and 1.36.

Doc. IWG-6/014(rev3), July 11,2001

Agenda Item 1.23: to consider realignment 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)

Issue: The need for a worldwide exclusive spectrum allocation for the amateur and amateur-satellite services in the three ITU Regions.

Background:

Before 1938 the amateur service was allocated 300 kHz, 7000-7300 kHz, on a worldwide basis. At the 1938 Cairo Conference, the 300 kHz was reduced to 150 kHz for Regions 1 and 3 by the insistence of the Europeans. The allocation was further reduced to 100 kHz for Regions 1 and 3 at the 1947 Atlantic City Conference. The 200 kHz from 7100-7300 kHz was reallocated to the broadcasting service on a primary basis for Regions 1 and 3 for broadcasting within those regions.

Although the amateurs in Region 2 retained a 300 kHz exclusive allocation, 7000-7300 kHz, they have to protect the broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3 that were broadcasting to areas within Regions 1 and 3 (RR Footnote S5.142). In addition, certain national footnotes further limited the amateurs' allocation by assigning 7000-7050 kHz to the fixed service on a primary basis (RR Footnotes S5.140 & S5.141).

At WARC-92, the United States proposed a worldwide amateur allocation in band 6900-7200 kHz as a consequence of proposed additional allocations for the broadcasting service above 7 MHz. That proposal failed because the modification of broadcasting service allocations was insufficient to cause a consequential change in the amateur allocation. WARC-92 agreed to Recommendation 718 (WARC-92) to consider realignment of the bands around 7 MHz at a future conference. A CEPT position was presented at WRC-97 that supported action at WRC-99 to carry out a realignment of the bands around 7 MHz and set out a number of facts and principles on which the re-alignment should be based. The proposed agenda item was eventually agreed to for inclusion on the provisional agenda for WRC-03.

As the only primary allocation to the amateur service between 4 and 14 MHz, the 7 MHz band is in heavy use 24 hours each day. During daylight hours, the band carries the bulk of amateur sky wave communication over distances of less than 1300 km. During the winter and during periods of low solar activity, and at other times when the maximum usable frequency (MUF) falls below 10 MHz, it must support the bulk of amateur intercontinental communication during the hours of darkness. As such, the Amateur Service is heavily dependent upon the 7 MHz band during natural disasters, when communications provided by radio amateurs may be the only means of maintaining critical communications links.

The requirement for at least a 300 kHz allocation is even greater today than in the past, owing to the increasing number of amateur stations and the expanding diversity of modes of emission used in the amateur service. However, the requirement is being met only in Region 2 and in certain countries in Regions 1 and 3 that permit their amateur stations to operate in the band 7100-7300 kHz under the provisions of Radio Regulation S4.4, and then only at those times (mostly during daylight hours) when broadcasting interference does not preclude full use of the band by amateur stations. In most countries in Regions 1 and 3, amateurs are limited to the portion of the band that is exclusively amateur, worldwide: 7000-7100 kHz.

Congestion in the amateur service is a significant problem and a return to the previous allocation of 300 kHz, worldwide, in the vicinity of 7 MHz is strongly indicated (RES 641, Rev.HFBC-87).

PRELIMINARY VIEW:

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 spectrum allocated on an exclusive basis to the maritime mobile, aeronautical mobile (OR), and aeronautical mobile (R) services should not be considered for any reallocation (July 11, 2001).

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

The imaginary yellow ten-yard first down marker line used by TV networks in football games may be coming to your automobile. Pilots of F-18s have been using the technology for years -- displays of vital information appearing on the cockpit windshield.

Soon, automobile drivers will get a similar view with speed, navigation information – even urgent warning messages – dsplayed on their windshield. The goal of the "Heads-Up" display is to put the important information in a driver's line of sight.

A yellow line -- kind of a graphic -- that appears to be painted directly onto the road surface that the driver sees ahead provides a very easy way to be guided to your destination.

Electronics technology has advanced so quickly that a car built just ten years ago is an antique compared to today's vehicles – which may have as many as thirty mini-computers working together to run everything from the anti-lock brakes to the "Heads-Up" display.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

Now that the merger between DBS (satellite TV) operator EchoStar's Dish and Hughe's DirecTV is off, there are widespread rumors that one of the satellite firms will be sold. The Wall Street Journal reports that EchoStar Communications Corp. has been talking with News Corp's Rupert Murdoch as well as Liberty Media Corp. controlled by cable-TV mogul John Malone. News Corp. and Liberty have also expressed an interest in DirecTV. One of the other could result in Murdoch's long-sought foothold in the U.S. satellite-TV market.

In other DBS news, DirecTV Inc. added 292,000 net subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2002, giving the direct-broadcast satellite company 1.05 million additions in calendar-year 2002 for a total of 9.49 million subscribers at year-end 2002. DISH Network currently serves 8 million customers.

DirecTV expects PVR – personal-video-recorder – equipped set-tops to account for 10 percent of all sales next year. PVRs use a hard drive and an electronic TV schedule service to let consumers digitally record ("time shift") shows. They can even pause a live event, to answer the phone, then pick up where they left off. Satellite broadcasters offer PVRs built into the receiver. About half of today's 1 million PVR customers are EchoStar subscribers. DirecTV has far fewer..

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

Broadband access to the Internet grows. Nielsen/NetRatings reported that high speed Internet access in U.S. homes continues to post double-digit growth with a 59 percent year-over-year increase, marking more than 33.6 million Internet users who access the Web via broadband in December 2002.

Broadband users also spent more time online, conducted more online visits and viewed more pages than narrowband Web surfers during the month. High-speed surfers spent an average of 17 hours and 20 minutes online last month, while time spent for dial-up users averaged less than 10 hours during the same timeframe.

Broadband users also conducted nearly 15 more visits while viewing over 1,300 pages per person, more than double the amount of pages accessed by their narrowband counterparts. Even as narrowband users comprise the bulk of the U.S. online population, dial-up access declined 10 percent last month.

More than 74.4 million accessed the Internet through narrowband, with connection speeds ranging from 14.4-56K. Nearly three million surfers ages 55-64 accessed the Web via cable, DSL, ISDN or other high-speed connections, surging 78 percent year-over-year.

More than 3.1 million Internet users ages 50-54 logged online using faster connections last month, up 75 percent, while seniors ages 65-99 recorded a 67 percent increase to nearly 1.3 million. Web surfers in the 21-to-24 age group showed the slowest growth in broadband use, up 24 percent. *[Source: CNET]*

Electronic attack slows Internet to a crawl ...over a quarter of a million infections have been reported. A highly contagious computer worm that severely disrupted global Internet traffic over the January 25-26 weekend has finally subsided.

The slowdown was caused when the virus-like worm quickly reproduced itself and created massive amounts of Internet traffic that clogged networks. Experts say it was the worst outbreak since the 2001 Code Red and Nimda worms.

Access to many websites and the receiving and sending of e-mail both domestically and internationally were slowed ...especially on Saturday. Thousands of Bank of America ATM machines in the U.S. were temporarily disabled.

The attack, variously known as "slammer," "sapphire," and "sequel" exploited a known flaw in Microsoft's "SQL Server 2000" database software, used by businesses, government agencies, universities and others around the world.

Microsoft had issued a patch for the flaw in July, but many web server administrators had failed to install it. The Slammer worm targeted those systems that had not yet been protected

Clues in the code link it to a Chinese hacker group known as the Honkers Union, a group of self-styled patriotic Chinese. Most severely impacted was Asia.

The virus hit South Korea particularly hard because it has the world's highest penetration of broadband (high speed) Internet services.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Mobile phones to become fashion statements. With cell-phone penetration rates in many markets at 70 to 85 percent, and overall growth stalled, mobile telephone manufacturers are looking at ways to increase sales.

One firm, (Siemens) is creating a new line of fashion accessory phones that lack high-end services such as accessing the Internet or sending photos. It won't be long before shoes, watches and handbags will come with an incorporated cell phone. Marketing will be done through department stores and fashion retailers.

Like all fashion, two collections will be created every year; Spring/summer and fall/winter. Planned lifecycle is only twelve months ...significantly shorter than existing mobile phones. They will be available in Europe and Asia this Spring.

Musicians no longer have to buy sheet music and turn pages when reading it. MusicPad Pro promises to change forever how musicians read and

perform music. The world's first digital sheet music computer tablet stores five thousand pages of sheet music. Musicians simply touch the screen to turn the page.

The new battery-operated tablet computer is not much larger than a sheet of paper and weighs just under five pounds. Internal back lighting eliminates the need for external lighting. Suggested retail is: $999.

The San Diego Symphony recently tested the MusicPad Pro during their Christmas performances of the "Nutcracker" ballet and gave it rave reviews.

The manufacturer's website at <www.freehandsystems.com> sells over 17,000 low-cost music compositions and digital files. You download the music to your desktop computer and from there, to the music tablet. You can even add or erase rehearsal marks and notations on the screen.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Major League baseball video webcasting over a high speed Internet connection will be tested this year. Last year, some 200,000 people paid $14.95 last year to listen to online radio broadcasts of every baseball game and watch video of game highlights.

This year, baseball will broadcast live feeds online by combining Real Network's separate audio and video streaming players into one device. Nearly 18 million homes now have a broadband connection.

And Starz, the cable movie service, will offer a service that will let users watch up to 100 full-length movies a month which must be downloaded into a user's PC in advance. Cost for either the baseball or movie feeds will be about $6 to $10 a month.

Google, the innovative web search engine people, and Sprint have announced the availability of the first US-based wireless image search.

The new service enables Sprint PCS Vision cell phone customers to search and view Google's collection of nearly 400 million full color web images and more than 3 billion web pages.

Using their PCS Vision phones, customers can search for images of celebrities, view details of a car for sale or simply get their latest hometown news complete with color and graphics.

AMATEUR RADIO

Cronkite reportedly taking legal action against K1MAN. In 1996, Glenn Baxter K1MAN was successful in getting famed CBS news anchorman Walter Cronkite, the man known as the most trusted voice in America, to record identification breaks for his International Amateur Radio Network bulletin service. Cronkite, now retired, has long held a Novice ham ticket, KB2GSD.

In 1997, Amateur Radio Newsline reported that Baxter broadcast, "Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, keeps informed about Amateur Radio events by listening to the International Amateur Radio Network and supports ARRS, the American Amateur Radio Association." This announcement was followed by Cronkite's ID "You are listening to the International Amateur Radio Network. This is K1MAN."

A couple of years later, a copy of a letter accusing Baxter of being a child molester was sent to Cronkite. He responded by asking Baxter stop using the ID. K1MAN said he would if Cronkite would come on his ham radio talk show and explained his reasons. Cronkite declined.

Now comes word that Walter Cronkite has retained legal counsel (New York attorney, Ronald S. Konecky) because Glenn Baxter is supposedly distributing some sort of unauthorized video that contains Cronkite. Baxter's version is that he is merely passing on a video that he purchases from the ARRL..

Reportedly, Cronkite's lawyer has sent Baxter the following letter: "Dear Mr. Baxter, We are the Attorneys for Mr. Walter Cronkite. Mr. Cronkite, as an accommodation, previously furnished an audio recording, to be used by you merely as a station ID.

Since your use of the recording extended beyond the agreed upon and intended limited station I.D., Mr. Cronkite previously requested that you refrain from any further use of the audiotape or from any suggestion that he endorses your station, operation, or other Associations.

You have improperly refused to comply with such request and have continued to use the tape for purposes beyond its intended use.

We have now been advised that without Mr. Cronkite's permission or authorization, you have produced and are now distributing an approximately six minute CD video using Mr. Cronkite and the station identification which he previously furnished.

Such Video constitutes a violation of Mr. Cronkite's rights, is totally improper, and is in addition to your use of the audio identification, a cause of serious damage to his name and reputation.

We accordingly demand that you immediately cease and desist from any use of the audio station I.D.; from the production, publication and distribution of the CD video, and from the use of Mr. Cronkite's name and likeness; in any medium, and on any basis whatsoever." (signed) Attorney for Walter Cronkite.

On January 25th, Baxter responded with the following letter to Cronkite's attorney: "Mr. Konecky, I will be calling you at 212-744 6003 today on a recorded line to discuss the alleged letter found by us today on the Internet. This call will be aired on our international amateur radio talk program this week beginning Sunday, 26 January 2003. You appear to be very poorly informed about this matter by Mr. Cronkite.

In brief, Walter did do an ID for us and was then blackmailed by an anonymous person to either ask us to stop using the ID or else be tied in with public accusations of child molesting. The most trusted man in America caved in to this blackmail, but I stood tall and refused to stop the ID unless Walter came on my program to explain all this to the entire world. He declined. If I caved in, then I would have taken the public relations (false) child molesting "hit" alone. No way Jose!

The CD video produced by Walter is being purchased by us from ARRL for $4 each and given, free of charge, to any AARA Life Member who wants one.

The ID Walter did for us is used by us, daily, and we will continue to do so for as long as we wish.

I strongly suggest that Mr. Cronkite get a grip on his personal integrity and smarten up a bit before he destroys himself while he, in vain, tries to destroy me. I have made this sincere and heartfelt suggestion to Walter before, and he has apparently ignored it.

If you don't publicly apologize for publishing the [above] letter, I will look forward to seeing both you and Walter in court.

Sincerely, (signed) Glenn A. Baxter, P.E., K1MAN, Executive Director, American Amateur Radio Association.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

The City of Bolivar (Tennessee) Electric Power Department has joined a growing list of utility companies that have been advised that it may be causing harmful interference to sensitive Amateur Radio operations.

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.

The complainant, Charles G Plunk, AF4O 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 and impose "appropriate remedies" including "...a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The power company was directed to advise Mr. Plunk of the steps being taken to correct the interference. The FCC is to be notified if the problem is not corrected within 60 days.

The Lakeland Electric Company (Lakeland, FL) was advised on June 10, 2002 that it received complaints of harmful radio interference that is possibly caused their equipment to Amateur Radio operations. "Although you have responded to the complainant, J.C. Flynn, W4FGC, within the specified time period, the harmful interference he reported to this office still remains unresolved after 90 days." The FCC warned that "In order to avoid possible enforcement action, please advise this office within 30 days of receiving this letter of what action you have made, or intend to make, in order to identify and correct the source of these radio emissions if they are being caused by your equipment."

Daniel Granda KA6VHC, Whittier, CA is embroiled in a repeater coordination dispute and other violations including obscene and indecent communications, inadequate station control and deliberate interference.

Section 97.109(d) of the Commission's rules provides that when an Amateur station is being automatically controlled, the control operator need not be at the control point. The rule also states that automatic control must cease upon FCC notification that the station is transmitting improperly or causing harmful interference to other stations; and that automatic control must not be resumed without prior FCC approval.

On January 13th, the FCC's Los Angeles District Director revoked Granda's authority to operate KA6VHC under automatic control. "If KA6VHC is operated under automatic control prior to [FCC approval], enforcement action will be taken against your Amateur operator and station licenses for KA6VHC. This action will include designation of those licenses for a revocation and suspension hearing, and a monetary forfeiture."

John S. Gregory W3ATE (Lake Placid, FL) has had his General Class upgrade set aside based upon complaints about the operation of his station on frequencies not authorized by his Technician Class license. He must only operate on frequencies accorded to the Technician Class and his General Class application reverts to a pending status.

"At various times in 2002, including March 1, 5 and November 21, you apparently checked into a net on 14.300 MHz while still licensed as a Technician. You were issued Warning Notices regarding this matter on May 6 and June 6, 2002," FCC said. "Both letters were returned 'unclaimed.'"

Gregory was directed to explain his operation outside of the Technician Class frequencies within 20 days. The submitted information will be used to determine what action the FCC will be taking. "Failure to respond will result in the dismissal of your [General Class] application."

Dick Haven WB8FGQ (Byron Center, MI) was issued Vanity call sign WB8FGQ on August 1, 2000 on the basis that he previously held this call sign. He has been directed by the FCC to furnish documentation within 20 days that he is a former holder of WB8FGQ.

Benjamin P. Ng KK7BEN (San Jose, CA) has been cited for promoting non- certified equipment. FCC said it had information that he recently sold radio equipment on eBay advertised as a "YAESU VX-1R Dual Band HT, software modified to RX/TX out of band, can talk with FRS and GMRS radios." The FCC advised that "The use of modified Amateur Radio units on FRS, GMRS, or any frequency in other services, would be against the Commission's rules and would result in FCC enforcement action against the user."

John C. Lagger, AA8XS, trustee of the Toledo (Ohio) Amateur Radio Club repeater W8RZM has been cited for allowing violations on the repeater by N8WWM. "The transmissions continued for a considerable time and there was no evidence of a control operator. Since you are the trustee for the repeater, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for its proper operation. ...all stations must have a control operator. ...'automatic' control does not mean 'unattended' operation. Unattended operation is not authorized under the rules."

"The repeater licensee/trustee is responsible for all recurring violations and violations that are not inadvertent, just as a licensee is responsible for a base station HF station operation in the licensee's home. You must prevent recurring and deliberate violations on the repeater by locking rule violators out, using tones, warning users, limiting its operation, or taking whatever steps necessary commensurate with your responsibility as the licensee of the station. If you are unable to do so, then you must shut down your station."

"If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on the W8RZM repeater, then your operator and station license will be subject to enforcement action [which] may include monetary forfeiture, operator license suspension or station license revocation."

Lagger must advise the FCC within 20 days of the action taken to prevent additional rule violations on the repeater."

Juan L. Vasquez KG2PI (Paterson, NJ); Juan C. De La Cruz (Riverdale, NY); Antonio Leonor Disla (Lawrence, MA); Hector P. Genao KC2DPX (Manhattan, NY); Doroteo A. Hiciano KB2YBF (Ozone Park, NY); Francisco Martes KB2RJZ (Rosedale, NY); Jose A. Tineo KB2RKF (New York, NY); Teofilo Vargas N2JZQ (Bronx, NY); Hector C. Vasquez KB2UFD (New York, NY) and **Pedro P. Caba N2ZFL (Brooklyn, NY)** have all been cited for operating Amateur Radio transmitting equipment without a license on 11-meters between 25.540 and 26.555 MHz. Such operation subject them to a fine or imprisonment, as well as seizure of their transmitting equipment. "Fines normally range from $7,500 to $10,000," FCC said. They were directed to contact the FCC at once regarding this matter.

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February 15, 2003

LEGENDARY COMPUTER TERRORIST NOW BACK ONLINE

Kevin Mitnick, N6NHG, the hacker once called by the government "the most-wanted computer criminal in U.S. history," is back surfing the Web again. Released from prison in January 2000, Mitnick, now 39, served five years for breaking into the computer networks of several major corporations, stealing software and causing tens of millions of dollars in damage in the process.

He was arrested in Raleigh, North Carolina, by the FBI on February 15, 1995, with the help of a top security expert who tracked him down. As a condition of his three year probation, Mitnick has not been allowed to use a computer ...or the Internet. That restriction has now ended.

The Internet has drastically changed since the mid 1990'a when he was locked up. The mostly text Web that he knew is now multimedia.

Mitnick, who now lives in Thousand Oaks, California, logged onto the Internet for the first time in eight years during a live TechTV show called "Screen Savers" on January 21st. His girl friend, Darci Wood, works at the station as one of the segment producers.

Guests on the same program was Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer, who presented him with a 1GHz PowerBook G4 computer and Emanuel Goldstein, publisher of "2600", the hacker quarterly magazine, a vocal supporter of the long-running "Free Kevin" campaign.

The first site Mitnick visited was Darci's weblog located at <http://www.labmistress.com/lmblog/girlgeek/>. She has been documenting their relationship there. "I wanted to see what she'd said about me," Mitnick said after the show. The "blog" indeed makes interesting reading.

Mitnick also has been successful in getting his General Class ham ticket renewed His license came up for renewal in 1999 while he was in prison and the FCC designated it for a hearing to determine if the renewal would be in the public interest.

He has been a ham radio operator since he was in junior high school, and says ham radio got him into "phone phreaking" -- hacking the phone system -- and later into computers.

To get his ham ticket back, Mitnick retained a lawyer. After nearly $16,000 in legal bills, the FCC has now agreed that he is adequately "rehabilitated" and worthy of being a Commission licensee. The FCC's database has yet to show the renewal, however. Mitnick refers to it as "...the most expensive amateur radio license in the world." He is selling the laptops he used to commit his crimes to pay off the debt.

Now that his probation is over, he plans to get involved in computer security work and has started a consulting company, Defensive Thinking. He also has testified before Congress on computer security, wrote a book (called "The Art of Deception") on social engineering and made a series of computer security training films with Oscar-winning actor, Kevin Spacey under a newly formed production company, Defensive Films.

He has been allowed to use a cellphone for the last couple of years and had to receive special court permission year to type the book manuscript on a computer not connected to the Internet. Mitnick also has plans to work for another company but has declined to name it.

Mitnick will still be barred from making money off his story until 2010, a condition of his release he plans to fight. His attorneys say the government can't prevent anyone from exercising their free speech rights. He has already been approached by movie makers who are interested in doing a film based on his life.

Mitnick may be the last criminal who is prohibited from using a computer as a condition of parole. Two federal appellate courts recently ruled that Internet prohibition is too broad a punishment for computer criminals, saying a PC is now as essential as a phone.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of February 1, 2003:

District	Extra	Advanced	Tech./General/Novice
0	AB0XK	KI0SL	→ KC0OWP
1	AB1BX	KE1ME	→ KB1JHQ
2	AB2QD	KG2RR	→ KC2KTR
3	AB3AK	KF3EF	→ KB3JAG
4	AG4XR	KV4GS	→ KG4WZB
5	AD5ND	KM5XX	→ KD5UXL
6	AE6KO	KR6FE	→ KG6OSG
7	AC7XG	KK7XO	→ KD7UCS
8	AB8QJ	KI8KD	→ KC8VOV
9	AB9GY	KG9QU	→ KC9DBB
Hawaii	→	AH6RQ	NH7PQ WH6DGT
Alaska	→	AL7RV	KL1KS WL7CVR
Virgin Isl.	→	KP2CS	NP2MK WP2AIP
Puerto Rico	→	KP3BN	WP3VX WP4NOZ

[Source: FCC Amateur Service Database, Washington, DC]

- On Jan 19th the Lynchburg (Virginia) News & Advance newspaper carried a feature story about how **a team of amateur radio hobbyists set a new world distance record for a two-way radio contact at 145 GHz.**

Lynchburg's Brian Justin WA1ZMS, Gordon "Geep" Howell WA4RTS, Pete Lascell W4WWQ and Hal DeVuyst KA4YNO "...sent a radio signal from the top of Apple Orchard Mountain to a spot near Mabry Mill, 79.6 kilometers (roughly 50 miles) as the radio wave flies." Both stations ran about 4 mw of power.

The quartet, all members of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club (K4CQ) of which Justin is president, put their equipment together in Justin's basement from surplus electronics parts, mounted it on a camera tripod and aimed their one-foot dish antenna with a rifle scope.

BUYING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADIAN WEBSITES

What started a few years ago as a trickle of Americans along the border making weekend trips to Canadian pharmacies eventually led to escorted bus-load tours of seniors crossing into Canada to buy their medicine. Now the Internet is very much involved.

. There are now about 100 Canadian pharmacies specializing in customers south of the border. Websites like <www.crossborderpharmacy.com>, <www.canada-meds.com> , <www.CanadaRX.com>, <www.canada-pharmacy.com> and <www.tcds.com> (which stands for The Canadian Drug Store) lower medication costs by providing drugs to U.S. consumers at the discount prices negotiated by the Canadian Government with all pharmaceutical companies. U.S. drug prices are, on the average, double the price for exactly the same prescription medicine.

There is even a "CanUSA Health Group" plan that deals with Canadian pharmacies with offices in Canada and Detroit. See their Website at: <www.pbmrx.com>.

Buying prescription drugs from Canada is easy. You simply fill out an online form and fax a copy of your physician's prescription to the pharmacy. To satisfy regulatory requirements, pharmacies generally have Canadian-licensed doctors rewrite U.S. prescriptions.

"Re-importation" of drugs is a whopping $1 billion business. Huge, Yes! But still less than one percent of the $140.6 billion U.S. consumers spend on prescription drugs.

Here is a price comparison chart of the top selling prescription drugs in the U.S. Each one accounts for more than a billion dollars in sales. The prices are those found at local drug stores, online at <www.drugstore.-com> ...and the average price charged by Canadian pharmacies. (There is an additional $13 to $15 shipping charge per shipment from Canada.)

Prescription Drug	Corner drug	Drugstore.com	Ave. Canada
Allegra 60mg, 30s	$37.50	$35.00	$22.00
Augmentin 125mg, 100s	$263.20	$259.00	$130.00
Celebrex 100mg, 100s	$158.32	$150.00	$65.00
Lipitor 40mg, 90's	$287.97	$270.00	$175.00
Paxil 20mg, 100's	$289.96	$234.00	$145.00
Prevacid 30mg, 30's	$125.99	$117.00	$65.00
Prilosec 20mg, 28s	$114.79	$116.00	$65.00
Prozac 20mg, 100's	$319.96	$292.00	$125.00
Vioxx 25mg..30s	$86.99	$75.00	$45.00
Zocor 20mg, 100s.	$377.38	$365.00	$185.00
Zoloft 50mg, 100s	$236.63	$213.00	$142.00

Pharmaceutical companies like GlaxoSmithKline Merck, Wyeth, and Eli Lilly have warned Canadian wholesalers not to ship drugs back to the USA. But the practice continues widespread and unchecked.

Drug companies through the PRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) have lobbying long and hard against legislation to allow mass re-importation of drugs or speeding up the distribution of generic drugs. They say they are concerned about a possible lack of medical supervision, quality controls and that patients could be at risk through mislabeling or shipping damage.

What they are really concerned about, of course, is the backlash from U.S. drug outlets who are losing sales. The fact remains, however, that there has been no reports of abuse. Unlike Mexico, the pharmacy industry is well regulated in Canada.

Consumers aren't the only ones looking to save money. Some health insurers, such as the United Health Group, the country's biggest health insurer, will reimburse their members for prescriptions filled in Canada.

And U.S. entrepreneurs like Karen Azarchi of Princeton, New Jersey, are also getting on the bandwagon. Karen, a software consultant, got a toll-free number (877-633-7453), launched a website at: <www.Medications4Less.com> last year and now peddles Canadian drugs. Her business model is simple.

Operating from her basement, she forwards doctor prescriptions to Canadian mail-order pharmacies which ships the medicines directly to her customers at savings of up to 85 percent off those charged by major U.S. drugstore chains. She now has five employees and fills up to 100 orders a day. She doesn't need a license because she isn't dispensing drugs.

There is no extra cost to the buyer. The Canadian pharmacies pay Karen a commission. All of her prescriptions are filled by licensed, certified pharmacists in Canada and come in the original manufacturer- sealed containers.

The big question, of course, is why are exactly the same drugs so much cheaper in Canada. The answer is two fold. First (and foremost), drug prices in Canada are price-controlled by the Government. And Americans are paying the highest drug prices in the world that are inflated by the manufacturer's research and development costs. U.S. drug prices are completely deregulated.

The Food and Drug Administration has long allowed people to import a 90-day personal supply of drugs "...not available in this country." Any amount above this 3 month limit is not considered "for personal use." So technically the practice violates federal laws. But a spokesman says the FDA looks the other way and does not enforce them. "We don't want to punish seniors," he said.

According to the FDA, some 2 million packages of medicine will travel from Canada to the United States this year ...many through the mail from orders placed over the Internet. That's double what it was last year!

Canadian drugs are a viable answer to the absence of a Medicare drug benefit ...and for the 41 million people without any health insurance at all.

So, while Congress continues to debate a Medicare drug benefit, the practice of re-importing drugs from Canada goes largely unimpeded.

Continued from Page 3 – WRC-03 DRAFT PROPOSALS

Doc.IWG-6/xx, May 31, 2002
Informal Working Group 6 submitted the following:

DRAFT PROPOSAL – Agenda Item 1.23.

Background:

The purpose of carrying out a realignment of the bands around 7 MHz is to remedy the long-standing difficulties experienced by the amateur service and the limitations placed on the broadcasting service as a result of the changes made to the frequency bands around 7 MHz at the Atlantic City WARC in 1947.

For the amateur service, the usefulness of the allocations around 7 MHz for worldwide links is limited because only 100 kHz of spectrum between 7 000 and 7 100 kHz is common to Region 2 and Regions 1 and 3. The 7 100-7 300 kHz band is allocated exclusively to the broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3, and exclusively to the amateur service in Region 2. Given the large disparity in signal levels between the two services, broadcasting transmissions cause interference to the sensitive receivers used in the amateur service during periods of good propagation between Regions 1 and 2. The degree of interference experienced in Region 2 varies with time-of-day, season, solar activity and distance from broadcasting stations in other regions.

[A study] concludes that the sharing of frequency bands by the amateur and broadcasting services is undesirable and should be avoided, because of system incompatibility between broadcasting and amateur services Analysis of the results of studies.

PROPOSALS:
Stage 1 to be implemented on or before 1 April 2007

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
7000-7100 kHz	AMATEUR, AMATEUR SATELLITE	
7100-7200 kHz	AMATEUR	
7200-7300 kHz BROADCASTING	7200-7300 kHz AMATEUR	7200-7300 kHz BROADCASTING
7300-7450 kHz	BROADCASTING	

MOD 5.142 The use of the band 7200-7300 kHz in Region 2 by the amateur service shall not impose constraints on the broadcasting service intended for use within Region 1 and Region 3

Stage 2 to be implemented on/before 1 April 2010

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
7000-7100 kHz	AMATEUR, AMATEUR SATELLITE	
7100-7300 kHz	AMATEUR	
7300-7550 kHz	BROADCASTING	

REASONS:

Achieves global harmonization of the allocations consistent with the factors identified as conditioning the search for a viable solution.

In order to reduce the impact of the changes to the broadcasting, fixed and land mobile services, this modification would be introduced over several years in two stages.

On November 15, 2002, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) objected to the United States proposing additional amateur service allocations for Regions 1 and 3.

The NTIA is the Executive Branch's principal voice on domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues.

NTIA believes it should be up to the administrations of these two Regions to determine if the allocations to their amateur service should be changed. "It is NTIA's recommendation that "No Proposal" should be submitted from this administration [the United States] for agenda item 1.23."

It is, however, the position of the ARRL that the U.S. has every right to propose changes since HF broadcasting in ITU Regions 1 and 3 impacts amateur communications in Region 2 (North, Central and South America.)

Doc. WAC/168(08.01.03)

Agenda Item 1.36: to examine the adequacy of the frequency allocations for HF broadcasting from about 4 MHz to 10 MHz, taking into account the seasonal planning procedures adopted by WRC-97.

(This is an NTIA revision of a draft proposal from Informal Working Group 6 that appeared in Public Notice DA 02-1779, Released July 25, 2002.)

Background:

Since prior to HFBC WARC-84 it was recognized that there was inadequate spectrum worldwide for the Broadcasting Service, and especially in the band 4-10 MHz.

Broadcasting service proposals submitted to WARC-92 identified the need for 700 kHz of additional spectrum below 10 MHz. However, WARC-92 only allocated 200 kHz, (specifically, 5900-5950 kHz = 50 kHz, 7300-7350 kHz = 50 kHz, and 9400-9500 kHz = 100 kHz. Total = 200 kHz.)

In addition, RR 5.134 limits these frequencies to single sideband (SSB) emissions or any other spectrum efficient methods recommended by ITU-R. RR 5.136 allocates these bands to other services until 1 April 2007. Resolution 537 (WRC-97) called for a survey of HF broadcasting transmitters and receivers with emphasis on the worldwide distribution of SSB transmitters and receivers. ITU-R completed this survey in 1999 and submitted its report at WRC-2000, concluding that the limited availability of SSB transmitters and receivers did not justify the mandated conversion from double sideband (DSB) to SSB.

ITU-R Working Party 6E, in drafting the CPM text for agenda item 1.36, provided further evidence that there is a serious shortage of spectrum available to the HF Broadcasters. The CPM text shows the need for some 800 kHz of additional spectrum to eliminate the current situation of co-channel and adjacent channel collisions now taking place worldwide in the 6, 7, and 9 MHz broadcasting bands.

This is based on actual data for the year 2000.

collected at the regional high frequency coordinating conferences (introduced by WRC-97 as part of Article 12).

Additionally, there is the data from the FCC-licensed broadcasters. These HF Broadcasters are currently using, on a non-interference basis, some 80 frequency hours in the WARC-92 bands and another 350-plus hours of "Out of Band" use elsewhere in the spectrum not allocated to the broadcasting service. Figures on a worldwide basis may be deduced from the seasonal schedules required by Article 12, and administered by the High Frequency Co-ordination Conference (HFCC).

The results of the previously referred to studies on HF Broadcasting spectrum requirements confirm that the following proposed additional spectrum below 10 MHz would reduce considerably the present spectrum deficiencies for this service: (4500-4650 kHz = 150 kHz; 5060-5250 kHz = 90 kHz; 5840-5900 kHz = 60 kHz; 7350-7650 kHz = 300 kHz; 9290-9400 kHz = 110 kHz; 9900-9940 kHz = 40 kHz.)

Requirements of Other Services, 4 to 10 MHz Bands

All of these bands identified by ITU-R Working Party 6E to accommodate new broadcasting allocations are currently allocated to the fixed and/or mobile services and are extensively used. Sharing between the fixed, mobile and broadcasting services is not practical. Therefore, no additional allocations can be made to broadcasting service in the 4 to 10 MHz bands.

DRAFT PROPOSAL

No Change to either HF broadcasting between 4 and 10 MHz or the amateur service at 40 meters.

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
7000-7100 kHz	AMATEUR, AMATEUR SATELLITE	
7100-7300 kHz BROADCASTING	7100-7300 kHz AMATEUR	7100-7300 kHz BROADCASTING
7300-7350 kHz	BROADCASTING	

Doc.IWG-6/016 (Rev.2)

Agenda Item 1.38: to consider provision of up to 6 MHz of frequency spectrum to the Earth exploration-satellite service (active) in the frequency band 420-470 MHz, in accordance with Resolution 727 (Rev.WRC-2000);

Issue: The use of the frequency band 420-470 MHz by the earth exploration-satellite service (EESS) (active) (Resolution 727 (Rev.WRC-2000), used extensively by government radars and the amateur services.

Background:

A similar agenda item was debated at WRC -97 resulting in a decision not to adopt proposed allocations for EESS (active) in the 420-470 MHz band. The Earth sensing community has identified that the need for an allocation at a radio spectrum wavelength of approximately one meter. Experiments have shown good correlation of backscatter radiation from biomass and soil moisture, which are parameters needed for forest monitoring. The need for such forest monitoring was emphasized at the United Nations Conference on Economic Development (UNCED) (Buenos Aires - 1992). Studies have identified a minimum bandwidth requirement of 6 MHz to satisfy mission objectives.

The amateur community is concerned with the possibility of harmful interference to amateur operations in the 430-440 MHz portion of the band. There are currently 16 amateur satellites in orbit that use frequencies within the band 435-438 MHz for both up and down links internationally.

The band 430–440 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a co-primary basis in Region 1, and on a primary basis in eight Region 2 countries: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela (No. S5.278). Elsewhere in Region 2 and in Region 3, the amateur service allocation is secondary. Additionally, the bands 420–430 MHz and 440–450 MHz are allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis in Australia, the United States, Jamaica and the Philippines (No.S5.270).

The band 420-450 MHz is also used by non-amateur services for telemetry, telecommand and long-range surveillance by land, ship and airborne stations for early missile warning, detection of low-observable targets, and the tracking of all objects in Earth orbit. The band 450-470 MHz is used by the Fixed, Mobile and Mobile-Satellite services.

Studies to date have shown the potential for interference between EESS (active) sensors, and amateur stations when the SAR is in the line of sight of amateur stations, and specifically in the band 435-438 MHz, which would be the worst-case scenario for the amateurs.

PRELIMINARY VIEW: The U.S. opposes this allocation in the band 420-470 MHz unless it can be shown that the EESS (active) sensors do not cause harmful interfere to amateur systems and stations. (16 April 2001)

DRAFT PROPOSAL

No change.

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
420-430 MHz - Fixed, Mobile, Radiolocation See International Footnote: 5.269, 5.270		
430-440 MHz - Radiolocation, Amateur		
440-450 MHz - Fixed, Mobile, Radiolocation See International Footnote: 5.269, 5.270, 5.284, 5.285		

5.269 - Different category of service: in Australia, the United States, India, Japan and the United Kingdom, the allocation of the bands 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz to the radiolocation service is on a primary basis (see No. 5.33).

5.270 - Additional allocation: in Australia, the United States, Jamaica and the Philippines, the bands 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz are also allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis.

5.284 - Additional allocation: in Canada, the band 440-450 MHz is also allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis.

5.285 - Different category of service: in Canada, the allocation of the band 440-450 MHz to the radiolocation service is on a primary basis (see No. 5.33).