

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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In This Issue...

WRC-2003 CPM Amateur Radio Alternatives
Laotian Jungle Villages Joins the Internet
Digital Television Set Sales Skyrocket!
1.44-MB Floppy Disk Faces Extinction
General Motors Offers Remote Car Starting
VOA Ponders: How Important is the Internet
Electromagnetic Spectrum Military Weapons
TV Stations Must Go Digital or Face Taxation
FCC's Fiscal-2004 Budget to Increase a Little
More on K1MAN vs. CBS' Walter Cronkite
NASA Grounds Entire Space Shuttle Fleet
FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement News
Radioamateur Socked with a \$12,000 Fine
Petition Proposes Transmitter Regulation
Broadband Wireless to Join Cable and DSL

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The Conference Preparatory Meeting Report and Amateur Radio

The Second Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) to the upcoming World Radio Conference was held between November 18 and 29, 2002, at the ITU in Geneva.

As the name suggests, the meeting is attended by the various ITU member states and Sector Members to prepare for the upcoming WRC-2003 to be held by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) between June 9 and July 4th.

ITU members comprise delegations from the various national governments while a Sector Member is an ITU-approved member of industry or the public who have an interest in telecommunications and its regulation.

More than 1000 delegates from around the world reviewed and approved of the draft CPM Report ...a huge volume more than 500 pages long. The document, which becomes the framework of WR-03, spells out various methods to satisfy the various agenda items and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The CPM Report is structured to follow the topics of the WRC-03 agenda. Its outline was developed and approved by the first CPM (June 7-8, 2000). Each agenda item is covered, complete with preliminary recommendations and options.

The text of the CPM Report is developed from a consensus of more than 150 contributions from the various administrations and Sector Members that will be attending WRC-03 as well as assorted ITU committees and study groups. It is not binding

and additional "methods" to satisfy the agenda item can be brought up at the Conference itself.

The CPM Report has now been finalized and in January 2003 was delivered to the member countries and Sector Members around the world. It becomes the consolidated framework of WRC-03 and represents the best information on technical, operational, regulatory and procedural issues relevant to the agenda available at the time of its preparation.

The CPM Report comprises seven chapters. Each chapter is overseen by a Chapter Rapporteur. Amateur Radio issues are covered in Chapter 5, "Chapter 5, Maritime mobile, amateur and amateur-satellite, and broadcasting services in MF and HF bands."

The Rapporteur for Chapter 5 is USA's Dr. H. Don Messer who is Chief of VOA's Office of Engineering, Spectrum Management Division and a director of the International Broadcasting Bureau. (The IBB provides the administrative and engineering support for U.S. government-funded non-military international broadcast services and is the parent of the Voice of America.)

Follows is what the CPM Report says about Agenda item 1.7:

Possible revision of Article 25

Section I – Amateur Service

Article 25.1 – The conference may consider the suppression (elimination) of No. 25.1 prohibiting international communications under certain conditions. It is the

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W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #2

March 1, 2003

sovereign right of each Member State to regulate its telecommunications. If an administration chooses to prohibit international communications, it should be the concern of the administration to enforce this rule and not a general obligation.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Clarify the status of international radio communications following a disaster.

Reduce the cost of ITU paper work regarding the notification for the objection of such communications.

Still retaining the sovereign right of the State to regulate its communications.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.2 – The conference may consider simplifying and shortening the text of No. 25.2, which defines the content of amateur communications. An example of such modification could be:

25.2 Transmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service, as defined in No. 1.56 or of a personal character. Transmissions between amateur stations shall not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Clarify the ambiguous wording.

Take into account changes in telecommunications.

Eliminate obsolete restrictions while retaining the non-commercial nature of the service.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.3

Method A

The Conference may further consider revising No. 25.3 with regard to international communications. As several administrations currently permit this kind of communication, the general rule of the Radio Regulations should be to allow it unless an administration chooses to prohibit it. An example of such modification could be:

25.3 2) Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties unless objected to by one of the administrations concerned.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Removes the burden for the administration.

Disadvantage: None have been identified.

Method B

The conference may consider suppressing No. 25.3 with regard to international communications. As some administrations currently permit this kind of communication, the general rule of the Radio Regulations should be to allow it unless an administration chooses to prohibit it.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Removes the burden for the administration enter into specific bi-lateral or multi-lateral international agreements to permit the transmission of third party communications by amateur stations.

Other regulations are sufficient to protect the non-commercial nature of the service.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.4

In consequence with the above proposals the conference may consider the suppression of No. 25.4.

Advantage:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.5

Method A

The question of whether there should be a domestic Morse code requirement should be left up to administrations. In consequence the conference may consider the suppression of No. 25.5.

Advantages:

This would give administrations further flexibility in revising and updating the qualifications related to the use of Morse code.

Abolition of the requirement for the knowledge of Morse code in the HF bands will increase the number of radio amateurs available for communications during disaster situations.

Abolition of the requirement for the knowledge of Morse code in the HF bands will produce a significant increase in the number of radio amateurs licensed to operate below 30 MHz. This will possibly encourage newcomers into the service.

May encourage the development of Amateur Services.

Disadvantages:

Abolition of the requirement for the knowledge of Morse code in the HF bands will produce a significant increase in the number of radio amateurs licensed to operate below 30 MHz, possibly leading to a congestion of the amateur bands.

Eliminating the requirement for knowledge of Morse code might lower the level of proficiency.

Method B

The conference may consider modifying No. 25.5 in such a way that Morse code is no longer mandatory but if an administration chooses to require Morse code, it should be the concern of the administration to apply such a rule and not an international obligation. An example of such modification could be:

25.5 3 1) Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station shall prove that this person is able to correctly send texts in Morse code signals.

Advantage:

Encourages the maintaining of the Morse code skill in the amateur services.

Disadvantages:

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #3

March 1, 2003

Discourages a global harmonization of amateur services.
May discourage the development of amateur services.

Article 25.6

Method A

The Conference may consider modifying No. 25.6. An example of such modification could be:

25.6 2) Administrations shall verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate the apparatus of an amateur station.

Advantage:

Simplifies the Radio Regulations.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Method B

The conference may consider modifying No. 25.6 such that Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 becomes mandatory through the principle of incorporation by reference. See Resolution 27 (Rev.WRC-2000).

[Note: Drafted by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and approved by the ITU, Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 recommends that administrations adopt a series of minimum qualifications for all radio amateurs in all countries. Specifically, the document recommends that at a minimum, any person seeking an amateur license should demonstrate theoretical knowledge of certain specific topics in the areas of radio regulations, methods of radiocommunication (including radiotelegraphy), radio system theory, radio emission safety, electromagnetic compatibility, and avoidance and resolution of radio frequency interference. The recommendation has been sent to the ITU member states for consideration.]

An example of such modification could be:

25.6 2) Administrations shall verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. A person seeking a licence to operate an amateur station shall be required to demonstrate a knowledge of the topics specified in Recommendation ITU-R M.1544.

Advantages:

Incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 establishes a minimum international standard for amateur licensing.

This approach would give administrations some increase in flexibility in revising and updating the qualifications as appropriate in the context of rapidly evolving communications technology.

Disadvantages:

Incorporation by reference may result in confusion or conflict between the version incorporated and any updated version. The Recommendation does not lend itself to incorporation by reference.

This approach would remove flexibility for administrations in revising and updating the qualifications as appropriate in the context of rapidly evolving communications technology.

Method C

The conference may consider modifying No. 25.6 such that Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 becomes non-mandatory through the principle elaborated in 6 of Annex 1 to Resolution 27 (Rev. WRC-2000). An example of such modification could be:

25.6 2) Administrations shall verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. Standards of competence are contained in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544.

Advantage:

Provides flexibility to administrations as the Recommendation can be updated to a later version as desired since it is non mandatory text.

Disadvantage:

Administrations might lower the minimum competence level by either modifying or failing to implement the Recommendation.

Article 25.7

The conference may consider the suppression of No. 25.7.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Redundant. See No. 15.2, which provides that "Transmitting stations shall radiate only as much power as is necessary to ensure a satisfactory service".

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.8

The conference may consider the suppression of No. 25.8, which is redundant with Nos. 3.6 and 3.7.

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

The text reiterates concepts included generically in the Radio Regulations and applicable to all radio services.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Article 25.9

The conference may consider the suppression of No. 25.9, which is redundant with Nos. 19.4 and 19.5.

Advantage:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Section II – Amateur-satellite service

Article 25.10 6 The provisions of Section I of this Article shall apply equally, as appropriate, to the amateur-satellite service. (No change)

Article 25.11

The conference may wish to simplify the provision of No. 25.11. An example of such modification could be:

25.11 7 Administrations authorizing space stations in the amateur-satellite service shall ensure that sufficient

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #4

March 1, 2003

earth command stations are established before launch to guarantee that any harmful interference caused by emissions from a station in the amateur-satellite service can be terminated immediately (see No. 22.1).

Advantages:

Simplify the Radio Regulations.
The first sentence is redundant; see No. 22.1.
Procedures for notification to the Bureau are given in Resolution 642 (WARC-79).

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Additional provisions to Article 25

New provision concerning amateur communications in support of disaster relief.

The conference may consider adding a provision to the regulations concerning amateur communications in support of disaster relief. An example of such a provision could be:

25.X Administrations are urged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief.

Advantage:

Recognizes the value of amateur communications during disaster situations.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

New provision permitting amateurs from another administration to operate

The conference may consider adding a provision to the regulations which permits administrations to allow amateurs of other administrations to operate while temporarily in its territory. Article 18 requires that all transmitting stations be licensed but provides for special arrangements in certain circumstances. None of these special arrangements apply to the amateur and amateur-satellite services. An example of such a provision could be:

25.XX Administrations may determine whether or not to permit a person who has been granted a licence 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.

Advantages:

Allows such an operation.
The proposed addition makes it clear that administrations are authorized and encouraged to permit visiting amateurs to operate without being required to issue them a licence while protecting the prerogatives of administrations.

Disadvantage:

None have been identified.

Agenda item 1.7.2 – "review of the provisions of Article 19 concerning the formation of call signs in the amateur services in order to provide flexibility for administrations"

Composition of national identifiers. At the present time, some countries cannot have amateur call signs because of the restriction imposed by No. 19.49 when the letters O or I are used as the last character of the national identifier. Modes of radiocommunication in current use in the amateur services are such that there is no difficulty distinguishing between the numbers 0 and 1, and the letters O and I respectively.

Methods to satisfy the agenda item

The conference could consider suppression of No. 19.49 c).

Advantage:

Suppression of No. 19.49 c) would remove the restriction for some identifiers, thus adding more flexibility for administrations, especially those unable to have amateur call signs at present.

Disadvantage:

None were identified.

Composition of call sign suffixes. No. 19.68 limits amateur and experimental call-sign suffixes to "a group of not more than three letters" This restriction places a limit on the number of possible call-sign combinations and their formulation and prohibits the use of certain combinations for special events.

Methods to satisfy the agenda item

The conference may consider revising No. 19.68 so that more flexibility is allowed for administrations to issue call signs. An example of such modification could be:

19.68 30 1) - one character (see No. 19.50.1) and a single digit (other than 0 or 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter, or two characters and a single digit (other than 0 or 1), followed by a group of not more than four characters, the last of which shall be a letter.

Advantage:

Such a change would considerably expand the number of possible call-sign combinations and provide administrations with increased flexibility without creating conflict with the call-sign formats specified for stations in other services.

Disadvantage:

None were identified.

Addition:

19.Y On special occasions for temporary use, administrations may waive the requirement of the call sign to contain not more than four trailing characters.

Advantage:

Provides additional flexibility for administrations.

Disadvantage:

None were identified.

Agenda item 1.7.3 – "review of the terms and definitions of Article 1 to the extent required as a consequence of changes made in Article 25"

Studies conducted to date have not indicated the need for any consequential changes to Article 1.

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #5

March 1, 2003

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Laotian villagers in the remote, mountainous, snake-infested jungles of northern Laos got on the Internet for the first time last month. Located northeast of Thailand, Laos is one of the poorest nations on earth. Average income is only \$23 per month.

They did it by using pedal-powered stationary bikes to charge huge batteries which provide the electricity needed to operate the five custom-built computers located in different villages.

It is the first time a human-powered computer has ever linked a Third World village to the Internet by wireless remote. One minute of pedaling yields five minutes of Internet access.

The new technology will allow Phon Kham farmers to increase profits on their surplus rice and other vegetables by obtaining pricing from neighboring markets.

And women weavers in the villages have already begun weaving textiles for export. They hope to find partners among expatriated Laotians who will help them market their handicrafts and receive reasonable returns.

A dozen computer engineers from Laos, Sweden, Thailand and the United States worked together to design the system. Lee Felsenstein of Palo Alto, CA, the inventor of the Osborne-1 PC, came up with the PC which he calls the Jhai Computer. Jhai means "hearts and minds working together" in Laotian. Since it runs on only 12 watts -- compared to a typical computer's 90 watts -- bike power is up to the task.

The Jhai PC has no moving parts and is waterproof. The plastic-encased computer is smaller than a laptop and built to survive the Laotian swirling dust, searing heat, and monsoon rains.

The five PCs link to the Internet using an inter-village Wi-Fi digital data network and a distant connection to a local phone system. Microwave signals are line-of-sight beamed to an antenna nailed to a tree atop a nearby mountain ridge. It is then routed to a solar-powered repeater station transmitting to a network/telephone interface and a dial-up Internet account at a hospital many miles from the nearest jungle village.

A Linux-based Lao-language graphical desktop and Lao-language office tools have

been developed by a Laotian IBM engineer based in New York. The Jhai Computer not only does e-mail, but also two-way telephone using the Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol, or VOIP.

The Jhai Computer also represents a communications solution for the over 600 million people living in the Least Developed Countries of the world, where only one person in 100 has access to a telephone.

Toward that end, the developers are thinking of making the system available to other remote locations. The Jhai Foundation is holding discussions on the possible introduction of the system in remote parts of Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Southern China. On the web see: <www.jhai.org>.

The Jhai Foundation is an American 501(c)3 non-profit organization, begun in 1997 by Lee Thorn, a bomb-loader during the American war in Laos, and Bounthanh Phommasathit, a Lao refugee from the American bombing.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

Los Gatos, Calif.-based Netflix Inc., the DVD rental service, continues to open new warehouses.

Newest is in Dallas and Stamford, Conn. Its goal is to be able to provide overnight delivery to its subscribers. The company has 11 such warehouses. Netflix says it will have one million subscribers by the end of the first quarter of 2003. Each pays \$19.95 monthly to rent 3 DVDs at a time with no time limit as to when they are returned. It is now considering expanding into Europe and Japan.

Digital TV sales skyrocketed in 2002. So says the Consumer Electronics Association which said DTV products rose 73 percent in units and 61 percent in dollars in 2002 versus 2001 levels.

Factory-to-dealer sales of digital-TV products totaled nearly 2.5 million units and more than \$4.2 billion in sales.

The trade group defines digital-TV products as integrated sets and monitors displaying active vertical-scanning lines of at least 480p (progressive) and, in the case of integrated sets, receiving and decoding ATSC (Advanced Television Systems Committee) terrestrial digital transmissions.

High-speed Internet service costs more than double that of dial-up access. La Jolla, Calif. research firm ARS Inc. says the average monthly charge for a digital subscriber line - one of the most widely used forms of broadband - is \$51.67. The average monthly price for a high-speed cable modem is \$44.22, ARS said. In contrast, the most popular dial-up services charge \$20-\$24 a month. Cable providers control 62 percent of the broadband market, according to ARS research.

Skyworks Solutions, Inc. (Woburn, Massachusetts), a leading wireless semiconductor company, has developed the world's first complete cellular telephone handset radio system that fits into a single, dime-sized package.

The "Single Package Radio" system and packaging breakthrough saves handset designers significant space, cost and design-cycle time while providing a roadmap for quad-band and 3G handsets in the future.

Skyworks' SKY74073 Single Package Radio solution will be available in volume in the third calendar quarter of 2003. The module is priced at \$12.95 in quantities of 10,000. <www.skyworksin.com>

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

The 1.44-MB Floppy disk drive faces extinction. Dell Computer Corp., the world's largest manufacturer of PC's is now making the 3 1/4-inch floppy disk drive an optional item in all desktop computers that they build.

They say the trend is toward newer storage devices -- such as re-writeable CDs, ZIP drives and portable hard drives -- that can hold far more data than the 1.44 MB floppy.

Dell believes the floppy drive has been functionally obsolete for some time since most of the files people share are simply too large to fit on its small capacity.

Dell brand 16-megabyte USB flash memory drives are now being offered standard in Dimension's high-end model first and the company will consider making it available on all desktops depending on customer response. The keychain-sized USB "flash memory" 16-MB drive costs one-third less and holds ten times more data than a 1.44-MB floppy drive.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Push-button car door openers on your key ring have been available for some time. General Motors has just begun offering remote starting for your car on cold mornings. The new remote vehicle starting feature debuted on the 2003 Chevie Malibu.

The feature enables customers to start their vehicle engine with a remote key fob that has substantially increased range. A remote start – which also starts the heater or air conditioner – times out after 10 minutes, causing the engine to shut-off.

To drive away after a remote start, the vehicle's ignition key must be placed in the switch and rotated to the RUN position.

A Swedish company, Anoto has developed a DigiPen that has a tiny camera in it that registers the pen's movement across a paper's grid surface and stores it as series of map coordinates. These coordinates correspond to the exact location of the page you're writing on.

Digital paper enabling the Anoto pen to work is created by printing a pattern of very small invisible dots on ordinary paper spaced about 1/100ths of an inch apart.

When you make a mark in the SEND box with your digital pen, the pen using Bluetooth wireless technology transmits and displays the stored sequence of map coordinates as an image on any computer or mobile phone, or Fax machine.

The digital pen looks and feels just like an ordinary ballpoint pen and you use it in the same way. There are no keys to press and no display. You activate the pen simply by removing the cap and deactivate it by replacing the cap.

In a few years, digital pens will be available for under \$100 and many companies are working on the technology. More at: <www.anoto.com>.

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

Pump-and-dump Internet investment scheme lands culprit in prison. An Internet stock promoter who made \$1 million by flooding investors with spam (unsolicited commercial e-mail) that looked like stock picks from America Online has been sentenced to 27 months

in prison.

Glenn Conley, of Gaston, Ore., was charged in February 2000 with driving up the value of 60 penny stocks that he owned by touting their investment prospects to AOL subscribers in messages titled "AOL Investment Snapshot." He sold after creating a demand for the stocks, often reaping huge returns in just a few days. His partner in the securities fraud is awaiting sentencing. [Source: Wall Street Journal]

How important is the internet? Ten years ago it was the domain of scientists and computer fanatics. Today, it is a part of everyday life. Many experts believe the Internet rivals the invention of the printing press in its impact on civilization.

Today, there are half a billion Internet users worldwide. In the United States, 60 percent of the population has Internet access at home, at work, or at a neighborhood library or Internet cafe.

This "cyberlife" has many implications – and they're not all good. One negative that has people worried, for instance, is the growing digital divide between those who comfortably tool around the Internet and those who don't even have access to the Net.

And the divide between those who fluently use English - the language of nine-tenths of Internet web sites - and those whose English is poor or nonexistent.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project says Americans as a rule don't even bother writing government agencies or health care providers any more when they want information. They don't call or visit, either, because just about everything they want is available in a flash on the Net. So is less critical information about our hobbies or casual interests. The Internet has become "America's go-to tool."

The two principal assets of the Internet is ready availability of communications and information. People can e-mail with one another or e-mail many people. And in many cases, the Internet has supplanted the telephone and other kinds of information tools.

A new book out called "The Internet in Everyday Life" includes studies of everything from online shopping to "telecommuting" from home on the Internet. It reports the average American Internet user is on the Net 11 hours a week – experienced users, 16 hours a week. That's two full workdays' worth of time - time that was once spent on other things. So

what's lost? Less human contact, less TV ...and less sleep.

For many Americans, the computer Internet is now the principal tool to search out specialized as well as basic information. But it's also used to find romantic partners, get divorced, make hotel and airplane reservations, copy songs, shop for gifts, and form clubs with unseen cyber-friends ...and even to listen to broadcasters. [Digested from a Voice of America report.]

The February 9th New York Times reported that the first sign of trouble aboard the Shuttle Columbia came via the Internet as a small audience of space enthusiasts were communicating among themselves about the shuttle's reentry into the atmosphere.

The online discussion for shuttle buffs on the Free Republic Web site moved from excitement to confusion to horror. It was begun by a user 38 minutes before the Columbia's scheduled 9:16 landing.

The first sign of something wrong came at 9:05 – at least 11 minutes before The Associated Press moved the first wire-service alert and the TV networks began live coverage which had the first video of the breakup, shot minutes before.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

Military experts believe the next war will be primarily fought with electromagnetic energy rather than munitions. Bursts of photons will destroy an enemy's electronic systems.

Modern electronic warfare uses aircraft (like the Navy's carrier-based EA-6B Prowler) to monitor the electromagnetic spectrum and deny an adversary's use of radar and wireless communications by overwhelming it with electronic "noise."

Specific transmitters can be identified and suppressed or manipulated. Enemy radars can be remotely programmed to give false information. Electricity can be cut off by dropping carbon filaments on power lines to short them out

"Directed energy" is the most secret form of electronic warfare. These high power microwave and lower-frequency weapons can penetrate enemy electronics to erase memories, upset software, and even burnout components.

Control of the electromagnetic spectrum has become as important as command of the air.

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #7

March 1, 2003

The federal government has announced a new income tax program that will allow tens of millions of Americans to electronically file their taxes for free over the Internet.

"FreeFile" will allow at least 60 percent of Americans to prepare and file their federal taxes electronically with no preparation cost. Eligible taxpayers can use the service through April 15, 2003

Most taxpayers find IRS e-file faster, simpler and more convenient than mailing in forms. Since the system automatically scans the returns as they come in, the e-file error rate for individual taxpayers is less than one percent. With IRS e-file, taxpayers can receive their refunds in about half the time as traditional filers, and in as few as 10 days if they use direct deposit.

Those who owe money can pay electronically with an electric transfer from their bank account or a credit card. The IRS expects that more than 50 million taxpayers will file electronically this year. See: <www.irs.gov>. Click on "FreeFile" link.

The proposed \$2.2 trillion budget proposal the White House sent to Congress February 3rd proposes that television broadcasters that don't transition to digital transmission by the end of 2006 as they agreed will face millions of dollars in new federal taxes.

In an effort to speed the conversion from analog to digital TV, the Bush administration wants TV stations to pay an "annual spectrum lease fee" totaling \$500 million each year beginning in 2007. The idea is to pressure TV broadcasters to change to their new channel and return their analog spectrum to the government for auctioning to new wireless services.

The FCC received a FY-2004 budget proposal of \$281 million, about \$3 million larger than the \$278 million the White House requested in fiscal 2003.

The increase, plus increased regulatory fees, will be used to fund improved FCC equipment testing by laboratory engineers, an addition of 20 engineers to its staff and improved audit oversight by its inspector general's office. The total number of FCC staff employees for FY-2004 is proposed be 2015 versus 1995.

The new spending proposal would be offset in part by \$252 million in regulatory fees ...\$12.5 million more than last year.

AMATEUR RADIO

In our last newsletter, we mentioned a dispute between famed CBS news anchorman Walter Cronkite and Glenn Baxter, KMAN. Cronkite, who holds Novice ham ticket, KB2GSD, had his lawyer send a letter to Baxter concerning a video CD that Baxter is improperly distributing. The video, which promotes Amateur Radio to the public, contains a narration by Cronkite that was recorded for the American Radio Relay League.

In 1996, Glenn Baxter K1MAN was successful in getting Walter Cronkite to record identification breaks for his International Amateur Radio Network bulletin service. Cronkite voiced "You are listening to the International Amateur Radio Network. This is K1MAN." Cronkite later revoked Baxter's right to use the identification announcement because "use of the recording extended beyond the agreed upon and intended limited station I.D." K1MAN refuses to discontinue use of the IARN identification.

The latest run-in concerns the video. Cronkite's lawyer, New York attorney, Ronald S. Konecky, accuses Glenn Baxter of improperly distributing the video that contains the Cronkite narration. Baxter's version is that he is merely passing on a promotional Amateur Radio video that he purchases from the ARRL.

Konecky's version is that Baxter is producing and distributing a six-minute CD video using both the ARRL's CD video along with the station identification which Cronkite 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," Konecky said in a recent letter to Baxter.

He demanded that Baxter refrain "...from any use of the audio station I.D., and 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."

On January 25th, Baxter responded by saying that Konecky "...appeared to be very poorly informed about this matter by Mr. Cronkite."

"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."

Now the American Radio Relay League has joined the dispute. On January 31, League attorney Chris Imlay W3KD, sent a letter to Glen Baxter stating: "It has come to our attention that you have obtained one or more copies of a six minute video concerning Amateur Radio entitled 'Amateur Radio Today' and that you have made, or offered to make, distribution of that video to third parties without permission of the ARRL. It is unclear whether or not you have altered that video prior to distribution, but that is of no consequence. The video is subject to copyright protection and the ARRL's copyright notice appears on the video as it appeared on the ARRL's web page. ARRL did not send you a copy of this video at any time."

Imlay ordered Baxter to immediately discontinue distribution of the video - or any altered version - and required him to confirm that any distribution has ceased. "Failing such confirmation, ARRL will protect its copyright in this work as necessary."

On February 7, K1MAN responded by letter to both Chris Imlay and Ronald Konecky.

(1.) Baxter wants proof of the copyright "...which ARRL made available in the public domain for downloading from the internet (70-MB MPEG video format).

"Indeed, it would seem that ARRL and Mr. Cronkite, if REALLY interested in promoting amateur radio to the general public, as advertised, would WELCOME unlimited copying and distribution of this general amateur radio promotional piece. If ARRL and Walter instead intended instead to cause malicious defamation against K1MAN, however, this would seem to be a logical explanation of your currently stated and very curious legal positions."

(2.) "I have made no alterations to this video, of course. I am in no violation of any copyrights, of course. Period."

(3.) "Finally, ARRL, in accepting an order from me on line for the Cronkite video, taking my VISA card information, charging my account (\$5 for the video and \$4 for shipping - a total of \$9.04 on 21 January 2003), and then later announcing (ARRL letter 24 January 2003) that ARRL is now only 'taking a list' on line from those wanting the video which is

not yet available, would seem to constitute both criminal fraud as well as a violation of various other credit card laws."

(4.) "Please tell your clients that I would be willing to settle this matter of alleged Cronkite, Konecky, Crow, Hollingsworth, and ARRL malicious and organized defamation against me out of court for \$500,000 (each) within the next seven days. In the alternative, I look forward to seeing you (Imlay), Konecky, Cronkite, and your various henchmen (Crow, Smith, Hollingsworth, etc.) in Kennebec, Maine Superior Court just as soon as I am damn well good and ready to sue all of your pathetic, petty, and childish little butts for the pure fun of it."

And the saga continues....

Following the February 1st Shuttle Columbia disaster, NASA grounded its entire shuttle fleet. A space shuttle was scheduled to be launched in March to re-supply the International Space Station and replace the crew on board.

Expedition 6 crew - Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP; Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT - lifted off in November last year on a four-month mission.

They have enough supplies to remain on the space station until at least June and can be re-supplied by Russian Progress rockets. An ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station) radio contact set for February 6 with students at a high school in Germany was postponed.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Scott E. Kamm, NUGN of Sioux City, Iowa has been issued a fine in the amount of \$12,000. The Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) says Kamm appears to have caused intentional interference to others, broadcasted music and failed to identify with his station call sign.

On December 9, 2002, very strong unidentified signals consisting of music, sound effects and unmodulated carriers were observed by FCC agents coming from Kamm's home in Waterbury, Nebraska. Those transmissions interfered with existing 2-meter (146.31 MHz) amateur communications.

The following day additional similar interfering signals were monitored by the FCC and a station inspection revealed a radio transmitter capable of operating on 146.31 MHz. Kamm said that no trans-

missions are made from his station which he uses it to receive only.

Based on the evidence, Kamm is being fined \$7,000 for intentional interference, \$1000 for failure to identify a station and \$4,000 for broadcasting music.

Kamm was ordered to pay the \$12,000 by February 23 or file a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine. The FCC said it will not consider amending the NAL unless Kamm submits financial information such as federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period.

Schuykill Mobile Fone, Inc of Pottsville, PA has been notified by the FCC that its KGA 589 system located at Clark's Knob, Broad Mountain in Franklin County, PA may be causing interference to the Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Repeater, W3ACH.

The telecom company has been asked to verify within 20 days that the Clark's Knob system is operating according to licensed parameters, including ERP ...and directed to contact the complainants to determine if a mutually satisfactory resolution can be obtained.

Sherman Leifer W2FLA, Boonton Township, NJ has had his December 18th complaint against WB2FTX dismissed by the FCC. Leifer says that the WB2FTX repeater is repeating on 147.135 MHz, the output of repeater WS2Q, which operates on an output frequency of 146.985 MHz. "Your complaint is that WB2FTX therefore interferes with your hearing, at your New Jersey location, a repeater in Liberty, NY on 147.135 MHz, operated by a club of which you are a member."

The FCC said "This matter is not appropriate for enforcement action" since the WB2FTX repeater is coordinated and utilizes PL tones on both transmit and receive. "The trustee of the Liberty, NY repeater that you seek to hear at your New Jersey location has no objection to, and receives no interference from, the WB2FTX operation.

"Furthermore, there is no indication that you have attempted to utilize PL tones or took advantage of the services offered to you by the technical committee of the WS2Q repeater in solving the problem."

Gabriel R. Provencio KG6HMN (Pomona, CA) has been formally

warned by the FCC that monitoring information indicates that he has been deliberately interfering with Amateur communications operating simplex on simplex 146.505 MHz as well as local repeaters.

Furthermore, the FCC understands that he has made threats, used profanity and obscenity and broadcast a tape recording over the Amateur frequencies.

"Continued incidents of such operation of KG6HMN will subject you to revocation and suspension proceedings, as well as a monetary forfeiture (fine). Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$12,000."

Nelson Reyes N2GXC (Brooklyn, NY) and Francisco A. Franco Rivas (Lawrence, MA) have been directed to call the FCC regarding their alleged unlicensed radio transmissions on 25.540 and 26.555 MHz.

"Such operation subjects you to fine or imprisonment, as well as seizure of radio transmitting equipment. Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000."

Diana Sulkowski (Hobe Sound, FL) has been advised by the FCC that a faulty electric fence at her residence may be causing harmful radio interference to Edwin Petzolt, K1LNC.

The complainant has been unsuccessful in resolving the problem with Ms. Sulkowski. She is to advise K1LNC of the steps she is taking to correct this reported interference problem.

"...if necessary to facilitate resolution, the FCC may investigate possible rules violations and address appropriate remedies" including a fine, FCC said. It was also suggested that she contact the ARRL's RFI department for possible assistance.

Dennis Wilfong, manager of the Radio Shack store at Valley Point Shopping Center (Elkins, WV) has been warned that it has information "...that numerous individuals are purchasing Amateur Radio Service two-meter radio units from your store for use during hunting season and using them without the required license."

"Information further indicates that they are either not being told that the units require a license, or are being misinformed as to the licensing requirements."

Wilfong is to notify purchasers of Amateur Radio transceivers that unlicensed radio operation is a violation of the rules which may result in a fine "normally in the range from \$7,500-\$10,000."

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #9

March 1, 2003

PETITION SUGGESTS NEW TRANSMITTER REGULATIONS

Dale Reich, K8AD of Seville, Ohio has filed two petitions that seek to tighten up the distribution of two-way radio transceivers (except telephones) that have the capability to interconnect with the public telephone system.

He proposes that the FCC require over-the-counter sellers of any two-way voice or data radio equipment that requires operator licensing to maintain a database of each buyer which could be made available to FCC agents or law enforcement personnel. "The information collected by the retail vendor would be private. No public inspection would be permitted unless waived by the retail customer." Dealers would be required to maintain these records for at least three years.

The other petition requires "ownership and license tagging" of two-way transceivers operating under Parts 5, 15, 18, 74, 80, 90, 95 and 97. Included would be such equipment as Family Radio Service, Citizen's Band, Amateur, Multi-Use Radio and GMRS transceivers.

The tag must include the owner's identity and call sign (if any.) The objective of owner tagging is to provide law enforcement personnel with a means to determine if the equipment is being used by the proper owner.

The FCC has combined both petitions together and on January 29, 2003 assigned it File No. RM-10641. Preliminary comments are due February 28. The full text of Reich's petitions is available on the FCC Web site at: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Click on the "Search for Filed Comments" link and then enter RM-10641 in the proceeding blank. Next, click on the "Retrieve document list." The petition is located at the very end of the filed comments.

Dozens of comments have already been filed and, as a general rule, they overwhelmingly oppose Reich's proposals. Here are some examples:

"I do not support these proposed changes as I do not see how there is a pressing need at this time for such changes...." *Steve Kellat, KC8BFI, Ashtabula, OH*

"It would create an undue burden on the sellers of radio equipment and would result in an increase in cost to the end user. Any question about the operating authority of a radio user can be obtained from the FCC ULS Database. Licenses are issued to users, not radios." *Douglas L. Hanz, NC5P, Albuquerque, NM*

"This rule would be a needless waste of time and paperwork... We already have a plethora of laws and regulations concerning the improper and or illegal use of radio transceivers, with prescribed remedies in place...." *Michael L. Haynes N4ZNV, Leicester, NC*

"This is another useless and vaguely worded petition that is not needed. The FCC has control over such matters and to want local people to enforce federal laws is silly." *Allan Kruger W7ZK, Eagar, AZ*

"[The petition] is unnecessary, has ready abuse potential and could easily cause confusion to law enforcement personnel unfamiliar with FCC licensing procedures and privileges of those licenses." *Mark Geleskie KM3G, State College, PA*

"It does not cover the biggest seller of radio gear in the world, i.e., eBay online auctions, and that venue represents mostly person-to-person sales, not regular retail dealer] sales. This petition lacks all possibility of providing any benefit to the American taxpayer...." *Douglas S. Hilton AF4FL, Huntsville, AL*

"My suggestion to address these issues is simple: The purchaser of any form of radio transmitting equipment that requires an operator license should be required to produce proof-of-licensing at the time of the sale." *Bruce Lane, KC7GR, Kent, WA*

"The petitioner has created an administrative burden for the businesses selling communications equipment without articulating the rationale for such action. ... If licensed users are not following existing rules making another one isn't going to help." *Monte Simpson, K2MLS, Bremerton, WA*

"No information is presented to indicate that there is an actual problem in search of such a Federal 'solution,' or that said solution would solve any problem, were one to exist. ... a pointless burden on manufacturers and dealers." *Joe B. Simpson, Jr., K4SAR, Durham, NC*

"I believe the petition is a first step to ensure that equipment is not sold without the buyer producing a valid Amateur Radio License and proper accompanying identification." *Murray Green, K3BEQ, Cheverly, MD*

"...the FCC, not the retail marketplace, should enforce regulations." *Randy Perkinson, AG4TN, Hixson, TN*

In an earlier petition, designated RM-10620, Reich had asked the Commission to upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records. Before the comment window for Reich's earlier petition closed January 17, it attracted more than 150 comments from the amateur community.

● **Texas amateurs aid in shuttle debris recovery.** Three crew members of the ill-fated Shuttle Columbia that was lost February 1 were licensed ham operators. Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla, is KD5ESI, David Brown, KC5ZTC and Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers in east Texas have been assisting local emergency management officials, the Texas Rangers, Texas Department of Public Safety, EPA, the National Guard and NASA to locate and catalog debris from the Columbia shuttle.

Members of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club have been accompanying officials from both NASA and the EPA to expedite the search and clean up of area schools, many of which were closed because of fears that shuttle debris could pose a health hazard.

A call for radio operators was sent out and additional volunteers responded from East Texas, Houston and Dallas. All operators were asked to keep track of mileage and times worked to be turned in to officials.

W5YI REPORT

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

Page #10

March 1, 2003

WIRELESS TO JOIN DSL, CABLE AS BROADBAND PLATFORM

Agreement reached regarding U.S. position on 5 GHz wireless access devices

Untethered access to a high-speed Internet connection is on the horizon. WiFi (802.11 wireless local area networks, WLAN) have become increasingly popular during the past few years. Wi-Fi comes in two basic protocols: 802.11a and 802.11b.

The basic difference is that 802.11a is five times faster than 802.11b and operates in the 5 GHz band which is subject to less interference. The 802.11b variety operates in the crowded 2.4 GHz ISM band.)

The telecommunications industry has been slumping badly in recent years and many companies believe that high speed wireless internet access will rejuvenate consumer interest.

Currently, a 300 MHz slice of the 5 GHz band is being used for wireless networking, while only 83 MHz of spectrum is being used in the 2.4 GHz band.

Researcher. Frost & Sullivan believes that there will be a migration to the 5 GHz band which allows for higher transmission speeds and has less interference potential. They forecast that IEEE 802.11a will replace 802.11b as the most popular WLAN standard over the next four years.

A disadvantage of 802.11a is that its average cutoff distance is about 60 feet, about half that of 802.11b. But still far enough to network in most buildings. A continuing problem with all 802.11 signals is security. A neighbor or someone driving by can easily tap into a wireless signal.

In the short-term, the market will see significant opportunities in dual band equipment that operates at both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. Intel recently released their Centrino Wi-Fi chipset which currently supports only 802.11b. But it is designed to eventually offer "a" and "b" compatibility

Dept. Of Defense Agrees to 5-GHz WLAN.

To assist in the migration, on January 31st the U. S. military and the wireless industry reached a milestone agreement whereby more 5-GHz spectrum will be shared with Government radiolocation in return for establishing a system for dealing with possible interference to sensitive military radar.

The Dept. of Defense operates a number of radar systems in the same frequencies as the 802.11a standard (between 5 and 6 GHz) and DoD is worried that the cumulative effect of Wi-Fi 802.11a products will interfere with the military's use of radar

The Pentagon, concerned about the ability of military radar to detect less reflective targets out of background clutter such as smaller terrorist vehicles and stealth aircraft or missiles, initially wanted to protect these radars by restricting the use of Wi-Fi gear to the 5.150 to 5.350 GHz segment already approved in the U.S., Japan and Europe.

Under the new compromise arrangement, the next

generation of unlicensed wireless devices and radar will share the additional 5 GHz spectrum but the devices will be designed to change frequency if they sense radar operating nearby. Dynamic frequency selection (DFS), a "listen-before-transmit" technology automatically moves wireless communications to another channel when it detects a radar beam on its current channel.

The U.S. position of only allocating the 5150-5350 MHz band to the mobile service will now be modified to include an allocation to the mobile service in the 5470-5725 MHz band.

Interestingly, the 5-cm ham band begins at 5650 and extends to 5925 MHz ...so there will be an overlap. It is available to the Amateur Service on a secondary, non-interference basis to the Government Radiolocation Service.

The changes will now allow the U.S. to seek a mobile allocation at the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva in June and July 2003 in both bands sought by industry while ensuring protection of vital Dept. of Defense radars.

The United States will now lobby other countries to adopt a similar stance at the upcoming WRC-2003.

Wireless broadband bill introduced

On January 14, 2003, Senator George Allen (R-Va.) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) introduced their wireless "Jumpstart Broadband Act" (S.159) into the new 108th Congress.

It calls for the FCC to allocate part of 5 GHz band within six months of bill enactment to high speed wireless Internet access using 802.11a. Within a year of passage, the FCC must adopt "minimal technical and device rules" to facilitate use of the 5 GHz allocation for wireless broadband devices.

They said the bill is designed to get Congress to rethink the high-speed Internet distribution debate. In the 107th Congress, the debate over broadband primarily focused only on two platforms, (Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) and cable modems) and the regulatory treatment of those services. They believe a third platform, high speed wireless, will be popular and should be adopted

Specifically, the bill asks that no less than 255 MHz of continuous spectrum below 6 GHz be allocated for use by unlicensed Wi-Fi devices while ensuring that there is no interference to U.S. Department of Defense devices and systems.

The senators believe that growth of broadband Internet will help revive a sluggish economy and spur investment in technology, and wireless Internet connections will help communities such as public schools or rural areas connect to the Internet.

On January 27, 2003, Representatives Mike Honda (D-Calif.), Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.) and Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) introduced a virtually identical bill (H.R. 363) into the house.