

Printed Circuit

Christmas Party—12 December 2006—6:00PM—Great Wall Chinese Restaurant

2006.11

FCC RELEASES LONG-AWAITED “OMNIBUS” AMATEUR RADIO REPORT AND ORDER

ARRL WEBSITE

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC’s Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called “omnibus” Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the changes it had put forth in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the proceeding. The R&O the FCC released this week does *not* include action on the Commission’s proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A Report and Order in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is pending. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the League’s gratitude to the FCC for acting this week in the wide-ranging proceeding.

“On behalf of the ARRL and the Commission’s licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, I want to express appreciation for your release yesterday of the Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) amending Part 97 of the Commission’s Rules,” Harrison wrote October 11. “The Commission’s action in clearing this pending proceeding will assist the Amateur Radio Service in meeting its objectives, particularly with regard to providing emergency and public service communications.”

The Highlights

In its October 10 Report and Order, the FCC:

- expanded the phone subbands in the 75 and 40 meter bands;
- agreed to allow Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate in the General class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters;
- implemented rules to discourage multiple vanity call sign filings on the same day from the same applicant;
- permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- permitted the use of spread spectrum on 222-225 MHz;
- permitted amateurs to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;
- permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;
- eliminated certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers intended for Amateur Radio use;
- clarified that “amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions”;
- deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations;
- deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times, and
- permitted Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications.

The FCC also took several other miscellaneous actions.

“Novice Band Refarming”

In response to an ARRL Petition for Rule Making, the Commission agreed to “refarm” the HF segments currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees. The reallocation will expand the phone subbands for Gen-

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CLIFF AHRENS, K0CA, APPOINTED ARRL MIDWEST DIV. VICE DIRECTOR
ARRL WEBSITE

Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, of Hannibal, Missouri, is the new ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, announced the appointment September 26. Ahrens, an appellate court judge, succeeds Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, who became Midwest Division Director following the death August 31 of Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ.

"I'm pleased to have the opportunity to represent ARRL members from the Midwest Division," Ahrens commented, "and I look forward to working with Director Frahm, President Harrison and the members of the Board of Directors to promote, protect and strengthen our great Amateur Radio fraternity."

An ARRL Life and Diamond Club Member, Ahrens has been a radio amateur since 1979 and previously held the call signs KI0W, N0BQN, and KA0EZR. He's also a Life Member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Ahrens already has served the League in various other capacities. He's an Midwest Division Assistant Director. Since 1997, he's been the Midwest Division representative on the DX Advisory Committee and chaired the panel from August 2000 until March 2003. He's currently DXAC vice chair.

Ahrens also is the Missouri Section DXCC card checker, as well as HF and VHF awards manager. He previously served as a sorter for the Tenth District ARRL QSL Bureau. He's also an ARRL VEC team liaison, and he's served in the past as an ARRL Volunteer Counsel.

An active DXer, Ahrens enjoys No. 1 DXCC Honor Roll status with all 337 current entities confirmed, has also earned CW and Phone Honor Roll, and stands at 2445 band entities in the ARRL DXCC Challenge.

Cliff Ahrens, K0CA

Newly appointed ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, with several of his operating awards. [K0CA Photo]

Ahrens is a member of the Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club, the Eastern Iowa DX Association, the Kansas City DX Club, the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club and the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club. He's a past president of the Hannibal ARC, and is trustee for that club's call signs.

Professionally, Ahrens is an appellate judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District in St. Louis. During his 15 years on the court, he has served as chief judge and presiding judge of several divisions of the court and as a special judge on the Missouri Supreme Court. Prior to joining the judiciary, he practiced general law for 21 years in Hannibal. He's a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Ahrens also has been active in various public, civic and charitable organizations. He was a member of the Hannibal Planning and Zoning Commission and chair of the Planning Commission. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Children's Trust Fund of Missouri and was a member of the St. Louis City-St. Louis County Board of Electors. He's also headed up several community organizations in Hannibal.

He and his wife Kim have three grown children -- sons Todd, W0CTA, and Joe, K4CJA, and daughter Ann. Besides ham radio, Ahrens also enjoys photography, reading and computers, and spending time with his family. ❖

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARK MITCHELSON, N0ZPD

President Martin Matarazzo called the October meeting to order.

Martin reported that the repeater was back in operation, and members reported the audio was much better.

Andy Gabbert and Ray Brown would attend a severe weather class in Springfield. There was no additional class space.

Andy also reported that ARES would have an upcoming meeting in January 2007.

Jim Scott and Ray Brown agreed to chair the elections committee.

John Tudenham agreed to contact the Great Wall restaurant for the Christmas Party. ❖

TREASURER'S REPORT

JIM JOHANNES, N0ZSQ

Income during September included excess funds from the hamfest food sale and a transfer from the money market account.

Expenses included check refills, the license fee for W0IN, and interest and payoff on a loan.

Both the checking and money market accounts have balances. ❖

EDITORIAL POLICY

- 1 Articles are due the first Monday by 4:00PM.
- 2 Submissions may be handwritten, typed, or emailed.
- 3 Readers are welcomed to comment but should focus on the article.
- 4 Buy-Sell-Trade items may be posted for no fee.

All articles are subject to editing. ❖

FCC APPROVES OMNIBUS R&O

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eral, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees, although not all commenters agreed with the idea.

“We are persuaded, however, by ARRL’s contention that increasing the amount of spectrum for voice communications will reduce interference among stations using voice communications,” the FCC said in its R&O, “thereby benefiting all licensees, and that authorizing more spectrum for voice communications will more closely reflect licensees’ operating preferences, thereby resulting in more efficient use of amateur service spectrum.”

On 75 meters, Generals will be able to operate on phone from 3800-4000 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz. Advanced class licensees will be able to use voice from 3700-4000, an increase of 75 kHz, and Amateur Extras will be able to use voice from 3600 to 4000 kHz -- a generous increase of 150 kHz and substantially more spectrum than the League had requested for phone operation on 75. The ARRL had sought an additional 25 kHz. The FCC provided 150 kHz.

“Indeed, a number of commenters argue that the NPRM proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication spectrum in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band,” the FCC noted in the R&O.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to use voice from 7125-7300 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz. General class licensees will be able to use voice on 7175-7300 kHz, an increase of 50 kHz.

On 15 meters, General class operators will have phone privileges on 21275-21450 kHz, an increase of 25 kHz.

To accommodate the remaining Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Ele-

ment 1 credit) licensees on HF CW, the FCC affirmed its intention to permit these licensees to operate CW in the current General exclusive-CW allocations on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

“In this connection, we note that the comments generally support maintaining HF frequency allocations for Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees stating, for example, that the Commission’s proposal ‘would simplify the band plans and ... also provide Novice and Technician Class licensees the opportunity to contact a greater number of other amateur operators,” the FCC said. “Other commenters support the Commission’s proposal on the grounds that it would ‘increase utilization of the three bands involved’ and ‘generate and continue the effective and efficient use of valuable and priceless spectrum, generate experimentation, and further the advance of the industry.”

Novice/Tech Plus licensees still may only run no more than 200 W PEP on those HF CW segments, but the Commission has done away with similar power limitations on HF segments for higher-class licensees, with the exception of the 200 W PEP power limitation already in place on 30 meters and the 50 W ERP restriction on 60 meters.

Vanity Call Sign Applications

The FCC has revised its vanity call sign rules to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign on the same day, and many commenters supported this concept. As implemented in §97.19(d)(1), if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the Universal Licensing System. “Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted,” the rule concludes.

Current Commission rules and proce-

dures do not preclude applicants from filing multiple applications on the same day for the same vanity call sign, provided that they pay the filing fee for each application.

“We are persuaded that we should adopt rule amendments to discourage multiple vanity call sign applications,” the FCC said in the R&O, “and we believe that a one-application-per-day-per-applicant rule, as requested by ARRL and others, will eliminate multiple applications requesting the same assignable call sign on the same day.”

The FCC concedes that its one-application-per-day rule “will not prevent an individual from requesting multiple vanity call signs per se,” because an applicant may request up to 25 call signs at a time.

When the FCC receives multiple valid applications from several individuals requesting the same vanity call sign as a first choice on the same day, it uses a lottery system to decide which application to process first.

RF Power Amplifiers

The R&O also affirms changes to Part 2 and Part 97 rules the FCC had proposed regarding the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers. Current FCC rules prohibit commercial manufacturers from marketing RF power amplifiers capable of transmitting on the 12 and 10 meter bands. The rules were put in place as a way to prevent use of such amplifiers by CBers.

“We agree with ARRL that the requirements imposed on Amateur Radio operators by the current rule are unnecessary because, under the present rules, ‘the equipment, once authorized, can be modified to transmit on all amateur service frequency allocations,’ and that revising the rule ‘will

(Continued on page 4)

ARES ROUNDUP

ANDY GABBERT, KA0TUD

At the present time, we are attempting to reorganize the Jasper County ARES. So far 2 meetings have been held. At the first, we appointed Officers and also board members. Our officers are Pres. Larry Sparks, Vice President Ray Brown, Secretary Mark Mitchelson, and Treasurer Jim Johannes. Our Board of Directors include Les Hovland, Dwayne Beaver, and Ricky Adams.

At this meeting, after breakfast, items such as Net Procedures, both good and bad, were discussed. We discussed the best way to handle the problems that might occur during emergencies. Also discussed were matters resulting in relationships between ARES and the Red Cross, NWS, and Emergency Preparedness.

Future meetings will be held, to be announced. If you want to become active and work in the ARES Organization, please phone 417-673-8371, or any of the other officers.

Our first meeting, held after a club meeting, had 11 in attendance. The second meeting only had five, held after a Saturday morning breakfast. ❖

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enhance use of the 12 and 10 meter amateur bands," the FCC said.

To prevent the use of Amateur Radio amplifiers by CBers, the FCC says it's still necessary to require manufacturers of Amateur Radio amplifiers design their products to avoid operation on the CB frequencies.

"We will, therefore, retain the requirement that amplifiers exhibit no amplification capability between 26 MHz and 28 MHz and require manufacturers to

AMATEUR RADIO TID-BITS

COMPILED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES

The bear facts are to stay off the ham radio bands

The FCC has written to the president of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association asking him to warn his members to stay off of the ham radio and GMRS bands unless they get licenses to operate.

In an October 12th letter to Brett McVannel, the FCC says that information before the Commission indicates that numerous bear hunters in Michigan use Amateur Radio and General Mobile Radio Service radio transmitting equipment without licenses. The letter notes that both services require a license from the Commission.

The FCC says that it would appreciate Mc Vannel advising the associations members that unlicensed use of radio equipment is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act . As such unlicensed operators to enforcement sanctions including monetary forfeiture. These fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

Amateur Radio Newslite

600 Meters Kickoff

certify that amplifiers are not capable of amplification between 26 MHz and 28 MHz and are not easily modifiable to operate between 26 MHz and 28 MHz prior to the grant of an equipment certification," the FCC said.

The FCC also concluded that the definition of an external RF power amplifier kit is no longer needed in Part 97.

The Commission said it may deny certification of external radio frequency power amplifiers to prevent their use in services other than the Amateur Radio

The Radio Officers' Association is launching a campaign for 500kHz to be recognised internationally as a heritage frequency. The campaign will kick off on 3 November, the centenary of the 1906 Berlin Wireless Telegraphy Convention, when 500kHz was chosen as the maritime calling and distress frequency and SOS was picked as the international distress signal.

As part of the launch activities, the Radio Officers' Association plans to operate special event station GB500KCS from the Lizard Marconi Wireless Station and the Poldhu Marconi Centre in Cornwall. The station will be put on the air on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 November. The centenary of the 1906 Berlin Wireless Telegraphy Convention is also being celebrated in Germany and Italy. German radio officers have obtained the special call sign DK500KHZ and will be on air on Friday 3 November to Sunday 5 November. The Italians will operate as IY1SP/500KCS from La Spezia where Marconi conducted his first experiments with the Italian Navy.

Radio Society of Great Britain

Service. Non-amateur licensees will not be permitted to construct or modify an RF amplifier capable of operation below 144 MHz without a grant of certification from the FCC. Radio amateurs may build or modify RF amplifiers for use at an Amateur Radio station without a certification grant, however.

Effective Date

The changes spelled out in the R&O go into effect 30 days after their publication in the Federal Register. ❖

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:00AM--Breakfast
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6:30PM—VE Testing 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9:00AM--Breakfast
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>14</i> 7:00PM—Club Meeting	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:00AM--Breakfast
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:00AM--Breakfast
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	<i>28</i> 7:00PM—Club Meeting	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out		

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2006

Note: W4VEC testing information is on the back page; those with questions should contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

Printed Circuit

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PRINTED CIRCUIT

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The *Printed Circuit* is the monthly newsletter of the Joplin Amateur Radio Club, a 501-C Non-Profit Corporation.

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CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings

The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, except December. Meetings are held at the Joplin Red Cross (4th and Jackson) and begin at 7:30 PM. All amateur operators welcomed at meetings and other club functions.

Club Repeaters - Open for all to use

WØIN - 147.210+ (No tone)

WØIN South - 145.390- (91.5)

Weekly Net (Mondays at 7:30 PM, 147.210+)

All operators are welcome to check in the net. ARRL Audio News, ARES, buy-sell-trade, and other announcements are made.

W4VEC Volunteer Examining Sessions

On the first Monday of each month, exams are offered at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on W. 26th Street, west of Maiden Lane. Applicants need to bring 2 pencils, 2 forms of ID (including 1 photo ID), and the *original and 2 copies of any current license and/or Certificates of Successful Completion if applicable*. Registration begins at 6:30 PM. For questions, contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

Social Gatherings

On Saturdays, members gather at Steak n Shake (Hammons Blvd.) for breakfast, beginning at 9:00 AM. On Thursday evenings, members gather at a local restaurant. Check with John Tudenham (624-8058) for location.