



SHARC TALES

Volume III, Issue I

March 2007

Published quarterly by the Sky High Amateur Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 572, Lecanto, FL 34461 Website www.sky-higharc.org

"Cellular Telephone" Bills Pose Potential Problems for Ham Radio Operation

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 13, 2007 -- Bills aimed at thwarting "driving while cellular" and "driving while distracted" behavior have been introduced in several states, and most are worded broadly enough to proscribe some Amateur Radio mobile operation. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, so far has catalogued 11 active pieces of legislation. Bills introduced in Montana and New Mexico have been sidelined for now, but related measures -- more than one in some states -- remain alive in Georgia, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Henderson reports that ARRL Field Organization volunteers and members called the League's attention to the various pieces of pending legislation, none of which specifically exempt Amateur Radio mobile operation.

"In most cases we try to work to have language exempting Amateur Radio inserted into the bill, rather than narrowing by definition the behavior or activity the bill seeks to address," Henderson explains. "It is a far easier approach and removes ambiguity down the road."

Henderson says that, if requested, the League will advise radio amateurs preparing to testify about a bill before a state legislative committee. "We offer some suggestions regarding what to cover and how to approach their testimony," he said. "We also will speak with legislators or their aides to try and clarify questions or help them craft language that help accomplish our goal of specifically exempting Amateur Radio operation from these measures." Most of the measures include exceptions for emergency communication and law enforcement agencies. For the full story visit ARRL's website @ www.arrl.org.

SHARC Website Undergoes A Major Re-Write.

Bill Byberg, W1ZOM, who is our Webmaster and past SHARC President, has undertaken the task to re-write the entire SHARC website. Bill says; *"..it was just getting out of hand especially when it came to updates."* Bill also informs us that there is a new password system in place in order to enhance security of certain documents that just don't need to be *public*. The site is leaner and should load faster even if you have a dial-up-connection. As always, Bill is open for suggestions or improvements and welcomes your input. You can email Bill @ W1ZOM@hotmail.com.

SHARC Net

Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm local on **146.955 MHz** and a **PL Tone** of **103.5 Hz**

If you would be interested in becoming a Net Controller you can contact **Carl Marchese, WA2STL** for more information.

HURRICANE!

Staying ready for the hurricane season should become a year-long effort.

Become a

SHARC

Want more information on becoming a SHARC or Associate member? Then visit our website at www.sky-higharc.org where you can fill out the application on-line and then print it or you can call our Membership Chairperson, **Barbara Robinson, K2ZH** at **(352) 621-3912** and she will be glad to mail you one.

Get Noticed!

If you've always wanted to see your name in type and show off some of your 'ham' photos then we have some great news for you. Our website has plenty of 'server-space' to accommodate each and every member who would like to have their own web page with your own URL link. Be sure to check out the website for more information when it becomes available.



May 18, 19 & 20, 2007

Hara Arena, Trotwood, Ohio

Pack up your bags and get ready, set, go! Well almost. This year's Hamvention® promises to outdo all previous Hamvention®. An annual event since 1952, this is a premier event that every 'ham' should attend at least once in their lifetime. Even if it is only for one day. You can get more information by visiting their website @ <http://www.hamvention.org/> where you can also download and print a mail-order form for your tickets. And, if you haven't upgraded your Amateur License by the time the Hamvention® rolls around you can take it there for FREE! This year, license exams will be administered by volunteer examiner (VE) teams with Laurel VEC. Laurel VEC does not charge for license exams so there will be no fee for the exams at Hamvention®. Admission to Hamvention® is not required to take an exam.

2007 Club Officers

President	Ed Rogalla	W9YYV
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pre-install information from county personnel was that the antenna would be placed "a lot higher" than the previous one located at the EOC. In fact, it ended up about a hundred feet lower at 150 feet above ground! And...the placement was such that the antenna pattern did not favor our desired coverage areas within the county.

So the new site specs for the W4IIR DB221 four pole antenna now reads:

Height above ground = 250 feet

Orientation = Northeast leg of tower.

We had a new 270 foot run of ½ inch Andrew's Heliac cable installed rather than place a coaxial splice in the old line thereby negating a possible impedance "bump" causing some probable un-needed VSWR readings. All went well....zero SWR.

It would appear than the 103.5 CTCSS (Continuous Tone Carrier Squelch System) feature will have to be turned on as preliminary observations indicate that when the warmer weather shows up we will experience some VHF ducting from time to time (AM & PM) that will cement that decision. When that feature is turned "on" you will hear "**PL ON**" in voice during the voice ID announcement... "**PL**" is Motorola's term used to indicate this system - it has become more or less generic in usage. Most probable co-channel (**146.335 MHz**) incursions would be from Bradenton's K4BRC users. With rare user signals from: K4OSC, St Cloud; K4PSL, St Lucie; and AA4QI, Duval County.

Ed Note: See some pic's on the website under "Happings" page.



From Dick's SHACK

W1XJ

In late December we finally managed to nail down a date for Orlando based Clifton Tower, Inc to perform the long awaited changes to the repeater antenna installation on the County 450 foot tower on West Woodland Ridge Rd in Lecanto.

For those who have been otherwise engaged for the past few months, SHARC has long realized the need to change things "up there" as coverage in critical shelter areas of Citrus County had been less than hoped for when the new tower was constructed. Our original

TRANSITION TO NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees. The League marked the occasion with a W1AW special event aimed at welcoming newcomers to the HF bands. The "W1AW HF Open House" included exam sessions under both old and new rules. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, points to the still-growing number of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) test sessions now on the schedule across the US as evidence that the rule changes will provide a shot in the arm to Amateur Radio.

The ten meter band is not dead.

So.... why should a person listen for propagation beacons? There are several good reasons to tune through 28.175 to 28.300MHz and listen for the numerous beacons located world wide.

As the name implies, a propagation beacon is for information about propagation. Of the over one hundred ninety beacons world-wide, (check out our website for more info on ten meter beacons. www.sky0higharc.org) it is quite possible to hear multiple beacons at the same time. South Texas is in a unique location for beacon reception. With the exception of the E layer propagation, most skip distances on ten meters are in the 1500 to 2000 mile range.

The reception and identification of a beacon is a indicator of conditions that will support communication on the ten meter band. Many beacon messages include power and antenna information. This information will permit a person to determine the magnitude of the opening. For instance, a 28.177MHz beacon, VE2CRH, located in Quebec City, Canada with a 2W, vertical antenna and showing a signal strength of 5 would be a pretty good indication that band conditions are very good.

ARRL INVITES COMMENTS ON NEW HF DIGITAL PROTOCOL

The ARRL is seeking comments from amateurs concerning development of an open-source (non-proprietary) data communications protocol suitable for use by radio amateurs over high-frequency (HF) fading paths. This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFP may or not be forthcoming depending on evaluation of the information received.

Specifically, the League is asking for comments and information on the following issues:

* Access Method: Is Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM) the best candidate technology, or should other competitive technologies be considered?

* Data Rate and Bandwidth: What data rates/throughputs are achievable at various bandwidths up to 3 kHz bandwidth?

* Adaptively: What adaptive features should be considered, such as automatic adjustment of transmitter power, modulation waveform and coding, in order to maximize throughput and efficiency in two-way contacts?

* Robustness: What is achievable for reliable operation at power levels typical in the Amateur Radio Service and low signal/noise and interference ratios?

* Error control: What are the appropriate applications of error control suitable for HF channels? For example, how should Repeat reQuest (ARQ) and Forward Error Control (FEC) be applied to two-way contacts and one-to-many (roundtable and bulletin) transmissions?

* Activity Detection: What is an effective method of determining whether a frequency is busy prior to transmission?

* Operating System: What operating

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ARRL INVITES COMMENTS (Cont. from page 3)

systems (such as Windows or Linux) are appropriate for Amateur Radio use with this protocol?

* Hardware: What practical and affordable hardware platforms are suitable for amateur stations? Consider the use of personal computers with or without sound cards. Provide any information about the need for an additional "box" if needed.

Please provide the following with your response:

- (1) Name of respondent,
- (2) Respondent's contact information,
- (3) Related experience, and
- (4) Type of respondent: (individual, partnership, corporation or group). Do not include proprietary information as part of your response.

Post, fax or e-mail your response by 1900 UTC, May 15, 2007, to ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI <w4ri@arrl.org>, 3545 Chain Bridge Rd -- Suite 209, Fairfax, VA 22030; Fax: 703-934-2079.

Weekday Quotes You Can Use

Sunday - He, who laughs last, thinks slowest!

Monday - You're old, when you can't get a rocking chair to start.

Tuesday - **Warning:** Dates in a Calendar are closer than they appear.

Wednesday - Hard work has a future payoff... Laziness pays off now.

Thursday - Better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

Friday - A little work, a little sleep, a little love and it is all over.

Saturday - Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) and just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food - while she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00pm, Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this. An urologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps, **Smile, Talk, and Raise**. Read on and Learn! Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- 1 - S * Ask the individual to SMILE.**
- 2 - T * Ask the person to TALK. SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. . It is sunny out today?)**
- 3 - R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.**

NOTE : Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with **ANY ONE** of these tasks, call **911** immediately!! And describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Remember the 3 Simple Questions above. **Smile, Talk, and Raise**. You could save someone's life!

Become a **SHARC!** Join Today!

Call Barbara, K2ZH @ (352) 621- 3912