

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Friday June 4, 1999

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AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

<http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>
president to windsman@alaska.net
webmaster to kl7aa@lawson.akconnect.com
membership to frederickson@iname.com
activities to kl0cy@arrl.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
Email: KL0CY@arrl.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791
Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 kHz, 7075 kHz &
145.35 MHz: Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz
8:30 AM M-F
QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local
850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local
Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
ARES net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
PARKA net 147.30/.90 MHz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
146.34/94 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL
KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft
147.30/90 MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
146.16/76 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club
146.97/.37 MHz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS
147.27/.87 no patch, 107.2 Hz PL
KL7G West Anchorage & Events
449.65/444.65 MHz, patch, no PL

Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency
147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat
146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat
146.41 Mhz Mat Valley simplex chat

~~~ HOT LINKS ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>

EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC:

<http://ffdlm1mac.uafsof.alaska.edu/aarc/aarc.html>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here

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ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

FOR SALE

1. Complete Satellite AZEL Antenna System \$750
KLM 14c/18cx antennas 8' boom,
Yaesu 5400 Rotor,
Mirage Preamps,
KCT Tracker/Tuner
10' Rohm 25G tower.
2. Hy-gain DX77 10/40 mtrs Vertical Antenna \$95
3. Hy-gain TH3 3el Tribaquad Beam \$90
4. Alliance HD-73 Rotor \$100
Mel AL7PB 349-4372/cell 229-7351

Health & Welfare

Foster, KL0DU from Ninilchik is recovering from a several procedures in Providence Hospital. John, KL7QZ reports him to be doing well and in good spirits.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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Regular HAM Gatherings:

* **Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Penland Park, East.

Saturdays, 7:30 AM: Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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This Month's Speaker

John Lynn will moderate a session on antennas and also demonstrate the use of the antenna analyzer that will be given away as the main door prize. Weather permitting, we will be outside, checking out mobile antennas and setting up some tactical antennas. **NOTE: there will not be a July meeting due to the July 4th holiday weekend.**

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THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

June 1: EARS general meeting at 7:00 PM 1st Tuesday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.27 repeater

June 2: VE License Exam 6:30 PM, 1st Wednesday of the month, Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

June 4: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM 1st Friday of the month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.300.

June 12: ARES Planning Committee 9:30 AM to Noon. 2nd Saturday of the month at the American Red Cross at 8th and Cordova. Everyone welcome. Focus on preparedness and training.

June 12: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM. 2nd Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International in the Board Room. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

June 8: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month at Phillips International Inn, Arctic & International. No host dinner at 6:00 PM for those who want to eat.

June 11: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM the 2nd Friday of the month in room 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

June 19: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM. 3rd Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

June 25: MARA meeting at 7PM the last Friday of the month at the MTA office in Palmer

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FCC ACTS AGAINST GRIZZLY PEAK "REGULARS"

The ARRL Letter

In the wake of a recent negotiated settlement, the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeaters in the San Francisco Bay area are back on the air, and on-air behavior is said to be in compliance with the rules. Now, the FCC is turning its attention to cases involving individuals who once frequented those repeaters before they were shut down by the Commission in early March. Tving a K7IJ "regular" and dismissed a pending Amateur Radio application and issued a stern warning in another.

In its strongest action yet in the K7IJ case, the FCC dismissed the pending Amateur Radio application of James C. Walker, formerly KF6VAA, of Oakland. In conjunction with the K7IJ repeater shutdown, the FCC had set aside Walker's Technician class grant in February, alleging that Walker had transmitted on the K7IJ repeater before getting his amateur license. In a letter to Walker May 26, FCC Legal Adviser Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, dismissed Walker's still-pending Technician application.

Hollingsworth's letter said the Commission had evidence that, despite the set aside, Walker had continued to transmit on amateur frequencies using KF6VAA and had been operating on the WA6SEK 145.21 MHz repeater in the Stockton, California, area. Walker was warned May 20 about that operation. Hollingsworth issued a second warning notice for unlicensed radio operation in his May 26 letter. He said that if Walker later reapplies for an amateur license, he would have to attest that he had ceased unlicensed operation. Hollingsworth also said that the FCC wants to resolve issues related to Walker's operation on the K7IJ and WA6SEK repeaters before it entertains another amateur application from Walker.

"This may require an evidentiary hearing before an Administrative Law Judge," Hollingsworth said, adding that Walker could face criminal prosecution if he operates radio transmitting equipment again without a license.

In another Grizzly Peak-related case, the FCC suspended the VHF/UHF privileges of Timmy O. Sheen, N6MZA, a Tech Plus licensee, by modifying his license. Sheen already has been called in by the FCC for retesting; he has until June 30 to appear or his license will be canceled. In a May 26 letter, Hollingsworth said the FCC had information that Sheen also had been on the WA6SEK 145.21 MHz repeater "broadcasting, playing music and deliberately interfering with

repeater operations for several hours." Sheen had been warned in February about similar operation on the K7IJ repeaters, and Hollingsworth said Sheen had been in touch with him to say other stations had interfered with him and to apologize for events leading up to the more recent allegations.

"Retaliation cannot be accepted as an excuse for deliberate or malicious interference or broadcasting," Hollingsworth said, adding "this fact has been explained to you in the past." Sheen has 30 days to protest the action.

In another case related to the WA6SEK repeater, the FCC this week modified the license of Technician licensee William B. Gifford, KF6URY, of Stockton to prohibit VHF/UHF operation for 90 days. The FCC alleged that Gifford was "broadcasting and deliberately interfering" with operations on the WA6SEK 145.21 MHz repeater for several hours. Gifford also has 30 his week, FCC suspended VHF privileges in one case involdays to protest the modification.

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THE FCC GIVETH, TAKETH AWAY

The ARRL Letter

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says that a Delaware ham required by the FCC to retake her Amateur Extra class exam has successfully retested and is "off the hook" with the FCC. The FCC requested in February that Sheila Bowden, N3QQS, of Millsboro, retake her examinations by March 19. Bowden showed up at a March 13 ARRL-VEC testing session where she retook and passed the written exam.

"We are accepting Sheila Bowden's successful retest for the Extra class license, and accepting the doctor's certificate exempting her from the code test," Hollingsworth said May 27, adding that he was happy about the outcome. "Any time you audit a program, it's always better to have happy news than it is to have disappointing news," he said. Hollingsworth said it took until now to clear the case from his books because the FCC wanted to further investigate the physician's waiver that Bowden had submitted in lieu of taking a Morse code examination.

Hollingsworth said, however, that he was "not in a position to recommend to the W5YI-VEC" that Sheila Bowden be allowed to administer amateur exams again, mainly due to what he called "unresolved questions" about Bowden's husband, Wayne.

Wayne Bowden has not been so lucky in his dealings with the FCC. Earlier this year, the FCC dismissed the Extra class license he formerly held, AA3RT, after the Commission discovered "irregularities in the administration of the examination by the Volunteer Examiners." Wayne Bowden

took the complete Amateur Radio examination series at an October 4 W5YI-VEC session.

He had not held an amateur license before then. An FCC probe continues into alleged testing irregularities at Pennsylvania W5YI-VEC sessions October 4 and 6, including allegations that examinees might have been coached or given test answers.

Hollingsworth said he has been unsuccessful in his efforts to contact Wayne Bowden, despite several attempts. He said that Sheila Bowden had written him a letter on her husband's behalf, but that he had needed to hear from the licensee directly.

In other action, the FCC has modified the General class license of David O. Castle, WA9KJI, of Evansville, Indiana, to prohibit HF operation for two years. Hollingsworth said in a letter May 19 that the FCC had information that Castle had operated on 3950 kHz "contrary to the Amateur Radio Service rules" by causing malicious interference and broadcasting.

Hollingsworth said that on May 1, Castle was heard "broadcasting and talking to no particular station for over an hour, during which time you prevented the use of the frequencies by others and maliciously interfered with other stations." Hollingsworth's letter said that Castle had "falsely claimed" to be in contact with another station. As a result of the alleged violations, the FCC suspended Castle's privileges to operate below 30 MHz. Hollingsworth had warned Castle in January regarding such operation. Last September, the FCC restricted Castle's operating hours for allegedly engaging in the same type of conduct. Castle has 30 days to protest the latest license modification.

The FCC has cancelled the licenses of several individuals who failed to appear after being called in for retesting. The FCC lifted the Technician class license of Joseph P. Santini, N2RGZ, of Belleville, New Jersey, after he failed to appear to retake his Amateur Radio examinations. Santini had until May 10 to retake his tests. FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth had sent Santini a Warning Notice April 5 alleging that the FCC had evidence that Santini had been maliciously interfering with VHF repeater operations.

The FCC also has cancelled the Technician class license of Rusty Leewright, KE6UOF, of Northridge, California, after Leewright failed to appear, as requested, to retake his Amateur Radio examinations. And, the FCC cancelled the Advanced class license of Joseph C. Walker, W8JCW, of Gaylord, Michigan, after Walker failed to appear, as requested, to retake his General and Advanced class exams.

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OH2BH BRIEFLY ACTIVATES NORTH KOREA

The ARRL Letter

Renowned DXer Martti Laine, OH2BH, who first activated North Korea in 1995, briefly appeared on the air early April 21 from North Korea signing P51BH. According to the ARRL DXCC Desk, Laine showed up on 20-meter CW around 0530UTC, then shifted to 14.195 SSB at around 0640 UTC and later to 21.295 on SSB. The short operation ended just before 0800 UTC.

"Countless DXers have been eagerly waiting for activation of North Korea," said Laine in a press statement. "This country is the rarest of them all--for good reason." North Korea remains isolated from the rest of the world, and visits are allowed only for special purposes. Transmitting by radio from North Korea has been, and still is, a highly sensitive issue, he added.

Laine's visit--his sixth to North Korea--was not intended to be a full-blown DXpedition, however, but another in a series of what he calls "DX missionary efforts." The objective was introduce the concept of Amateur Radio to those who have the power to decide its future in North Korea.

"It was a preliminary exercise," said DX Advisory Committee Chairman Wayne Mills, N7NG. "The on-air operation was a bonus." Mills said the trip was intended primarily to pave the way for future amateur operation from North Korea, and things went as well or even better than expected. "It fulfilled all expectations," Mills said.

The ham gear Laine used will remain in North Korea. "The antennas were left right there together with the Yaesu FT-847 equipment," Laine said in a posting to DX reflectors after he'd returned to Beijing. "It is just a matter of switching the power on--when the time is ripe--to allow North Korea to join the ranks of Amateur Radio."

During his brief stint from P5, Laine made 263 contacts, working mostly Europe and Japan, as well as 9K2HN and some West Coast US stations. He made only a handful of P5 contacts in 1995.

The DXCC Desk advises those who might have missed this short opportunity not to worry. "Intermediate steps of this kind are always needed, and, at best, they may lead to more activations," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Bill Kenamer, K5FUV.

Several minutes of audio from the P51BH operation may be heard on 9K2HN's home page, <http://www.qsl.net/9k2hn>.

Laine says documentation for the P51BH operation will be sent to the ARRL shortly, and QSL cards will be released from his OH2BH Finland address "as soon as possible."

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The meaning of CW Is CW an archaic relic of the past?

Ed Sieb, VA3ES

On March 31, 1995, the US Coast Guard formally ceased CW operations, after 94 years of service. Several months previous, both the US Navy and Marines had also ceased all CW operations.

Since 1995 many other Government and commercial communications services have abandoned the use of CW. Today, there are very few, if any commercial operations using CW as a mode of communications, wide-band fiber optic, Internet and very-high-capacity digital networks, this is as it should be. Let's face it, CW has no place in today's "Information Super-highway." In today's Amateur Radio, CW competes with high-speed, 56 and 128-KB packet backbones, as well as Amtor, Pactor, Clover and other modes of digital transmission. We can transmit vast volumes of information keyboard to keyboard, computer to computer, faster than one can send a paragraph of text at 60 wpm CW.

When we amateurs used to be innovators at the forefront of the state of the art in communications, now we barely keep up. Other services covet our valuable frequencies, from HF to microwave. As well, the Amateur Radio Service faces pressures from governments to justify its continued existence.

In the spring of 1995, the government of New Zealand made a decision to actively seek the suppression of the pertinent ITU regulation that requires Morse code proficiency for amateurs licensed to operate below 30 MHz. The ZL government was repeatedly "briefed" at great length by "ORACLE" an organization actively seeking to abolish CW requirements for Hams in New Zealand.

(Informed insiders have indicated that "ORACLE" is a lobby group composed of CB radio retailers and CB groups in New Zealand. NZART, the new Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, (the New Zealand national organization) came out strongly opposed to no-code dismissing ORACLE openly declared their intent to bypass the national Amateur Radio organizations and lobby government directly to eliminate CW.)

And yet, through all this, ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union continues to back the retention of CW as a requirement of licensing! Can you imagine? In this day and age!

(RAC accepted the dropping of Morse as a treaty requirement but did not back the removal of Morse as a "technical and operational qualification" for Amateur Radio examinations.)

Well, those good 'ol hide-bound amateur organizations are right!

"To be a 'radio amateur' is be a 'lover' of radio."

Yes, CW is archaic. Yes, it is slow and cumbersome compared to modern digital modes. **So What?** All these facts are irrelevant. The facts of CW's speed and traffic handling capacity are irrelevant to the whole argument. Those who would continuously harp on these meaningless statistics simply mess the whole point of CW. The continuing relevance of CW today and on through to the next century has NOTHING to do with its actual utility in sending traffic!

CW (or Morse code, if you wish) is absolutely essential to the Amateur Radio service and is an essential part of what gives Ham radio its meaning. To learn the Morse code, is to open one's heart (and mind) to the essence (yes I keep using this word) of Ham radio and to grasp its soul. (I believe that CW is fundamentally necessary for Amateur Radio and that it is also its heart and soul.)

Ham radio would be just a cold, calculating hobby without it. The Ham radio language, its jargon, wouldn't exist without it. Oh sure, we might have some other kind of radio slang, but I bet it would be borrowed from truckers and other users of "personal radio." We wouldn't have Q signals or 73. And we definitely wouldn't have a history. Simply put, CW is the source of and forms the basis for the culture of Ham radio.

To be a "radio amateur" is be a "lover" of radio, one who studies it and appreciates it as an art. Other "amateurs" of art, of music, become lay experts in their fields. They study the subject historically, philosophically, even sociologically and develop a true appreciation of the subject in its entirety. To reject a single important historical aspect of an art or a culture because it is "archaic" is to lack even the most basic comprehension of the subject one purports to love! To learn CW is to make a connection with Ham radio's past and its history. Learning CW means that one has learned the basic reference points of the hobby. An analogy: to acquire my University degree, I had to take a few courses that I considered at the time quite irrelevant. I took some Humanities courses that studied the role of Women in Blues Music! I studied railroad hoboes of the '30s in my sociology classes! I studied Nietzsche, Hegel and Kant in my "Poli-Sci" courses. At the time, I wondered what the usefulness of all this was and what it had to do with Communications and Media, my major. Today, I appreciate that those "irrelevant" subjects made me a more literate, well-rounded person. Well, not to put too fine a point on it, in my opinion, a Ham without CW is simply, "illiterate"!

Today, in those countries, which have "no-code" licenses, (mainly Canada and the US) among the more "veteran", long-time Hams, there has developed a mildly cynical attitude, bordering on contempt for the newer "no-code" VHF operators. They're derisively referred to as "2-meter CBers."

This view stems from the perception that these new Hams lack the fundamental understanding of the roots of the hobby and that without code they're "stuck on 2-Meters", unwilling or unable to expand their radio horizons. (In fact, those no-coders that came from the CB ranks, without CW upgrading, often continue to operate on 11 Meters. Those who've upgraded and have HF privileges, tend to abandon 11 Meters completely.) For their part, some no-coders complain that they feel like second-class citizens within the amateur community, neither fully accepted, nor able to fully participate in Amateur Radio. They claim that the increasingly irrelevant need for "proficiency" in CW places an arbitrary and artificial obstacle in their path. They suggest that being "stuck on 2 Meters" is boring and is causing some to lose all interest in the hobby.

Traditionally in Canada, once licensed, Hams always had the opportunity to get involved in any aspect of the hobby without limitations. Veteran Hams are convinced that "no-coders" are short-changing themselves, by failing to upgrade. This saddens many veterans as they see this as a drastic change in the sociology of their beloved hobby; a change for the worse.

Here's my suggestion for an appropriate CW requirement for the last '90s and beyond. I'm not suggesting that one must know 15 wpm or even 10 wpm to get a Ham ticket. What I'd like to see is that every prospective Ham, whatever band they will operate, above 30 MHz or below, be required to comprehend all the letters, numbers and punctuation. The CW receiving exam might be something simple such as 100% copy of all characters sent at a slow speed, say possibly 5 wpm or so.

The speed itself is not critical, so long as there is 100% copy of all letters, numbers and punctuation, sent during a "reasonable" period of time. The successful candidate would then acquire a "scheduled" license allowing HF phone operation in certain segments of the bands, or possible restriction to certain bands only. Full band privileges would be acquired by upgrading the qualifications through either a more strenuous CW exam or a tougher technical exam, whatever the candidate's choice.

To those who wish to become amateurs, but adamantly reject CW and stubbornly refuse to learn the code, I say too badly! These persons have failed to appreciate the meaning of Amateur Radio and its *culture* and neither do they understand it. Amateur Radio is not just some fancy, high tech means of communication. It's a community, a service and a tradition with deep roots and a long history. Ham Radio is the whole reason for modern communications technology. Hams invented wireless communications; without us, there might not be any Internet today! Let's not destroy the very spark at the soul of the hobby.

Am I being too "orthodox" in my views? Or am I being an extremist? What do you think?

I encourage your comments and feedback on this subject. You can reach me at PO Box 8377, Ottawa Terminal, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3H8. Or at: esieb@gmsiwold.com.

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Question: Why did the chicken cross the road?

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER: To get to the other side.

MOSES: And God came down from the Heavens, and He said unto the chicken, "Thou shalt cross the road." And the chicken crossed the road, and there was much rejoicing.

PLATO: For the greater good.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross roads.

HIPPOCRATES: Because of an excess of phlegm in its pancreas.

BUDDHA: Asking this question denies your own chicken nature.

KARL MARX: It was an historical inevitability.

FREUD: The fact that you are at all concerned that the chicken crossed the road reveals your underlying sexual insecurity.

DARWIN: Chickens, over great periods of time, have been naturally selected in such a way that they are now genetically disposed to cross roads.

EINSTEIN: Whether the chicken crossed the road or the road moved beneath the chicken depends upon your frame of reference.

TIMOTHY LEARY: Because that's the only trip the establishment would let it take.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: I envision a world where all chickens will be free to cross roads without having their motives called into question.

CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK: To boldly go where no chicken has gone before.

FOX MULDER: You saw it cross the road with your own eyes. How many more chickens have to cross the road before you believe it?

RICHARD M. NIXON: The chicken did not cross the road. I repeat, the chicken did NOT cross the road.

RONALD REAGAN: I forget.

JERRY SEINFELD: Why does anyone cross a road? I mean, why doesn't anyone ever think to ask, What the heck was this chicken doing walking around all over the place, anyway?"

SADDAM HUSSEIN: This was an unprovoked act of rebellion and we were quite justified in dropping 50 tons of nerve gas on it.

BILL GATES: I have just released the new Chicken Office 2000, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your checkbook.

HILLARY CLINTON: To cooperate in the right wing plot against this administration.

COLONEL SANDERS: I missed one?

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1999 FIELD DAY BRINGS RULE CHANGE, NEW PIN

The ARRL Letter

Participants in ARRL Field Day--the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada--will encounter one significant change in rules for this year's event, June 26-27. Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

For the first time, the ARRL is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don't have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution. The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart says then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, came up with the idea of Field Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy's Field Day writeup in QST raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-all.html> which include submission guidelines. All Field Day should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to FieldDay@arrl.org. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of QST.

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UoSAT-12 LAUNCHED AND FUNCTIONING

The ARRL Letter

The latest Amateur Radio satellite, UoSAT-12, was successfully launched April 21 just before 0500 UTC from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard a converted Soviet SS-18 ICBM. This marked the first time a Russian missile designed for war had been converted to peaceful purposes to carry a commercial satellite into space. Under the terms of the START arms reduction treaty, the former Soviet Union's entire arsenal of SS-18 Satans must be destroyed or used for peaceful purposes.

The satellite was successfully switched on at around 1800 UTC and copied on the 2230 UTC pass in Japan by Kazu Sakamoto, JJ1WTK. The downlink is 9600 baud FSK and can be copied on 437.400MHz.

The satellite is considerably larger than UO-22 or TO-31, and carries a propulsion system for orbital housekeeping experiments. UoSAT-12 carries a number of imaging payloads (with an up to 10-meter image resolution) along with digital store-and-forward communications on VHF and UHF. Mode L/S transponders will also be supported with a high-speed digital downlink.--Bruce Paige, KK5DO, with thanks to the University of Surrey and Chris Jackson, G7UPN

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FCC SPIKES RESTRUCTURING RUMORS AT DAYTON

The ARRL Letter

The big FCC announcement about Amateur Radio license restructuring that many hams erroneously had been expecting

RONALD REAGAN: I forget.

JERRY SEINFELD: Why does anyone cross a road? I mean, why doesn't anyone ever think to ask, What the heck was this chicken doing walking around all over the place, anyway?"

SADDAM HUSSEIN: This was an unprovoked act of rebellion and we were quite justified in dropping 50 tons of nerve gas on it.

BILL GATES: I have just released the new Chicken Office 2000, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your checkbook.

HILLARY CLINTON: To cooperate in the right wing plot against this administration.

COLONEL SANDERS: I missed one?

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1999 FIELD DAY BRINGS RULE CHANGE, NEW PIN

The ARRL Letter

Participants in ARRL Field Day--the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada--will encounter one significant change in rules for this year's event, June 26-27. Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

For the first time, the ARRL is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don't have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution. The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart says then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, came up with the idea of Field Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy's Field Day writeup in QST raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-all.html> which include submission guidelines. All Field Day should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to FieldDay@arrl.org. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of QST.

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UoSAT-12 LAUNCHED AND FUNCTIONING

The ARRL Letter

The latest Amateur Radio satellite, UoSAT-12, was successfully launched April 21 just before 0500 UTC from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard a converted Soviet SS-18 ICBM. This marked the first time a Russian missile designed for war had been converted to peaceful purposes to carry a commercial satellite into space. Under the terms of the START arms reduction treaty, the former Soviet Union's entire arsenal of SS-18 Satans must be destroyed or used for peaceful purposes.

The satellite was successfully switched on at around 1800 UTC and copied on the 2230 UTC pass in Japan by Kazu Sakamoto, JJ1WTK. The downlink is 9600 baud FSK and can be copied on 437.400MHz.

The satellite is considerably larger than UO-22 or TO-31, and carries a propulsion system for orbital housekeeping experiments. UoSAT-12 carries a number of imaging payloads (with an up to 10-meter image resolution) along with digital store-and-forward communications on VHF and UHF. Mode L/S transponders will also be supported with a high-speed digital downlink.--Bruce Paige, KK5DO, with thanks to the University of Surrey and Chris Jackson, G7UPN

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FCC SPIKES RESTRUCTURING RUMORS AT DAYTON

The ARRL Letter

The big FCC announcement about Amateur Radio license restructuring that many hams erroneously had been expecting

Hollingsworth said the FCC is not concerned about a single club station call sign used by a club or a DX or contesting group, but he emphasized that the FCC will not tolerate abuse of the system. He indicated similar letters soon would go out to other licensees who serve as trustees for multiple club station call signs.

Hollingsworth told Uotome that the FCC was setting aside 14 call signs granted within the last 30 days "pursuant to Sec 1.113 of the Commission's rules." In addition, Hollingsworth said the FCC was setting aside 12 vanity call signs issued to Uotome in the last 30 days.

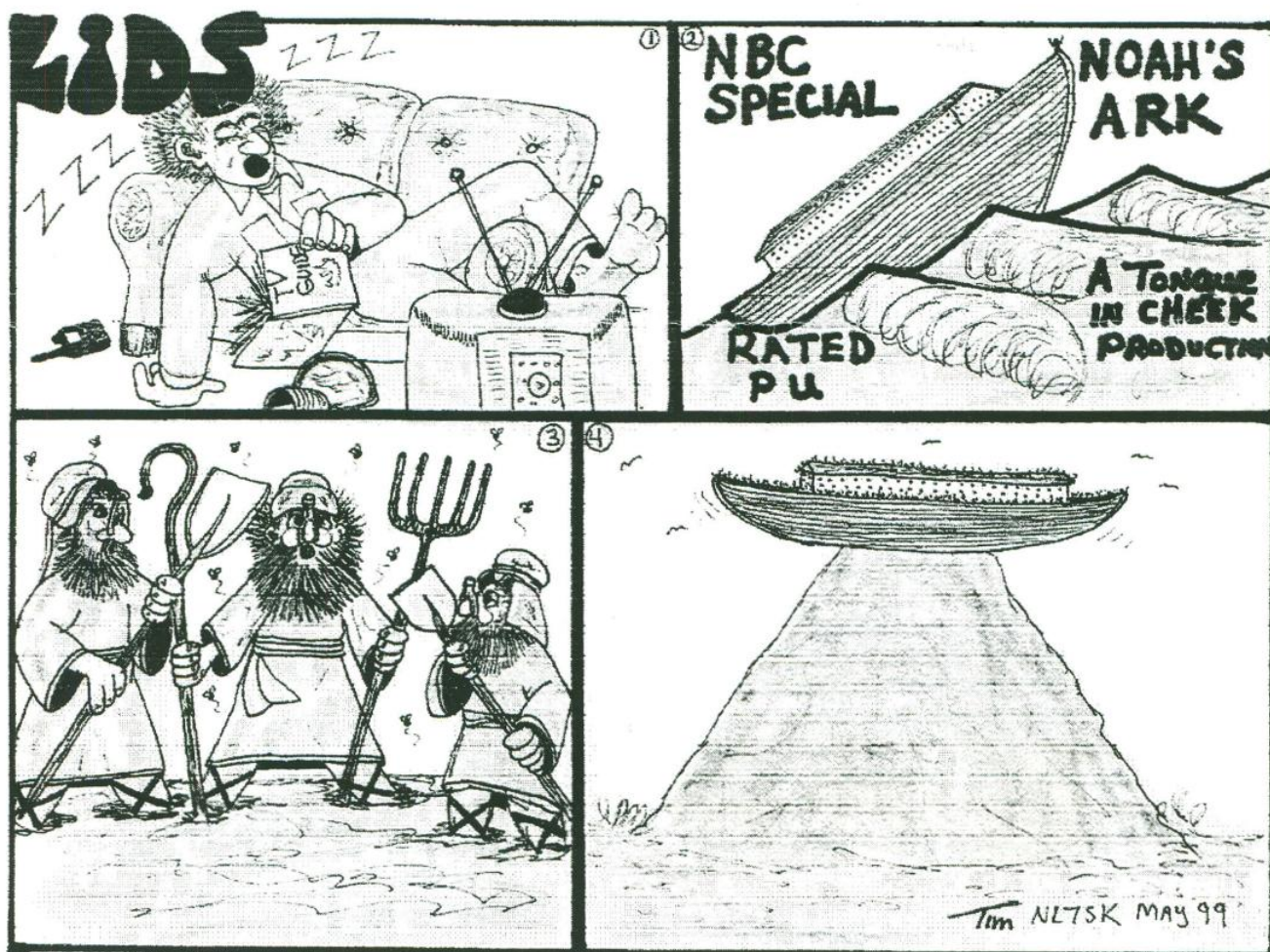
Several club station call signs granted for more than 30 days will remain in the FCC database for now, but Hollingsworth

asked Uotome to "provide justification within 30 days as to the need for each of these call signs."

Hollingsworth said that he wants to know names, addresses, and telephone numbers of club members, meeting times and dates within the past year, proposed meeting times and locations within the coming year, and copies of minutes, if any, taken at meetings within the last three months.

Hollingsworth said the FCC intends to cancel all of the listed call signs if Uotome does not "satisfactorily respond" to his inquiry within 30 days. He also warned that any willful misrepresentation or deliberate omission in replying would lead to revocation of Uotome's Amateur Radio license.

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Stretch decided to view the NBC special "Noah's Ark" after hearing that there was a HAM on board the boat! He dozed off once realizing the plot had to be penned by the same people who wrote Married with Children and the X files. He woke with the distinct impression that Mt Arrarat didn't exist until Noah and his sons shoveled off the ship.

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News

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PRB-1, has its time come for Alaska?

In case you didn't see the item from ARRL, There are a number of states getting bills passed on antenna towers. Maybe its a good time to start our movement. * PRB-1 bills active in several states: Bills to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 into state law are active in several states. A bill in Maine has just been signed by the Governor there. Oregon's PRB-1 bill, Senate Bill 879, just cleared the state Senate by a 26 to 3 margin and has been sent on to the House of Representatives for action. Oregon hams are being urged to contact the Chair of the House Rules, Elections and Public Affairs Committee and their own Representatives to urge speedy and positive action on the measure. In Louisiana, HB 2088 has passed the House is headed for the Senate. It would limit the authority of local governing bodies to regulate amateur radio antennas. Wisconsin, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, and Mississippi are in the planning stages of similar measures. States that already have this type of legislation include Texas, New Hampshire, Florida, Massachusetts, Wyoming, Virginia and Washington.

This note from Jim KL7CDG