

Minutes of April 7th

The President opened the meeting at 6:36 PM. where the minutes were then approved with corrections made.

The Treasure reported that the Club had received \$45.00 in the collection of dues. \$22.00 was also received for the payment of a copy of Now Your Talking. The balance was reported to be .

ARES:

Jerry has read RACES and has found that it is very restrictive but would still like for the club to be connected with the organization.

Repeater:

The 220 repeater is off the air due to the fact that the antenna has fallen.

Net Report:

| 3/4/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK | 3/11/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK | 3/18/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK | 3/25/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Todd KE4YAH | Richard KD4GNX | Todd KE4YAH | Todd KE4YAH |
| Paul III KB4ENQ | James KF4LRK | Paul III KB4ENQ | Paul IV KF4YRK |
| Jerry KC4WZO | Paul III KB4ENQ | Jerry KC4WZO | Jerry KC4WZO |
| Deborah KE4GNX | Deborah KE4GNX | Stu KG4TNA | Deborah KE4GNX |
| Steve KA4TJD | Lou AG4LB | EUGENE K4FNZ Georgia | Mike KG4IES |
| Mike KG4IES | HENRY KE4STI Anderson Co. | | Lou AG4LB |
| Lou AG4LB | John KF4WW Fay. Co. | | Tom KG4TND |
| Tom KG4TND | Darrell KF4DSS Franklin Co. | | Harold K4HOD |
| Harold K4HOD | A.M.K. KY4AMK | | A.M.K. KY4AMK |
| Don K4DRN | | | |
| Andy N4IMN | | | |
| Greg KE4FXZ | | | |
| A.M.K. KY4AMK | | | |
| Jimmy AG4CM | | | |

Members Present:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Jerry Mueller | Steve McFadden |
| Paul Harrington III | Stu Butler |
| Todd Rose | Paul Harrington IV |

Discussion:

The Club is still needing to practice with the mast but no one is sure of a good time.

Paul III has talked to the Murray Club to see if they will be able to help with the endurance ride at Land Between the Lakes. Steve said that he might be able to go.

The club has been invited to help with the Falling Springs triathlon on April 17th. The club will be needed to keep track of the bicycle riders on the 14-mile course in Woodford Co. Jerry would like to meet with the police before the race to see what their role will be.

FROM THE ARRL NEWS LETTER:

MISSISSIPPI AMATEURS RESPOND FOLLOWING AMTRAK ACCIDENT

Members of Metro-Jackson, Mississippi, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MJARES) and the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) responded Tuesday, April 6, after Amtrak's "City of New Orleans" passenger train bound from New Orleans to Chicago derailed. One person died and dozens were injured in the mishap, which occurred at 7 PM near the Madison-Yazoo county line after the train had departed from Jackson with 80 passengers and crew members aboard.

"Fortunately, rescue operations quickly turned into a cleanup effort as passengers were transported to area hospitals and overnight accommodations," said MJARES member and ARES Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU.

The accident's swampy location made access difficult for rescue workers and other emergency personnel and also complicated communication and logistics. Jeff Sykes, K5VU, and other JARC members responded to a request from the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide emergency communication. Greg King, KD5HDZ, accompanied the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle as it brought water and snacks to emergency workers at the incident command post and the Madison County Sheriff's Office respite center in Flora.

Club members Bill White, KC5WYY, and Terry Drake, KD5JPB, staffed the JARC radio station at the Red Cross Chapter, utilizing HF as well as the KA5SBK, W5PPB, W5PFR and N5WDG repeaters. John Jenkins, KD5QQF, and Guy Harrell, KD5QQG, also responded to assist in the relief effort.

MJARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator Ed Jones, W5GEJ, and Central Mississippi DEC Ron Brown, AB5WF, activated the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service on behalf of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Official Relay Station Lew King, W5LEW, stood ready to service NTS traffic and disaster wellness inquiries.

MJARES members worked well into the early morning hours of April 7 to support Red Cross relief operations, passing vital messages relating to logistics and essential on-the-scene information. Jones managed the amateurs' volunteer efforts in conjunction with Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Less than an hour before the train wreck, SKYWARN Coordinator and MJARES AEC Billy Bob Sekul, N5XXX, had put members on alert for severe weather at the request of the National Weather Service.

FCC FINES RESTAURANT FOR LONG-RANGE TELEPHONE USE

A New Jersey restaurant is facing a \$10,000 fine from the FCC for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters without a license. The case involves Best Wok in Westville, which apparently had been using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle. The FCC says the telephone in question--said to have been obtained outside the US and not FCC certificated--operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz. Acting on a tip, the FCC conducted an investigation that resulted in the February 26 issuance of a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to Best Wok. While the case dates back to 2001, the FCC asserted in its NAL that the restaurant had violated the Communications Act as recently as early last year.

“On February 28, 2003, Best Wok operated radio transmitting equipment on the Two-Meter Amateur Radio Service frequency 145.8376 MHz,” the FCC said. “Neither Best Wok nor any of its employees held a license to operate a station in the Amateur Radio Service Band.” In 2001, following numerous complaints from the amateur community, the ARRL asked the FCC to investigate and “take appropriate action” against several companies it alleged were marketing similar telephone devices via the Internet.

After issuing a couple of warning notices, an FCC agent from the Commission’s Philadelphia office visited Westville in February 2003 “to determine if Best Wok was operating radio transmitting equipment” on 2 meters. Using direction-finding techniques, the agent pinned down the source of the transmissions to Best Wok.

According to the FCC, the agent visited the establishment and inspected the radio transmitting equipment in the presence of restaurant manager Sae C. Hauwo. “The agent found that Best Wok was operating a long-distance cordless telephone system,” the FCC said. The Commission says Hauwo told the agent he installed the long-range cordless telephone system so that his employees could answer customers’ telephone calls while making deliveries.

Hauwo said that after the restaurant got the second written warning, it stopped using the long-range telephone and purchased a set of Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) radios that operated on 154.600 MHz. But the MURS units failed to provide sufficient coverage, the FCC says Hauwo told the agent, so Best Wok resumed using the long-distance cordless telephone system.

In its NAL, the FCC said that based on the evidence it had, it determined that Best Wok “willfully violated” Section 301 of the Communications Act. Applying its forfeiture policies and the statutory factors, the FCC said the \$10,000 fine was warranted. Best Wok was given 30 days to pay the fine or to seek a reduction or cancellation.

In unrelated enforcement actions, the FCC has downgraded one licensee and canceled four license grants in California pursuant to an audit of a W5YI-VEC examination session on September 1, 2001, in Yucaipa and an ARRL-VEC examination session on March 30, 2002, in Los Angeles. All participating volunteer examiners have been removed from VE service by the VECs.

FCC PROPOSES WIDE-RANGING CHANGES TO AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

The FCC has released an “omnibus” Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, some filed more than a year ago and a few dating back as far as 2001. Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL’s “Novice refarming” plan <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>.

“Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges,” the FCC said in its NPRM. “We note that, as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges and that General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licensees would gain spectrum for phone emissions, one of the most popular operating modes on the HF bands.”

The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent Petition for Rule Making, RM-10867 http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516083735, which, along with three other petitions (see “FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans,” <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/24/2/>) remains open for comment until April 23.

The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. Originally put on the books in 1978 to keep high-powered amateur amplifiers out of the hands of CBers, the rules now

“impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service,” the FCC said.

The FCC additionally proposed a rule change that would make Kenwood’s Sky Command system legal for operation within the US. The proposed amendment to §97.201(b) of the rules would permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz—with the exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz—in addition to frequency segments already authorized. The Sky Command system permits the user to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver.

In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, it also recommended including 6 and 2 meters as well. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz.

Among other changes, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate §97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to §97.505 (a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.

The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an “amateur operator” in §97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a person is an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC also adopted a technical change—in line with a recent amendment to the international Radio Regulations—to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission, 3 dB greater than the current requirement.

The FCC turned down a petition would have established distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Although a majority of commenters supported the proposal, the Commission said the current voluntary band plan “adequately accommodates the operating interests of all licensees who use the 160-meter band because it was based on input from those who use this spectrum.”

Among several others, the FCC turned down petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community. Also denied was an ARRL request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks that designate territories and possessions that have no specified mailing addresses. The FCC suggested using self-assigned indicators instead.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc> in WT Docket 04-140 is available on the FCC Web site.

As soon as the document has been posted, comments on the NPRM may be filed via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Click on “Submit a filing.” To view filed comments, click on “Search for filed comments.” In either case enter the NPRM number in the “Proceeding” field as “04-140” (without the quotation marks).