

The Yavapai Signal

**THE YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA DM-34
VOL 9 - No.3 MARCH, 1999**



WELCOME TO THE YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club. The club participates in many activities in the tri-city area including providing communications for local events, emergency communications, volun-

teer exams, and promotion of the hobby throughout the community. Membership in the YARC is open to any interested amateur or non-amateur alike. The YARC meets at 7:00 PM local time on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Granite Mountain Middle School, 1800 Williamson Valley Rd. in Prescott. It is about 1/2 mile north of Iron Springs Rd and all amateurs and non-amateurs as well are invited. Programs of interest are included as part of the meeting. The weekly NET is held every Wednesday at 7:00 PM local time on the 146.880- repeater. All amateurs are invited to participate and visitors are always welcome. The Yavapai County ARES/RACES NET is held on Monday nights approximately at 6:45PM local time on the 147.220+ repeater on Mingus Mtn.



SPEAKERS WANTED! Want to make a presentation to the club? Got a favorite subject or experience you would like to share? If you do, we'd like to hear from you! Programs of interest are always needed for club meetings. Share your knowledge or experience with the rest of the club at our meetings. Contact Lee Cunningham, KC7CBK for more information.

YARC OFFICERS for 1999

Lee Cunningham, KC7CBK	President*
Hal Tritel, N6OVE	VicePresident*
Kris Bearscove-KC7UNK	Secretary*
Tony Masvidal, W7PCU	(a)Secretary*
Fred Schefflette-KC7TIN	Treasurer*

YARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Includes Club Officers

Bob Kane, K7KOL	Frank Horneff WA6JBV
Dale Leslie, N7XFD	Frank Bennett, N7VOJ

(a) Tony Masvidal will share the secretary's duties with Kris until he graduates and leaves sometime in July.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 1999 INTRODUCED WASHINGTON, DC, March 1, 1999—It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23.

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 would fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year have already indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

Mansfield also hopes the bill can take advantage of a desire on the part of the House leadership to move a lot of legislation through this year. "I'm hoping our bill will get caught up in their enthusiasm," he said. A copy of the measure is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:h.r.783>:




WE WANT YOU! Membership in the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club is only \$12.00 for 1 year. Newsletters will be mailed only to those members not attending a meeting and current on dues. Those in arrears 3 months will be dropped from the membership list. Dues can be mailed to the club PO Box or given to the treasurer at any meeting. Don't forget that you can also send your ARRL renewal through the club and we get to keep a couple of bucks.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- ▶ April 17, 1999 – March of Dimes Walk-a-thon.
- ▶ May 1, 1999 – Whiskey Row Marathon
- ▶ May 8, 1999 – VE Testing, Prescott
- ▶ June 25-26, 1999 – Field Day
- ▶ July 3, 1999 – Frontier Days Parade
- ▶ July 23-25, 1999 Fort Tuthill Hamfest/AZ State Convention Flagstaff, AZ
- ▶ August 14 – VE Testing, Prescott

More detailed information on Contests and Special Events can be found in most amateur publications such as QST, Worldradio, and others.



Club Repeater

The local 146.880- MHz repeater is the official adopted repeater for the YARC. It is located on the hill above Willow Creek Rd and requires a PL of 100.0 Hz. If you hear a 1400 Hz pulsing tone, the repeater is on backup battery power and usage should be limited to necessary communications. There is a second 2-meter repeater on Mt. Francis on 147.040+ MHz and also requires a PL of 100.0 Hz. Also on Mt. Francis is the 447.650 repeater (-5 MHz and 107.2 PL) Coverage of the 3 repeaters varies, but all cover the local area quite well. Many thanks to Bill Kafka, W2YAV for the upkeep and use of the repeaters.



FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM The first of 2 programs for the evening was given by Fran Schumacher-KB7QNU, who is on the Planning & Zoning Commission for the Town of Prescott Valley and is now running for a seat on the Town Council. Fran was heavily involved in the antenna ordinance being written for the town. Being a ham, she had the insight and knowledge most commissioners lack. Fran started with the Town in 1992 with the General Plan and the Town Logo Committee. The final ordinance, which is "ham-friendly" should be adopted some time in April or May. Fran's goals in running for the Town Council are focused on water and other public issues like economic development, housing, and employment. There was a Q&A session following her presentation. We thank Fran for attending our meeting and wish her luck in the upcoming election.

Tony Masvidal-W7PCU showed the club a video about WebTV, a way of accessing the internet using your television. While similar in some ways, WebTV differs from using a computer to connect to the

internet and e-mail services, and the equipment costs considerably less that a home computer. An extensive Q&A session followed. We thank Tony for the presentation and information.

The refreshment break was called at 7:55PM. Following the break, the 50/50 raffle was by our newest member Maher-KD7DSO who took home \$13.50.

The business meeting was called to order at 8:10PM by President lee Cunningham-KC7CBK. The minutes of the January meeting were read by Secretary Kris Bearscove-KC7UNK and were accepted as read. Club treasurer Fred Schefflette-KC7TIN gave the treasurers report, and the club has \$655.21 and the refreshment fund has \$38.02.

OLD BUSINESS. Terry Pemberton-KB7TRE reported that the **K7A** Special Event station held Sunday at the Sharlot Hall Museum was a success for those involved, with participation from club members and students from GMMS making around 80 contacts and eating a lot of pizza. The certificates are in the process of being mailed out. Plans are to do it again next year and a few minor logistical problems will be corrected. It was moved and seconded to reimburse Terry's expenses for the certificates and pizza and to reimburse Hal \$39.80 for the cost of the signs and laminating. Pen Brown-KJ7KL inquired about the clubs paying for GMMS student's ARRL membership when they get licensed. After some discussion, it was determined that the club would cover the first year's expense.

NEW BUSINESS. Lee had an article from Bruce-KC7MQN taken from the Smithsonian's Air & Space magazine about MIR and the Russian cosmonauts. Terry requested a second sign for the school club. Lee advised the club that arrangements need to be made for Field Day this year. He suggested setting up in the Ponderosa Plaza, if we can get permission to operate there. It was moved and seconded to explore this as soon as possible. A field Day committee was formed. The club newsletter exchange was discussed briefly, and Kris stated that we would exchange newsletters with other clubs who send us theirs. (Late arrival Dave Blyth-KD7DGR , a student at GMMS, was introduced as a newly upgraded Tech+ from Saturdays test session!) Frank Bennett-N7VOJ updated the membership on the web page and agreed that we could distribute the newsletter via email to members having it available. Lee reminded members that club history is still needed from any and all past and present members. Lloyd Halgunseth-WA6ZZJ, the EC for Yavapai County, brought us up to date on upcoming events and answered a few questions relating to participants needing to be a member of ARES/RACES. Lee announced that Bob Tilman-K7CJW will no longer be involved in putting together communications for the Prescott Forest Road Rally. Someone will be needed to take his place. (Now, there are some big shoes to fill!) Tony announced that his neighbor has a 9' satellite dish and Uniden receiver for the asking-you remove. The club voted to send a card to Bill Kafka-W2YAV for his wife who is in the hospital with pneumonia. Bob Rosevear-WB7RRQ announced that there would be another 4WD Off-Road trip this Saturday for anyone wanting to join. John Wilson-KM6BF gave a report on the results of the VE session held Saturday. Kris read to the members, Maher's profile and ham radio interests. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.



WE GET LETTERS!

Occasionally we receive correspondence worthy of reprinting for our member's benefit.

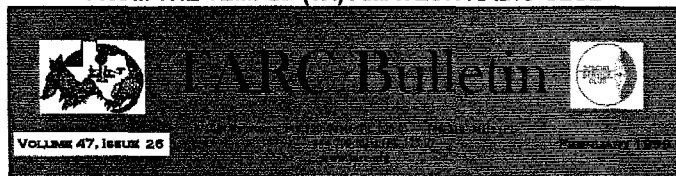
SORRY. NOTHING IN THE MAILBOX THIS MONTH!



THE NEWSLETTER

If you have anything to share, please feel free to submit it for inclusion in the newsletter. We welcome your suggestions, comments, stories, personal experiences, or other items related to the hobby. Send e-mail to: km6bf@primenet.com
Occasionally we will have articles from other clubs newsletters:

FROM THE TEMPLE (TX) AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



How to Sound Like a Lid --by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

Note: This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of Solid Copy, the Richmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Society's monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor.

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a Lid (i.e., poor operator). Since this appears to be the new style in amateur radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

- 1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. i.e., "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I acknowledge receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.
- 2) Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.
- 3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."
- 4) Always say "XX4XXX (insert your own call) for I.D." Anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)
- 5) The better the copy on two-meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one. i.e., "My name is "Al...Alpha Lima"

or "Jack...Juliett Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregon Bumperpool."

- 6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.
- 7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa. And even if the two-meter FM amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill.
- 8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible.... Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.
- 9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.
- 10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.
- 11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (a) His mental state; (b) His family; (c) His intelligence, or lack of same; (d) His sexual preference; (e) His relationship to small animals; (f) His other methods of self entertainment.
- 12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.
- 13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Part 2 of How to Be a Lid will appear in the March issue of TARC Bulletin.]



Packet, its Alive

By Lee Cunningham-KC7CBK

I want to talk about a few of the Parameters that you can change to improve your operation. The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) suggests these:

ACKprior	ON	DWait	33
FRack	8	RESptime	0
SLottime	30	Ppersist	ON
PErsist	63	TXdelay	33
PAcLen	128	MAXframe	4

Let's look at the effect of each Parameter starting with ACKprior, which gives priority to acknowledgments and improves multiple-access packet performance on VHF simplex frequencies. When a busy frequency clears, the acknowledgments are sent first before data and poll bits. DWait is an old way to avoid packet collisions. It

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causes the TNC to pause n times 10mS after last hearing data on the frequency before keying the transmitter. As recommended DWait is 330mS or 0.33 seconds.

If Ppersist is "ON", the DWait timer is ignored. PErsist works with PPersist and SLottime to achieve true P-persist Carrier-Sense Multiple Access in packet operation. When the computer has queued data for transmission, the TNC monitors the DCD signal. When the frequency is clear, the TNC generates a random number between 0 and 255. If the number is equal to or less than PErsist, the TNC transmits all the frames in its queue. If the random number is greater than PErsist, the TNC waits 0.01 times SLottime (seconds) and repeats the attempt.

SLottime works with PErsist and PPersist, as I've said. With SLottime set at 30, SLottime becomes 0.30 seconds or 300mS. With DWait you transmit after the delay. With PErsist you repeat the random number sequence and transmit only after the random number is equal to or less than PErsist. As you can see, the higher the PErsist number the sooner you transmit the data. The recommended number, 63, will work better with four (4) or more users at a time. If there is less traffic, use this formula:
$$\text{PErsist} = 256 / ((\text{the number of users on the frequency}) - 1) = 256 / ((3 \text{ users on frequency}) - 1) = 256 / 2 = 128.$$

RESptime adds a minimum delay before the TNC transmits the acknowledgment packets. This delay may run concurrently with DWait or PErsist. RESptime is programmable from 0 to 25 seconds in 100 millisecond (mS) increments.

FRack is the Frame ACKnowledgment time in seconds that the TNC waits for acknowledgment of a sent protocol frame before "retrying" that frame. It can be adjusted between 1 to 15 seconds. Do not set to less than about 5 seconds or you will repeatedly collide with the ACKnowledgment as you re-transmit the frame.

MAXframe limits the number of *naked* packets the TNC permits on the radio link and the number of sequential packets the TNC will send. This setting is adjustable between 1 and 7. If traffic is heavy, the path is poor, or if you're using many digipeaters, you reduce the setting.

PACLen sets the maximum number of characters to be sent in each packet burst. The TNC will automatically transmit the packet when it reaches the n bytes. Lower this value if you work key board to key board and use short sentences. For long sentences and file transfers increase the value to 256.

TXdelay tells the TNC how long to wait before sending packet frame data after keying your transmitter PTT line. TXdelay is programmable from 1 to 1.2 seconds in 10 milliseconds increments. Check with the equipment manufacturer as to how long after the PTT line is activated before the radio is at full power. If your using a tube type radio or an amplifier, the value may have to be increased.

Remember: the underlined capital letters are the shorten commands. Next month I'll show you some other parameters that will help the advanced user. If you have any questions or comments about

packet, please call me at (520)771-2055 or e-mail at leeco1@juno.com or via packet, KC7CBK

PACKET NODES AND BBS's

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>
145.690	Davis	Node
145.010	Union	Node
145.010	Elden	Node
145.030	Coyote	Node
145.070	HumbAZ	Node
145.070	KC7PJO	BBS
145.010	KB7FRV	BBS



YARC and the ARES will be providing communications for the March of Dimes Walk America on Saturday, April 17th. We will need a minimum of 8 operators, one with a portable and mag mount antenna for this event.

The Whiskey Row Marathon will be on May 1st this year. For this event we will need 15 to 20 operators. Two with portable radios and mag mount antennas to put in the YMCA vans. These two operators start at 3:00 am (yawn), but it is a rewarding experience.. Five positions call for a high clearance vehicle and one position will be a Shadow with a handheld radio. To quote from their thank you letter for our communications last year "All agreed this year was the best ever in regards to communication systems". Lets do ourselves proud again this year.

Contact me at wa6zzj@northlink.com or at (520) 717-2706. I will also have sign up sheets at the YARC meetings.

The Yavapai County ARES/RACES net is held every Monday night at 6:45PM on the Mingus Mtn. 147.220+ repeater.

If there are any questions I can be contacted at (520) 717-2706 or at wa6zzj@northlink.com for email.

Lloyd Halgunseth, WA6ZZJ
Yavapai County DEC/RO

FROM THE PAST-PRESIDENT



QC, QC, de LOK7K. Right on schedule at @500 universal internet time (1200Zulu for us old timers), twenty meters shut down on Sunday, March 1, 2020. The ARRL - 2 has been telling the amateur community for nearly twenty years now that our HF

frequencies will be eliminated and turned over to the Federal Highway Commission for use in the ever-expanding electronic, auto-steering highways. ARRL - 2 has noted many times that with so few hams up-grading their licenses for HF privileges, and the old guard gradually moving on to that great antenna farm in the sky, QSO's and activity on twenty meters declined so that better uses were found for our venerable 14mhz band.

You'll recall that back in the late twentieth century, the "no code" tickets answered the desires of many new hams. With their ability to hook their VHF radios up to the internet and QSO all over the world without the static and large antennas common to HF frequencies; HF radio gradually lost it devotees, and as the doc says, "if you don't use it, you'll lose it!" We mourned the loss of 160 meters - for gated community/space/aesthetic CC&R's years ago, and grieved when 40 became all CW (again), 17 and 15 meters became the frequency of choice for drivers using Electron Interstate 17 and 10 meters was merged with 11 meters to provide spectrum space for inter-state truckers.

Luckily we had the prescience to expand 30 and 12 meters years ago, maintaining them as "cw only" bands. Where else would hams gifted with multi-language such as Esperanto and CW ever converse? We are assured of the continuation of 80 meters for cw and phone because of the Civil Defense requirements of the two California's. Ever since the political split of that state into North and South California, the Civil Defense offices of each has used that part of the spectrum for their weekly net.

It's too bad we didn't have the foresight to eliminate the code requirement for HF use years ago, as the new hams were telling us by their preponderate acquisition of Tech licenses. We would probably still have a lot of 20 meter rag-chewing going on!

CQ, CQ de K7KOL We recently read of country music performer George Jones driving off the highway into a bridge abutment while talking on his cell-phone.

Does that statement of fact alert us to what may be coming down the road in the way of regulating mobile communications? We have all heard about the admonition to pull over to do our communicating, and I know that we always abide by that very sensible rule!!!! But - we often see the "road-charger" screaming down the pike with a cell phone growing out of his ear. Not a two-meter radio mike, mind you, but a cell-phone. Any bets on two meter mikes being exempted when stringent rules about mobile telephones are adopted?

Would a safe prediction be that we mobilers will be wearing boom mikes plugged into our radios in the not too distant future?

73's, Bob Kane, K7KOL Past President, YARC



From the FAQ (Frequently



Asked Questions) files

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BUREAUS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

***How long DOES it take to get a card thru the QSL bureau???** The AVERAGE time is 6 months to a year. I've seen cards come thru in as little as 3 months...but not often...I've also seen cards come thru TEN YEARS LATER...but not often. Two years is not an unusual time, so do be patient.

***Why does it take so long????** Well, let's start at the beginning, the FOREIGN ham. Definitely, you won't see a card until he sends one out. And some don't do this but once every three months, where they might sit down and send out all the QSL contacts they've made in the past three months. Some foreign hams wait YEARS before sending out their QSL cards!!! Then we have the FOREIGN QSL bureaus. Many foreign QSL bureaus don't send the cards until they have a specified amount, for example 10 pounds going to the US. This may take six months to build up that amount, and if your card happens to come in right after they just shipped a bunch....well, you figure it out.

Eventually, it reaches the incoming QSL bureau. You get them in a few days, right? WRONG. Next, the incoming QSL bureau does a "primary sort" to separate the QSL cards into 26 letters, the letter immediately after the number. Now, these "letter" cards have to get to the letter sorter (like me) somehow. Either the sorter goes to pick them up, or the cards are delivered to an intermediary, who delivers them to another intermediary, who calls the letter sorter, who comes to pick up his cards. Up until 6 months ago, there were two intermediaries between me and the QSL bureau. Now there is only one. But figure one to three months between the time when the cards get to the QSL bureau and the time it gets to the sorter.

OK, now the letter sorter does a "secondary sort" to sort the QSL cards by the SECOND letter after the number (or first/second letter before the number for 2x1 calls). The letter sorter also has to process all the new "credits" (cash, stamps, envelopes) that have come in that month from US hams who want their cards. Finally, the sorter starts sending out QSL cards IF the ham has money/envelopes on hand. Depending on his schedule, this may occur anywhere from 1 week to 1 month after he gets the cards from the bureau. Remember, he may have been on vacation for two weeks, his work schedule may be too busy, there may be three THOUSAND cards to sort, any number of reasons why it takes so long. The letter sorter IS A VOLUNTEER and gets nothing in return for doing this job....except an occasional nice letter from thankful hams and an occasional nastygram from those not so thankful hams who think THEY know better than he how to do his job. If you add all those times up, you'll see why it takes an average of 6 months to a year.

***OK, assuming that the letter sorter does get QSL cards for me, do I get them immediately?** Not necessarily. Different sorters work differently. I used to send ALL QSL cards out if the ham had an envelope on hand. But after getting a number of nastygrams complaining about only one QSL card in the envelope, I have changed my methods. Now, I send out cards if there is an ounce of cards (about 5) OR if I've held the one or two cards for 90 days. I figure if I've held it for 90 days and there are no more coming in, the ham probably still wants the cards. I have a few hams who have specifically requested that I send their cards every month regardless of how many they have, and I do this. "Oh, gee, you HOLD cards? Then I'll just put 5 ounces of postage on and let you send me the cards when you get 5 ounces worth! DON'T DO THIS, PLEASE!!!! When sending in envelopes, ALWAYS only place one ounce of postage on the envelope. Sure, send along extra postage or cash for additional ounces or postal increases, but don't attach it to the envelopes. Remember, it's your money, and if you want to waste 5 ounces of postage on 1 ounce of cards, that's your business. But why not make it easy for the poor sorter who sorts your cards for no pay? Many (like myself) don't have room to store many thousands of cards for many months. They get sent out after 90 days regardless of how many you have.

"I don't have any 5x7 or 6x9 inch envelopes, I'll just send a small envelope instead. Another DON'T DO THIS. The small personal envelopes are TOO SMALL for QSL cards. The business size envelopes are just marginally better and work for most QSL cards. But foreign QSL cards vary in size and many will not fit in a standard business size envelope either. If you're looking for a better compromise, there's some oversize business size envelopes that are about 1/2" larger, or use number 6 size envelopes (Christmas card size envelopes). Obviously, I prefer 5x7 or 6x9 inch envelopes, since they are easier to keep track of.

The other alternative is to let the sorter "buy" envelopes for you. Most (not all) bureaus will allow you to send in money instead of envelopes. The sorter then charges a set fee (for our bureau, it's 10 cents an envelope or 3 for 25 cents) for envelopes. And before you croak about how expensive that is, check the local prices of 6x9 inch envelopes....I think I saw at the local store three 6x9 inch envelopes for 79 cents.....I'm really making a bundle on selling envelopes, aren't I?

"What happens to QSL cards if the ham doesn't have any money/envelopes at the sorter? This varies. But, most sorters will hold the cards for up to 45 days. After this point, they will get disposed (thrown away) or sent back to the QSL bureau. Some sorters may send out postcards to notify the ham that he has cards on file; I do. However, if the ham doesn't respond IMMEDIATELY, the cards will get destroyed. Figure there is about 3 month return trip between the time you send something to the QSL bureau and the time the sorter actually receives it, so don't expect your cards within a month. I hold cards for about 90 days, then throw them away. I have some "accounts" that I don't even hold them for 90 days. These are hams that I've sent a postcard to in the past and got no response....or got a response that says "I don't QSL, don't bother me!" No interest in QSL cards, so out they go. This means that when you change your address or call, send your new address to the bureau! If the cards bounce due to "Address Unknown", you'll receive no more cards and cards will not be stored for future posterity.

"What do I do when I get a new callsign? Send the QSL bureau a letter indicating your OLD callsign(s) and your new callsign. The "old" sorter will transfer your account to the "new" sorter. It will take a couple extra months the first time, but then it will settle down again.

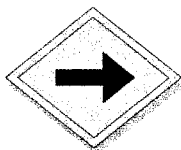
"I sent some envelopes in to the bureau a year ago and still haven't received any cards, what do I do? I'd say be patient and wait longer. Maybe there were no QSL cards for you. The envelopes/money is still there, so you should be set. HOWEVER, if you wish to find out what your "account" is like, ASK. Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (this can be any size, but business envelope is best, cuz you might get some enclosed QSL cards with your response!) and ASK for the status of your account. You can also ask for information on the incoming and/or outgoing bureau at the same time. I have flyers that describe both of these. And if you're smart, you might also send along a dollar at the same time to update your account....JUST IN CASE you're receiving no cards because there is no money in your account. I mean really, you can afford a dollar, right?

Do keep in mind that QSL bureaus are human too. Sometimes they lose money/envelopes. This happened to me once. The bureau "found" the lost envelope behind a sorting box six months later. Meanwhile, I coughed up the cash from my personal checking account, figuring it was I that had lost the money. Sorters are very nice persons in general. Treat yours nice, and you'll get good service.

Hope I answered all your questions (and more!).

Diana L. Syriac - KC1SP

dls@genrad.com



SAY WHAT?

FROM THE "I can't believe I heard it on amateur radio" files:

"Boy, this new radio is so complicated, the instructions need instructions!"

"I turned by beam away from the repeater so certain people wouldn't

hear me!"

"I tried another PL tone, but I still can't work any DX repeaters!"

"If I could get someone to take my test's for me, I'd upgrade quick!"

"Will I get in trouble if I leave my radio on all night?"

"I wish someone would invent a solar powered HT!" (Gee would it work at night, too?)

"The repeater has been doing strange things lately. Must be blond!"

"Why doesn't someone bring the repeater to the club meeting so we can all see how it works?"

"If I had a 100' tower I'd be too tempted to put my TV antenna on the top!"

"My HT gets really hot running it on 12 volts in the car, so I mounted it in front of the air conditioning vent!"

"Why don't they still make radios with crystals. I only need to operate on a few frequencies?"

"Are these FM rigs capable of stereo?"

"You're weak, noisy, and unreadable into the repeater, but full scale here!"

"I shop for all my ham gear down at HBO in Phoenix!"



OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

From Pen Brown, KJ7KL - Senior Communications Correspondent and News Analyst

FCC SAYS DELAWARE HAM MUST RETEST OR LOSE TICKET

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb 17, 1999-- The FCC has notified a Delaware ham that she must take her Amateur Radio examinations again or lose her license. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says "questions were raised" about how Sheila Bowden, N3QQS, of Millsboro, upgraded to Extra, and said the FCC is requesting that Bowden start from scratch and retake "all the elements." Bowden was notified February 16 in a letter from Hollingsworth.

The FCC has the authority under Part 97 to re-administer exam elements previously administered by VEs. The FCC may administer the exam itself or designate a VEC or VE to administer the retesting session--typically employing a VEC that's different from the initial testing session.

The FCC told Bowden that she must retake the Amateur Extra Class examination series at an ARRL/VEC session before March 19 or lose her license. "You will be granted an Amateur Radio license consistent with any elements that you pass upon re-examination,"

Hollingsworth's letter said.

Hollingsworth said the FCC plans to call in "25 to 50 more" amateur licensees for retesting in the near future. Those individuals have not yet been notified, however. In all of those cases, Hollingsworth said, the FCC has reason to suspect the integrity of the examination process.

"The ham community needs to have a sense of confidence in the examination system," Hollingsworth said, adding that enforcement must not focus solely on operating violations. "This is a critical link in the chain."

Last month, the FCC set aside the Extra class license formerly held by Bowden's husband, Wayne, after the Commission discovered "irregularities in the administration of the examination by the Volunteer Examiners." Wayne Bowden, formerly AA3RT, took the complete Amateur Radio examination series at an October 4 W5YI-VEC session. He had not held an amateur license before then.

The FCC is continuing its probe 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. (From the ARRL)

The Dreaded Y2K Bug And finally, word that the dreaded Y2K bug has already reared its ugly two digit head. According to ZL2RIC, a chap in a non Y2K compliant European nation recently received a letter from the governments education department. It ordered him to enroll at a local school as he was now five years old, having been born in 1994.



You guessed it. It turns out that the "young" man receiving the note is actually 105 years old having been born in 1894. But the non Y2K compliant government computer will not recognize the fact. It insists that he is five years old once again and it wants him back in the first grade! (Q-News) via NEWSLINE #1121 2/05/99

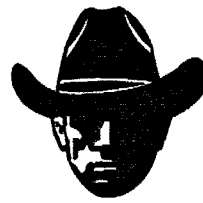


STRICTLY EDITORIAL!

All good things eventually come to an end! We got some bad news at the last meeting, that Bob Tilman-K7CJW was "retiring" from the Road Rally communications. It will not only be a great loss but a pretty tall order to fill his shoes. The club has been providing

communications for the Road Rally for several years now, and without our assistance, the race may not run. Someone will have to step forward and volunteer to take over from Bob. It involves a lot of contact with others affiliated with the race and club members as well. It also requires a lot of planning to put together. In the spirit of the hobby and the mission of the club, I only hope that someone does step forward and volunteer to take over this important position. I also encourage all club members to participate in any way they can, whether it be out there on race day or making phone calls for help. If we don't, we'll only be letting ourselves down.

John Wilson-KM6BF Editor



FROM CHINO BOB

A sure fire formula for success: Rise Early, Work Late, Strike Oil!

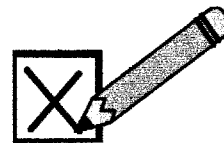
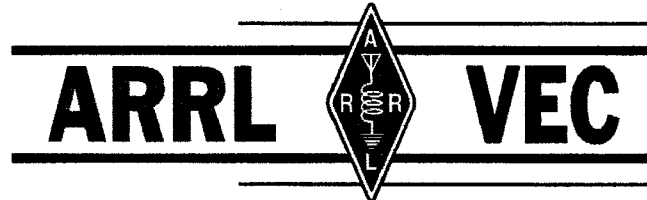
"People should go into public office for a term or two then get back into their businesses and live under the laws they passed!"

"Mixed emotions" is when you see your mother-in-law going over a cliff in your new pickup.

An elderly man was walking down a country lane with his college-age grandson. A frog jumped out and told the old man "if you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess". The old man picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. "Why didn't you kiss it?", his grandson inquired. "At my age", the old man replied, "I'd rather have a talking frog than a beautiful princess".

73 to all.

Bob, K7CJW



Volunteer Examiner Testing

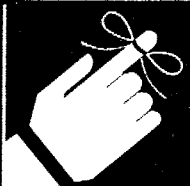
The tentative remaining testing dates for 1999 are May 8, August 14 and November 13, all Saturdays at 10:00AM at the Blind Center, 440 N. Washington St, Prescott.

All those attending for tests must have **ORIGINAL** license and a copy, Original SCSE's and 1 photo ID. (VE's-remember to bring and wear your VE - ID Badge!)

Special test sessions may be accommodated according to demands, as needed. The test fee for 1999 will be \$ 6.45. Further information can be obtained by contacting John Wilson-KM6BF at 636-1228 or Dave Rutledge-W9KRQ at 541-1225.

YOUR LOCAL PRESCOTT AREA VE's:

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| AB7KE | Joan Tremper | AB7KF | Bob Nichols |
| AB7NK | Mary Miraldi | AB7VH | Ruth Enabnit |
| K7KOL | Bob Kane | KA7NGK | Don Broadston |
| KB7FRV | Leonard Beers | KC7AGL | Don Muller |
| AB7SK | Ginger LeGendre | KK7JH | Billy Peters |
| KG7OL | David Miller | KI7EB | Bill Thrift |
| KI7MA | John Dawson | KJ7DX | Matt Strandberg |
| KJ7KL | Pen Brown | KM6BF | John Wilson |
| N7VG | Vern Gregory | W2YAV | Bill Kafka |
| W7DC | Bob Harkey | W6HDP | Bill Jackson |
| W9KRQ | Dave Rutledge | W7HP | Jim Perrone |
| | | WB6ODR | Bob Smith |



WEEKLY NET - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 7:00

PM 146.880- (100.0 PL) IF YOU DON'T HAVE PL, TRANSMIT ON 146.880 SIMPLEX WHEN THE REPEATER DROPS OUT.

MONTHLY MEETING - 3rd THURSDAY @ GRANITE MTN MIDDLE SCHOOL 7:00PM NEXT MEETING THURS, APRIL 15 @ 7:00pm



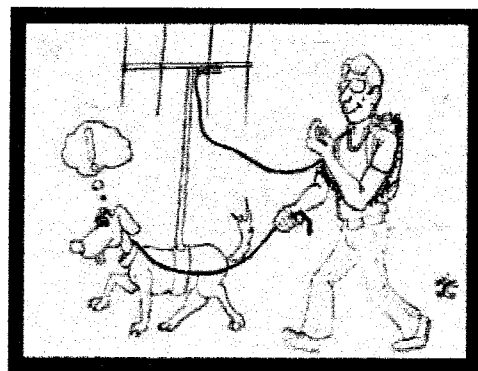
Wednesday Morning Breakfast-Iron Horse Café, S. Hwy 89 in Chino Valley (N 34° 34' 23.2" W 112° 29' 45.2"). 7:00am. Informal-All are invited.

Thursday Morning Breakfast-Michael's Restaurant in the Safeway Shopping Center, Hwy 69 Prescott Valley (E 34° 43' 56.5" W 112° 27' 15.4") 8:00am. All are invited.

Location data provided by Fred Zimmermann-N7PJN, per WSG84 Datum

SOME CARTOONS COURTESY OF WORLD RADIO™ MAGAZINE

(A GREAT PUBLICATION-CHECK IT OUT!)



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FORT TUTHILL HAMFEST
and
ARRL ARIZONA STATE CONVENTION
JULY 23, 24, 25, 1999