



September 1989

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Editor Lew Cason (N4HRA)

NEW CONGRESSIONAL BILL

The following is a cross-post from packet radio. I haven't seen the information on the net yet, so I thought I'd pass it along.

DANGEROUS CONGRESSIONAL BILL DRAFT THE ENGINEERING COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1989

Apparently the land mobile industry has decided that going through the FCC to steal Amateur Frequencies is costing them too much time and too much money. Therefore, they allegedly intend to short circuit the process and try to steal our spectra with the aid of the Congress. We now know how they intend to go about it.

The office of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance is in the process of drafting a bill (no number yet) entitled "The Engineering Communications Technology Act of 1989". Though we do not have the draft in hand, and the Congress isn't releasing it now, we understand that under its provisions, the Congress is mandating that the NTIA or the NCS (National Communications System), provide a list of spectra which the military and other government services are holding in reserve and either not utilizing or underutilizing at the present time. From what we are told this includes everything from DC to about 10 GHz, and specifies that the list of 'available' frequencies be prepared by the end of one year from enactment. From that, the Congress, or a committee appointed by the Congress, is expected to choose some 200 MHz for reassignment to commercial interests (read that 'the land mobile industry')

Why we should be concerned: What we suspect is that the frequencies which will be opened up for such reallocation includes all ham bands above two meters, since all of these are utilized by Amateur Radio on a shared basis with NTIA, NCS, or both. We suspect that this legislation can and will lead to wholesale removal of all Amateur VHF and UHF spectra above 2 meters (2 meters is the highest frequency on which we have an exclusive, non-shared allocation). If such occurs the losses would be staggering, and we would never be able to operate above two meters again. Even the so-called 'exclusive' Satellite bands at 435-438, and at 1.2 GHz would be removed from service. Novice Enhancement would be destroyed in the process.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The person to write regarding this proposed legislation is Congressman Edward Markey (D-MA). In your letter, please SPECIFY that, when the bill is introduced, it must EXEMPT the amateur-utilized spectra from being targeted for reassignment to commercial interests. For now, this is the only way in which we can act on this issue, and it is the best way, because if we don't get these assurances now, and make SURE they stay in place through possible passage, the outcome of 87-14 will be moot, and it won't be just 220 we lose.

Thanks to Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and to Bill Courier of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance for their help in the preparation of this article.

*ARTICAL DOWNLOADED FROM WA4VMV PBBS

BATTERY BUSTING

*Origin: fidonet HAM RADIO Echo

Recharging alkaline batteries. I've been doing it for years! Those alkalines state: "Caution. Battery may burst (or explode) if recharged!" Can "explosion" or "bursting" be defined as these two extremes:

- 1) a loud "bang" accompanied by white-hot shrapnel-like materials and boiling-hot chemicals radiating around the premises? OR
- 2) a mere parting of the battery case's seam with little or no "fanfare"?

The fact is, so far in over 20 years of recharging alkalines neither of those events have occurred. Am I lucky, foolish, or perhaps just found a "poor man's nicad"? Some years ago, General Electric (G.E.) marketed for a short time vented, rechargable alkalines that could be recharged with higher currents. Since I'm only using regular alkalines, I found that using partially discharged units recharged at 10 mills or so, can indeed be fully recharged many times. Let's have some input on this! Has anyone experienced dire results when attempting to recharge alkalines. If so, were you using a high current charger such as is used for nicads? Or, has someone else been successfully doing the same as me! Lets hear both the success stories as well as the gory ones! --Jack, K8JS @ KC5YD (Naples, FL)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

The ARES Nets operating in the Atlanta area are as follows:

- Metro: 145.41 MHz; Thursday at 9:00 PM. (0100Z)
- North Metro: 146.655 MHz & 224.12 MHz; 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00 PM.
- DeKalb: 145.45 MHz; Monday at 8:00 PM.
- Gwinnett: 147.075 MHz; Tuesday at 9:00 PM.
- Rockdale: 147.21 MHz; Monday at 8:00 PM.
- Clayton: 145.17 MHz; Monday at 9:00 PM. (0100Z)
- Forsyth: 147.15 MHz; Sunday at 8:00 PM.
- Bartow: 145.27 MHz; Wednesday at 9:00 PM.
- Statewide ARES Coordination Net: 3975 kHz; Sunday at 6:00 PM. All interested hams are invited to check into

any or all of these nets. Membership in the ARRL, the repeater club or ARES is not required to participate in any of these nets. Metro Atlanta District ARES BBS: 434-8523 ARES Conference, File Area 60. Gwinnett ARES BBS: 925-5487 (Scientific Atlanta ARC BBS) Conf. & File Area 1.

Packet: W4QD PBBS (East Atlanta LAN; 145.03 MHz)
NC4E PBBS (West Atlanta LAN; 146.13/73 MHz)

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

On Saturday, October 21, hams nationwide will conduct the Simulated Emergency Test, in which hams test their ability to relay messages between hospitals, police and fire departments, the Weather Service, Red Cross, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and any other agency involved in emergency and disaster preparedness. The objective of the SET is to test the capabilities of the ARRL Field Organization, particularly the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, but also including other public service oriented amateurs and groups. This is to prepare and train the amateurs for a more effective response to a real emergency. The SET also serves to better acquaint the hams with the people in the emergency agencies, to encourage the use of digital modes such as packet for high volume and highly detailed communication, and to improve cooperation between ARES and National Traffic System volunteers.

Scoring in the SET is not set up like an ordinary contest, but rather to measure the effectiveness of a group in emergency communications. By comparing a group's score from previous years with that of this year, it is possible to see if the group has become more or less effective at emergency traffic handling. SET results also enable a group to pinpoint weakness so that the problem areas can be addressed.

Here in Georgia, the scenarios for the drill will originate with a local Emergency Coordinator. The DeKalb ARES unit could be working a large grass fire while the Cobb unit is handling a tornado situation and

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the Clayton unit is handling a hazardous chemical spill. To get involved in the SET, you will need to contact the local Emergency Coordinator for your area and ask for instructions. It is possible that, like last year, some units will hold their SET on some other date than October. Your EC will know. If you don't know who the EC is for your area, contact Jack Sanders, NC4E, who is the Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator at 973-7333.

DEC NEEDED FOR METRO ATLANTA DISTRICT

The position of District Emergency Coordinator is still open after Cliff Walker, N4LPU, had to leave the post because of his new job. If you are interested, call Jack Sanders at 973-7333.

Rick Black, WA4MPV

EC Newsletter Liason

ARES Metro Atlanta District

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

The NFARL held its normal meeting on August 9, 1989. The speaker was Randy Mollinax, WB4DIA, station engineer for WFOX, FM (97.1 Mhz). Randy gave a very interesting presentation on the erection of the FOX tower (1.3 million pounds of steel balanced on a large ball bearing).

Transmitter hunt:

Fourteen people participated and W4QD was the first to find the hidden transmitter. Other groups claimed runner-up prizes such as, "We were the first to be within 1000 feet of the transmitter" (KE4ZV). A good time was had by all. We will schedule another hunt sometime in the future.

Technical report:

A 40 foot tower self-supporting is being erected on Sweet Mountain by the GRAPES/PEG organization. The technical committee intends to move our antennas from the existing tower to this new tower.

W4QD will conduct novice classes beginning on September 11 at St Davids Episcopal church. A \$30 charge will be required to cover the cost of materials.

July Minutes: Approved as published.

Old business:

Approval of the constitution, tabled at the July meeting, was postponed until the next regular business meeting. Chuck, N4RHY, moved that, "We table the constitution and that a committee be formed to present a final version of the constitution at the next business meeting". The president then took the motion as an advisement, tabled the constitution and appointed a committee. The committee consists of Dan, KI4MQ, Jim, KG6TW (chairman) and Jack, WA4FIB.

New business:

Bill, WB1CSL and his employer has donated a emergency power supply. People are needed to move the equipment. Those interested should contact Doug, KD4NC or Fred, N4CLA.

Announcements:

- 1) Alan, N4QXH needs volunteers for the EMS drill on August 10.
- 2) Help is needed in establishing a packet link between Macon and Atlanta. The problem in establishing such a link is apparently political not technical.
- 3) The NFARL has been asked by the Roswell Historical Society to support a tour of Roswell on October 28.
- 4) The Atlanta Rowing Club Regatta can be covered using the 147.06 repeater. The date is November 4. Alan needs several volunteers. Those interested in assisting Alan please give him a call.
73 KG6TW for KI4MQ

Sweat Mountain Antenna's Moved to Ham Owned Tower

In April the Sweat Mountain site owner (KC4KE, Bill) of the site where the North Fulton A.R.L. and PEG/GRAPES repeaters are located approached me at the Dayton Hamvention and asked if we could help to unload the 200 foot H-frame tower of all ham antennas to reduce the wind load on his nearly 30 year old tower (there has been much concern about the long term outlook for this tower, due to rust and general fatigue).

He also asked me to extend to other Hams using the site, a request that we move our equipment into the new building (adjacent to the old one). The new building was built for all "renting" users. Bill's companies' equipment would remain in the old building. I requested permission on the spot to put up a short tower 30 to 40 feet tall (we are already at 1688 feet, all we really need is to be in the clear above the few trees and buildings) That's ALL!!!!, which was immediately granted.

I advanced a proposal to PEG and GRAPES that in consideration for the support that N. Fulton A.R.L. has provided in the past 4-5 years for packet radio and specifically GRAPES, that GRAPES was in a financial position to provide a tower for all the antennas at the site. PEG/GRAPES has 3 antennas at the site (soon to be 4 with the transfer of 146.73 to PEG) and N. Fulton A.R.L. has 2 (soon to be 1).

This motion carried, PEG paid \$240 and GRAPES paid \$400 to Steve Dean of Dean Tower Co (WD4KDB) for a used tower and installation (believe me, that's a deal for the work involved in installing a tower at a commercial site, a great deal on the tower too, THANKS STEVE!).

The weekend of 8/19-20 a crew assembled at the mountain to move the antennas to the new tower. I am going to take a stab at a list of attendees, Please forgive me if I drop someone in the rush.. I assure you

that all help and encouragement is greatly appreciated..

Volunteers : Antenna movers

Climbers: (Brave men all)

Fred (N4CLA), Don (K4UAF), Gary KE4ZV

Ground Crew:

Brian (WA4VZW), Lew (N4HRA), Avery (WB4RTP),

Mike (WA4FNJ) and John (WD40QC) Honorable mention for providing vital welding Tools

I'm sure I forgot someone important.. Sigh...

The following weekend we moved the cabinet holding all radios and controllers to the new building. This was the easy part but there certainly were a lot of connections to make!!!

Volunteers: cabinet moving party

Avery (WB4RTP), Brian (WA4VZW), Brian (KA7TXA)

(A non-member!), John (WD40QC), Paul (WB2SRD), Don

(K4UAF) who brought us lunch!!!! and Bill (WA40YH)

who gave up sleep to work outside in the sun!

Mike took Videos and Lew took still pictures, perhaps we can have them in the newsletter and/or at meetings in the future..

The new tower really looks great.. the 5.47 voice repeater receive coverage (if not transmit) increased a lot!

Now we need a bit more power to fill in the holes, so that our repeater's "mouth" matches its "ears". A very pleasant side effect is the lack of intermod heard so far (two weeks). An emergency power system is another high priority for near term work.

Reporting for North Fulton Technical Committee,
Doug Drye KD4NC

A PLEA FOR HELP

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE NFARL HAS BEEN ASKED BY SEVERAL GROUPS TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE IN SOME OF THE PROJECTS. THE CURRENT REQUESTS THAT I HAVE ARE:

1. THE ATLANTA ROWING CLUB REGATTA, NOVEMBER 4TH, 1989. THEY HAVE ASKED FOR HAMS TO SUPPORT SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS ALONG THE RIVER. I KNOW THAT IT IS THE SAME WEEKEND AS THE STONE MOUNTAIN HAMFEST, BUT HOW MANY HAMFESTS DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO TO? AND I KNOW THAT THERE IS A PACKET MEETING OF SOME DESCRIPTION THAT WEEKEND ALSO. HOW MANY TIMES CAN ANYONE TALK ABOUT TCP/IP? WHY NOT SPEND SATURDAY AT THE REGATTA AND LET ME TELL YOU HOW REAL COMPUTERS MOVE DATA AROUND?
2. ROSHELL HISTORICAL TOUR OF HOMES, OCTOBER 28TH AND 29TH, 1989 6 DRIVERS PER DAY ARE NEEDED TO DRIVE VANS BETWEEN PARKING LOTS AND THE HOMES. THE COMMUNICATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO GET AN EMPTY VAN TO A PARKING LOT IF PEOPLE ARE WAITING AND GENERAL SAFETY.
3. ALPHARETTA DISASTER DRILL, OCTOBER 28TH. THIS IS THE ONE WHERE HAMS STARTED OUT BIRD-DOGGING OFFICIALS. ABOUT 1 HOUR INTO THE DRILL, WE WERE NOTIFIED THAT THE NORMAL HOSPITAL FREQUENCIES WERE UNAVAILABLE AND THAT HAM RADIO HAS THE ONLY WAY TO COMMUNICATE BETWEEN THE DISASTER AND THE HOSPITAL. WE OPENED A LOT OF EYES THAT DAY AS TO HOW GOOD WE ARE.
4. ROSHELL YOUTH DAY PARADE, OCTOBER 7TH. WE ACT AS A BACKUP TO SOME OF THE CITY COMMUNICATIONS AND PASS INFO AS REQUESTED.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHO IS REQUESTING OUR HELP.

1. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INFORUM.
2. A FORMER ROSHELL MAYORAL CANDIDATE WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF A CABLE COMPANY, AND A ROSHELL CITY COUNCILMAN. I HAD TO TURN THIS ONE DOWN DUE TO: (1) PART 97 OF THE FCC RULES (REPLACING A TRANSPORTATION SERVICE) (2) INSURANCE (WE ARE NOT LICENSED CHAUFFERS).
3. THE MAYOR, A CITY COUNCILMAN, POLICE CHIEF, AND FIRE CHIEF OF ALPHARETTA. AND SEVERAL DOCTORS AND THE TRAUMA CENTER DIRECTOR FOR THE NORTH FULTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

IF YOU REMEMBER DR. JOHN HARVEY FROM THE APRIL MEETING, HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR. HE IS NOW INVOLVED A COMMITTEE THAT WAS SET UP BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO DEVELOP A STATE-WIDE MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLAN. HE FEELS THAT HAM RADIO IS POSSIBLY THE BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

4. A CITY COUNCILMAN, POLICE CHIEF, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS, THE FIRE CHIEF, CITY ENGINEER, AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR ROSHELL.

IF WE DO A GOOD JOB FOR THESE FOLKS, WE CAN OPEN DOORS TO THINGS THAT WE NEED OPENED. JUST AS AN EXAMPLE, WHAT IF EACH OF THESE PEOPLE WROTE MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND ASKED THAT HAM RADIO OPERATORS BE ALLOWED TO WEAR A SINGLE-EAR BOOM-TYPE HEADSET WHILE DRIVING?

THESE FOLKS ARE NOT LOOKING TO AVOID PAYING A FEW BUCKS FOR COMMERCIAL RADIOS. THEY REALIZE THAT HAMS CAN PROVIDE THEM WITH RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS WHEN THEY NEED IT. IT WOULD BE A SHAME NOT TO SUPPORT THEM.

THE BEST WAY TO SUPPORT THESE FOLKS IS WITH A STRONG SHOWING OF NFARL HAMS. ANYTHING LESS AND WE MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE DOWN THE CLUB.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE.

ALAN, N40001
992-0605

*** SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE ***
***** SOCIAL EVENT *****

***** ANOTHER MEETING PLACE *****

The next regular meeting of the NFARL will be on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30. We will meet at the Shoney's on Ga 9 across from the North Fulton Regional Hospital for dinner. Talk-in 145.470 and 147.060.

This is a social event so bring your spouse and lets have a good time. We promise to postpone all club business until the October meeting!

FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget the cutoff date for the news letter is the 25 of the month. Items for the news letter can be sent by the following.

1. Packet via WA4VMV PBBS
2. LARC BBS (494 5272)
3. US MAIL to: Lewis Cason (N4HRA)
749 Barnes Mill Trace
Marietta, Ga. 30062
73's Lew (N4HRA)

NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE
POST OFFICE BOX 1741
ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30077



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