



CQ WACOM :::: CQ WACOM
WACOM NEWS

SERVING COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION THRU AMATEUR RADIO

Washington Amateur Communications

P.O. Box 813, Washington PA. 15301



VOL 2 ISSUE-1

WA3KUK Editor



WACOM ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Well at last WACOM and the Nation can both relax, take a deep breath, get comfortably seated look around, and decide where we are headed as we enter a new year with new officers all the way around. The election is over, the reins have changed hands, and as we are often reminded, if we didn't vote, we ain't got too much to gripe about. Granted, the weather was such as to keep all but the hardiest of souls snuggled as near to their heat source as possible and that once or twice, the parking lot resembled the set of Nanook of the North, we still had a good turnout for the December and January meetings.....

Our officers for 1977 are, DIRECTOR WA3OKK, Bob Ketzell, FIRST DIRECTOR, WA3ZEP Lonnie Fekula, SECOND DIRECTOR WA3LDM, Skip Szafraniec, TREASURER WB3CHH, Wayne Manges, and SECRETARY WA3KUK Jack O'Neill. (The last dummy volunteered)....

The new two meter net manager (another devoted volunteer) will be WA3ZEP, Lonnie, and our new Ways and Means Committee consists of WA3KUK and WA3YWS, Jack and Ed. (Man, that pair ought to be able to come up with some wild ideas for fund raising, but I'd watch my hub-caps on meeting nights.) Tim and Linda will continue with their usual excellent job on the Public Relations Committee. K3VUD and WA3KUK will co-chair the Education Committee and handle the details for the next Novice Classes. Our new officers need request and deserve your help and support.....



THE PREZ SEZ

I dont think the ballots had cooled, when WA3KUK grabbed my sleeve, pulled me into a corner, yanked my chain, and told me he expected an item for THE PREZ SEZ every issue, so under threat of physical harm, mental anguish, editorial wrath, anonymous TVI complaints, and pins in my co-ax, here we are.

As Director of WACOM for the next year, we expect to continue the programs started by previous administrations and include some new ones. Of course we will continue Field Day and the corn roast.. Some of our new projects include looking at a new permanent home for WACOM a Christmas party with our Santa Claus for the kids, a mid-winter indoor Ham-Fest, continuation of the novice, tech, general, and advanced classes, the possible incorporation--

Cont' next page



The YL'S Corner



A RECIPE FOR HAM

By WB3ADQ Adella

Start with:

1 Relatively normal 5'2", 105 lb., size 7 shoe, (foot size decreases as brain swells with information), semi-rational, wide-eyed XYL..

Stir in:

1 long suffering instructor using kid's record player, who must not have anything better to do on Tuesday evenings...

1 patient, understanding, helpful (he better be as he got me into this) slightly underfed OM

40 lb. bags under eyes

15 gallons of tears (slightly salty)

608 gallons ink or 20 gross no. 2 pencils

370 spiral notebooks

3068 "Will you kids be quiet! I gotta practice my code" 's

65 dozen used 5-day deodorant pads

17 "Not now Dear; I gotta practice code" 's

1 shredded license manual

1 dilapidated, underlined, tear-stained AMECO Hand-book

4,578,004 blasphemies (really just bad words)

1 five-year old who knows that glassy-eyed stare on someone wearing a headset.....

1 two-year old who speaks only Inter-National Morse Code

Place prospective Ham, brain side up, on a chair in a church basement, on Tuesday nites at 7:00. Insert Inter-National Morse Code and Amateur Radio Theory Course. Persevere until reaching desired Ham License, and Wa-lah! You have a wonderful, bright, articulate, (- - - - -), public serving person who can now be returned to polite society.

Congratulations are due for two more of our YLS. Seems like every issue we have a license increase to report for WB3-ADQ, Della, who made her extra class Feb. 11. Fine business gal, but you're making it hard for your Editor. What will I do for news now? Linda, the XYL of Tim, K3VUD, came back from her visit to the candy man with her Technicians License. We look forward to hearing this new voice on the repeater soon. Linda is a product of our WACOM Classes, which makes us doubly proud. Good work Linda, now on to that General.

THE PREZ SAYS (CONTINUED)

of WACOM, a review of the Club Constitution and By-laws, additional public events, new fund raising ideas, etc. These are some of our ideas. You may be in agreement, or may violently disagree. You may have other ideas or some thoughts of your own on these, however, if we don't hear from you, if you are not at the meetings to discuss the plans or to vote on the measures, you will hear about the proposals after the fact... Your Club's only as good as the membership wants it to be. We the Officers can only give direction. You, the members, are the controlling voice..... We need your help and support TNX and 73's BOB



WACOM CLASSES WIND-UP

The WACOM sponsored Novice and Up Classes are about wound up--Novices are about through with their code and theory--tests have been given and only the Candy Company knows the outcome; at least till the mails bring the word from the man. The students from the advanced group went before the man on February 11, but we haven't had any word yet on the results. We want to take this opportunity to pass our thanks and congratulations to the instructors, who did such an excellent job and devoted so much of their time to this worthy project. A tip of the old fedora to WA3OKK, Bob.. W3DIP, Sam, K3VUD Tim.... WA3BKD, Art, WB3ADQ, Della WA3UQW, Bob, and WA3KUK Jack, also to Linda, who besides being a student kept the coffee and O.J comming at break time..

A CONSTANT CURRENT SOURCE FOR RATT By: M. Bernstein, AFW2PAT

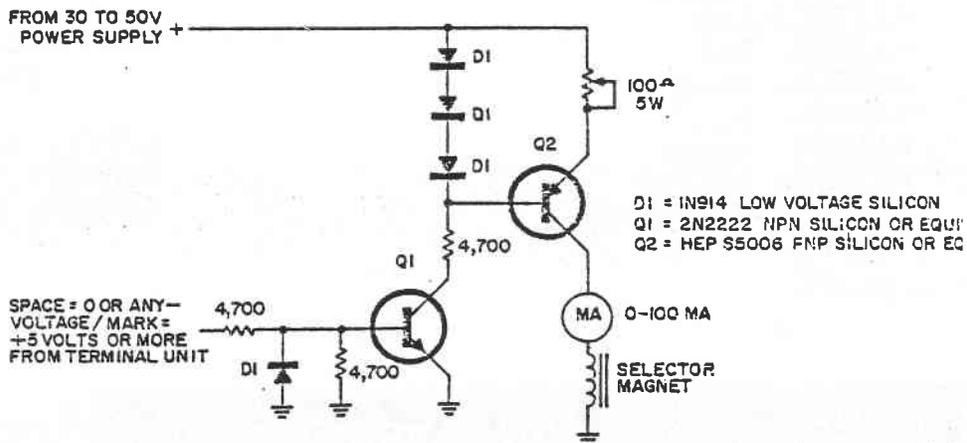
This circuit provides constant printer magnet current from a 30 - 50 volt supply. Its performance has been equal to the regular 120 volt supply.

A silicon PNP power transistor functions as a variable resistance in series with a 30 - 50 volt supply to provide a constant current of 60 ma. through the selector magnet. Germanium power transistors are not satisfactory in this application because of their leakage. They do not have a satisfactory cut off on the space signal.

The HEP S5006 is a suitable power transistor. The low power unit can be almost any NPN type having a breakdown voltage of 50 and a current capability of more than 10 ma. Several surplus types have functioned satisfactorily in this unit.

Tests for constant current operation were made by adjusting the magnet current to 60 ma. with the 100 ohm resistor and adding a 1000 ohm variable in series with the selector magnet. While varying this resistance the current remained at 60 ma. until the voltage drop from collector to ground almost equaled the D.C. supply voltage.

Tests indicate that the operation with the constant current supply does not curtail the range and the ability to operate with distorted signals. This unit also provides approximately 50% savings in power over the high voltage supply. The printer used had a range of 80 points of the finder and when tested with a Distortion Test Set TS-2/TG printed signals with approximately 60% mark and space bias and end distortion with both the high voltage and the low voltage constant current supply.



ARRL APPROVED PHONETIC ALPHABET

The following internationally approved phonetic alphabet has been adopted by ARRL and is strongly recommended for use by U.S. Amateurs.

A	ALFA
B	BRAVO
C	CHARLIE
D	DELTA
E	ECHO
F	FOXTROT
G	GOLF
H	HOTEL
I	INDIA
J	JULIETT
K	KILO
L	LIMA
M	MIKE

AL-FAH
BRA-VOH
CHAR-LEE
DELL-TAH
ECH-OH
FOKS-TROT
GOLF
HOH-TELL
IN-DEE-AH
JEW-LEE-ETT
KEY-LOH
LEE-MAH
MIKE

N	NOVEMBER
O	OSCAR
P	PAPA
Q	QUEBEC
R	ROMEO
S	SIERRA
T	TANGO
U	UNIFORM
V	VICTOR
W	WHISKEY
X	XRAY
Y	YANKEE
Z	ZULU

NO-VEM-BER
OSS-CAH
PAH-PAH
KEH-BECK
ROW-ME-OH
SEE-AIR-RAH
TANG-GO
YOU-NEE-FORM
VIK-TAH
WISS-KEY
ECKS-RAY
YANG-KEE
ZOO-LOO

TWO METER NET MANAGERS REPORT

NEW TWO METER NET ROSTER

WA3OKK ✓	Bob	Director
WA3ZEP	Lonnie	1. Director
WA3LDM ✓	Skip	2. Director
WA3CHH	Wayne	Treasurer
WA3KUK ✓	Jack	Secretary
W3TTN ✓	Mario	
W3UTX ✓	Barney	WA3GWR
K3AVD ✓	Ed	WA3MLP
K3DXB	Dick	WB8WPE
K3PSP ✓	Dennis	
K3VUD ✓	Tim	
WA3BKD ✓	Art	
WA3FOI	Lois	
WA3FOJ	Harry	
WA3LDL ✓	Annie	
WA3QER	George	
WA3TOB	Henry	
WA3TSI ✓	Ken	
WA3UQW	Bob	
WA3WIA ✓	Doug	
WA3YWS	Ed	
WA3ZSM	Harry	
WB3ADQ ✓	Della	
WB3CYO	Sam PETER ✓	
W3CYO	SAM ✓	

WB8U2T

NET CONTROL ROSTER

ATT	WA	DATE		STBY	ANCO
		3-02-77	K3AVD Ed		W3UTX
		3-09-77	K3PSP Dennis		K3AVD
		3-16-77	K3VUD Tim		K3PSP
		3-23-77	WA3FOI Lois		K3VUD
		3-30-77	WA3FOJ Harry		WA3FOI
		4-06-77	WA3KUK Jack		WA3FOJ
		4-13-77	WA3LDL Annie		WA3KUK
		4-20-77	WA3TOB Henry		WA3LDL
		4-27-77	WA3UQW Bob		WA3TOB
		5-04-77	WA3WIA Doug		WA3UQW
		5-11-77	WA3YWS Ed		WA3WIA
		5-18-77	WB3CHH Wayne		WA3YWS
		5-25-77	WB3CYO Sam		WB3CHH

18 CK IN

NET DELETIONS DUE TO INACTIVITY

K3VCV, WA3OXB, WA3TGR,
WA3WPE, WA3ZLN, WB3AKC,
WB3CHM, WZ3YER, WA3MLP

CB Channels... Now There Are 40!

Channel 1 - 26.965 MHz	Channel 21 - 27.215 MHz
Channel 2 - 26.975 MHz	Channel 22 - 27.225 MHz
Channel 3 - 26.985 MHz	Channel 23 - 27.255 MHz
Channel 4 - 27.005 MHz	Channel 24 - 27.235 MHz
Channel 5 - 27.015 MHz	Channel 25 - 27.245 MHz
Channel 6 - 27.025 MHz	Channel 26 - 27.265 MHz
Channel 7 - 27.035 MHz	Channel 27 - 27.275 MHz
Channel 8 - 27.055 MHz	Channel 28 - 27.285 MHz
Channel 9 - 27.065 MHz	Channel 29 - 27.295 MHz
Channel 10 - 27.075 MHz	Channel 30 - 27.305 MHz
Channel 11 - 27.085 MHz	Channel 31 - 27.315 MHz
Channel 12 - 27.105 MHz	Channel 32 - 27.325 MHz
Channel 13 - 27.115 MHz	Channel 33 - 27.335 MHz
Channel 14 - 27.125 MHz	Channel 34 - 27.345 MHz
Channel 15 - 27.135 MHz	Channel 35 - 27.355 MHz
Channel 16 - 27.155 MHz	Channel 36 - 27.365 MHz
Channel 17 - 27.165 MHz	Channel 37 - 27.375 MHz
Channel 18 - 27.175 MHz	Channel 38 - 27.385 MHz
Channel 19 - 27.185 MHz	Channel 39 - 27.395 MHz
Channel 20 - 27.205 MHz	Channel 40 - 27.405 MHz

CB Channel Expansion in Effect; No More Fee

On New Year's Day, the FCC's approved expansion of the Citizens Band channel allocation from 23 to 40 became effective, and allowed manufacturers to begin marketing their new units. As of January 1, more than 250 40-channel models were expected to have met the new FCC standards and become available to the public.

John Sodolski, vice president of the Electronic Industries Association's Communications Division, says he expects the nearly 74 percent expansion to "significantly decrease congestion of the air waves, as well as make the original 23 channels more usable, particularly in heavily populated areas."

Channel 9 continues as the emergency channel. See box at right for complete list of frequencies.

Sodolski also noted that because of the recent FCC action suspending the collection of fees [see page 3], persons do not have to send a \$4 fee with their license applications.

Field Operations Bureau Monitors and Enforces

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for the administration and enforcement of regulations and treaties relating to radio communications.

Much of the work is carried out by the staff of the FCC Field Operations Bureau, with Phyll Home as chief and Jim McKinney as deputy chief. This bureau has more than 400 employees, making up nearly one-fourth of all Commission personnel. Field engineers work out of 24 district offices and four suboffices, plus 13 monitoring stations. They use 120 special mobile units to monitor, measure, identify, and locate all kinds of electromagnetic emissions, ranging from the very low frequencies up to the microwaves, including TV trucks that concentrate on television stations.

Have Several Main Duties

FCC Field Operations personnel have several main duties—inspection, investigation, monitoring, examining and licensing, engineering and public services, and locating interference sources.

They inspect nongovernment radio stations of all types to determine compliance with technical standards of the Commission, to ensure maximum service to the station operator, industry, and the public.

The Citizens Radio Service is the Commission's single largest enforcement problem, based on complaints received. CB currently accounts for about 77 percent of all complaints, including interference to ships at sea, aircraft, land mobile, and broadcasting. The Commission is presently expending about 100 man-years for CB, which is about one-fourth of the total people in the field.

The FCC is very much aware of the considerable amount of illegal activity between 27.410 and 28.000 MHz, and McKinney says that general reports of such activity should not be made to the Commission. If the location of a specific individual operating illegally is known, however, it should be reported to the FCC Engineer in Charge of the local district office.

The report should not be made to a Special Enforcement Facility. Before a Special Enforcement Facility team goes into an area, it is in constant communication with the district offices, to determine where the problem areas are, where to schedule the next strike, where to put their manpower, and so on.

Monitors Patrol Spectrum

FCC monitors patrol the radio spectrum around the clock to see that transmissions meet technical standards. The monitoring network detects unlicensed or nonconforming transmissions, traces and eliminates in-

terference, and also participates in public-safety work. Under the National Search and Rescue Plan, monitors furnish direction-finder "fixes" (positions) on aircraft and ships in distress.

The monitoring stations are interconnected by private-line teletype, leased through the telephone companies. HF radioteletype is used as a backup to this system, and also for communications to Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. All monitoring stations feed into Net Control at 1919 M Street in Washington, D.C. Fixes are plotted worldwide at this location.

Various types of receivers are used in FCC vehicles for monitoring purposes, such as R. L. Drake receivers for monitoring CB.

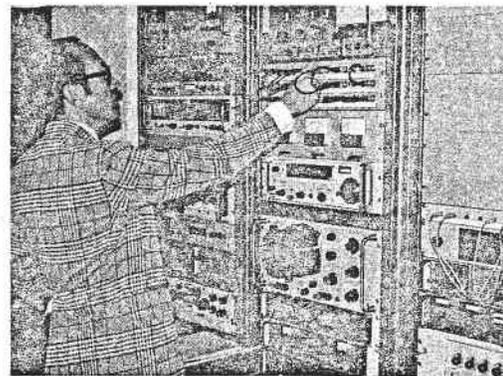
HF receivers in the monitoring stations are typically Racal, and VHF receivers are typically Watkins-Johnson and ACL. Spectrum analyzers are generally Hewlett-Packard or Tektronix. Some of the measurement systems are of the FCC's own design, built at the bureau's laboratory in Powder Springs, Georgia. All of the equipment is calibrated through the laboratory on a regular schedule to assure accuracy. Various brands of frequency standards are used, such as Hewlett-Packard. The microwave equipment also includes various makes, and is quite sophisticated. After determining specifications, the FCC goes out on bids for its equipment, and therefore several different makes are used.

Monitoring stations use a CRT display for indicating direction of an HF signal, using the old "propeller" display. An Ocean Applied Research direction finder is used in a fixed mode at the Los Angeles field office for obtaining bearings on ships at sea and interference to the distress frequency.

Examining and Licensing

The Field Operations Bureau gives license examinations nationwide, such as radiotelephone and radiotelegraph license examinations and Amateur Radio license examinations (except Novice Class, which is administered by General Class or higher Amateurs).

"Our Amateur examination workload during the past year has gone up for the first time in about 15 years," says McKinney. "The reason for that upswing is Citizens Radio. You are getting the kids interested at an early age, and someone is taking the trouble to educate them. As a result, we are seeing increased licensing. Perhaps we will see a no-code Amateur exam; I personally favor that. I had to learn the code for my job—28 words per minute—but I don't think I would have learned the Morse code to get a ham license. I don't think I was that inclined, and I am an electronics engineer,



Jim McKinney, deputy chief of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau, checks patch panel at Net Control, to which all Monitoring Stations feed. Some of the equipment in these racks includes a Racal HF receiver, Watkins-Johnson and ACL VHF receivers, Singer communications service monitor, CDR rotator controls, and various makes of spectrum analyzers, frequency counters and standards, microwave receivers, signal generators, and other equipment.

too. I think there ought to be an entrance level without the Morse code."

Engineering and Public Service

The field staff makes engineering studies for the Commission. It also carries out FCC public service at the grass-roots level by programs of education and assistance, often in cooperation with radio licensee associations and civic groups.

At least a third of the bureau's manpower is devoted to public service. It specifies lighting and marking for antenna towers (out of one office in Washington, because a tower may be shared by a number of different stations or different services). The bureau designs and develops its own equipment. It assists people who ask questions about the rules and want to be referred to the right office in Washington.

Locating Interference Sources

When an apparent violation is reported to an FCC office, Commission field establishments can listen in and determine the general area of its origin. Then field engineers track down the offender with mobile equipment.

Field engineers determine the type of emission, stations called, the frequency used, time and duration of the operation, the nature of communications made, and other distinguishing features to identify the station and the operator.

Anyone experiencing interference to his communications system should call the local FCC district office. Quite frequently, the monitoring stations can resolve a problem, and an engineer will not have to be sent out and a field investigation will not have to be made. The Field Operations Bureau can't do anything about some interference problems, such as crowded channels in the land-mobile services. This problem should be referred to the licensing bureau. If the interference is malicious,

however, the Field Operations Bureau is ready to help.

If the FCC raids a house and the operator has no license of any kind, he will be treated as an unlicensed station. The Commission then will attempt to get a search and seizure warrant, and will attempt to take his equipment as evidence, while bringing charges into a federal court, for violation of the Communications Act. The warrants are served by United States Marshals. (The FCC has no power of confiscation of unlicensed equipment, but, like any federal agency, can obtain a search and seizure warrant and take the equipment to use as evidence against the operator; it can couple it with an arrest warrant at the same time.)

If the operator is licensed and is operating outside of his band, the FCC tries to make some determination of whether it is a deliberate violation. In such a case, a judge or a United States attorney will ask the Commission to revoke the license before the courts get involved. A licensed operator is the FCC's problem, not the federal court's.

Investigative vehicles are used extensively, especially for CB problems. They are equipped with automatic direction finders (homing systems) with meters or circular displays of 120 neon lights indicating which direction to drive the car. Triangulation equipment is used to find moving vehicles making brief transmissions. The direction-finding antennas in the vehicles are Finch rotating loop antennas. The sensing system is not affected by polarity—whether vertical or horizontal—because it is elliptically polarized, and enough of the horizontal or vertical element of the signal can be obtained to locate it rapidly.

Near the end of the hunt, an inspector carries a small detection apparatus that can be carried in the hand or in a trouser pocket, or fastened under his coat. He moves from door to door, and floor to floor if need be, to find where the signal is strongest. When that point is found, the sought-after transmitter is close at hand. Actual entry is made with the cooperation of local officials. The United States Marshal is present if an arrest is to be made.

The FCC communicates between its ve-



hicles and district offices with VHF equipment on frequencies assigned by and with licenses issued by the Office of Telecommunications Policy. (The FCC cannot issue licenses to itself!) Typical 100-watt mobile units are used, as well as 100-watt or 300-watt base-station/repeater systems, on low-band or high-band VHF, depending on the area. No UHF frequencies are used. Additionally, HF equipment is operated for backup on radioteletype. Most communications are scrambled, because the people who try to listen to FCC communications are often the people the Commission is after. Codes are constantly changed to avoid defeating of the system.

Two-way radio equipment in the vehicles used for communicating with other vehicles and the district offices includes several models, such as GE, Motorola, RCA, and Aerotron. Base stations include several makes, such as GE. Various makes of walkie-talkies are used, many of them manufactured by Repco under private label.

Continuous tone-coded squelch systems are employed, for quieter operation.

Pagers, such as Motorola as well as other makes, are used by Field Operations Bureau people in some areas.

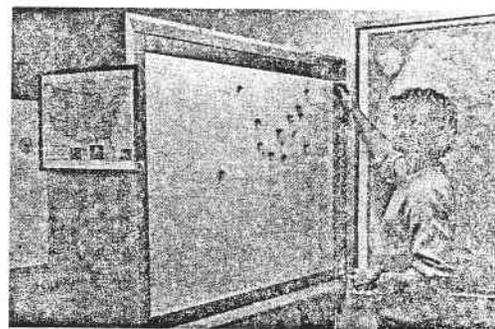
Penalties for Violations

FCC officials work under authority of the Communications Act, which prohibits unauthorized transmission. Courts have held that radio emissions know no boundaries. Consequently, operation of a transmitter anywhere in the United States requires federal licensing of the station and, in most cases, the operator. Violators, if convicted, are liable to a maximum penalty of a \$10,000 fine or two years imprisonment, or both. (Exceptions from licensing are government transmitters, certain low-power devices, and industrial, scientific, and medical equipment, where other limitations are imposed to prevent interference.)

The current obscenity statute is Section 1464, Title 18, of the Criminal Code, which means it is the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, not of the FCC. The Commission does have an interest, however, because it has rules prohibiting the use of obscene language, and it takes away licenses when these rules are violated. But the primary jurisdiction for obscene language over the air is through the Department of Justice and through the FBI. The FCC will assist the FBI, which sometimes asks the Commission to direction-find and gather evidence, because it is a radio violation.

The Commission appreciates that enthusiastic youth, in particular, can unwittingly violate the law by transmitting on unauthorized frequencies without a license. In such cases, a juvenile's parents are advised of the consequences of violation, that interference may blot out emergency communications of aviation, marine, fire, and police radio stations. At the same time, the young offender is told how to qualify for licensed radio operation.

More serious cases are referred to United



States Attorneys for prosecution. These involve persons who knowingly operate transmitters illegally or deliberately interfere with regular radio operation.

Radio stations are subject not only to interference from one another, but also from a variety of electronic devices that leak disturbing emissions. These include industrial heaters, garage-door openers, remote control units, arc welders, and electric signs.

Handling Complaints

The volume of interference complaints makes it impossible for the FCC's limited field staff to give personal attention to each case. Priority is given to those that endanger life and property-protecting services such as air and sea, police, and fire communications. Priority also is given those involving illicit transmitters and unlicensed operators. FCC investigative engineers and monitoring personnel detect and locate harmful interference to all services with the same equipment used for apprehending illegal operators.

In its spectrum policing, the Commission receives cooperation not only from radio users but also from those who make and sell apparatus that can cause radio interference. Prototypes of certain equipment are tested or type-approved by the FCC in advance of manufacture to ensure that the equipment will not cause interference when put in operation.

As part of the inspection procedure, FCC engineers take technical measurements of equipment being examined. When measurements reveal a significant performance change, the licensee is advised to initiate corrective measures. Complete audio equipment performance measurements are conducted at standard broadcast stations. If measurement data reveals performance deficiencies, the licensee is notified to bring the station into compliance. Stations with directional antennas are also checked by measuring the field strength at monitoring points. Licensees are advised of nominal differences between measured and authorized field strength. If major discrepancies are found, the licensee is requested to make corrections and to complete a skeleton proof of performance to demonstrate proper functioning of the array.

PORTABLE/MOBILE DESIGNATORS NO LONGER

REQUIRED BY THE FCC

The Federal Communications Commission has amended the U.S. amateur regulations so that hams are no longer required to say if they are operating portable or mobile when identifying. Effective November 26, 1976, signing as "portable 1" or "mobile 6" becomes optional. This change is very beneficial for mobile operators. For some purposes, though, you will want to avoid confusion by indicating your portable or mobile status. ARRL contest rules will require that entrants identify the call area they are operating from if it is different than their "home" call area.

All U.S. hams must have a valid address so that the FCC can reach them by mail, and operators are still required to modify their license in case of a change in station location, but advance notice of mobile and portable operation has been deleted from the rules.

In its explanation of the changes, the FCC said: "The Commission is dedicated to deregulation of the Amateur Service. As such we are trying to eliminate those rules...which are not absolutely essential to the proper administration of the Amateur Radio Service. It is our belief that if an amateur operating practice is worthwhile, Amateur licensees will observe it, whether or not it is required by federal regulations. Similarly, we believe Amateurs should not be required to observe operating or other rules of little or no demonstrated value to the Amateur Service."

It's up to the hams now. We decide how we operate. It's a big responsibility, but one that amateurs have accepted throughout the history of amateur radio. The FCC and the ARRL are confident today's hams will live up to the proud tradition of self regulation of the Amateur Service.

ANNOUNCING THE ARRL CODE KIT

Now available from ARRL Hq. or your local radio dealer is the all new *ARRL Code Kit*. This combination of two code cassettes and lively booklet is the perfect way to increase your code speed. The tapes are top-quality 60-minute cassettes, with one half hour of random code characters at each of four popular speeds: 5, 7½, 10 and 13 wpm. The book is full of proven code study hints and suggestions for improving code skills.

The code groups guarantee that you will learn the code correctly, and the step-by-step progression of speeds is the ideal way to work up to 13 wpm. W1AW has been using this method for many years, with great success.

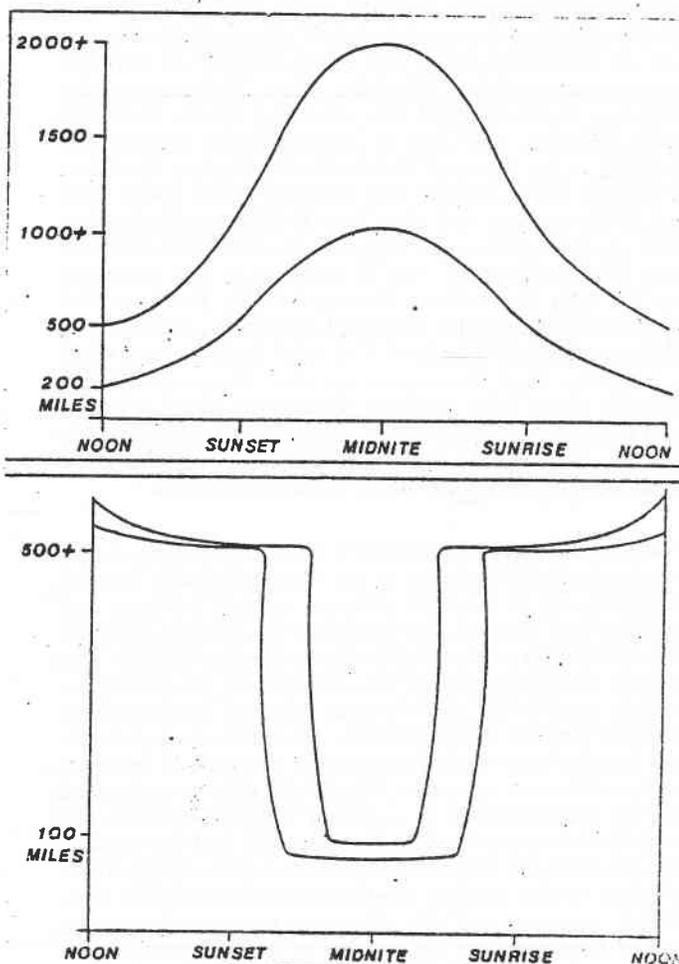
New hams have been asking for this package for months. It's now available, so order your copy today, and get going on that General license!

PROPAGATION

These graphs can provide a rule of thumb for what to expect on the novice bands during the hours of light and darkness. The top graph shows that the 80 and 40 Meter bands provide good DX during the hours of darkness. Since winter is here, night static levels on these bands will be very low; much lower than in the summer. Not indicated on the graph is the fact that both 80 and 40 can really open up around sunrise and sunset. Check 40 Meters in the morning just before sunrise. The foreign broadcasting signals won't be there then.

The lower graph shows that the 15 and 10 Meter bands are generally useful during the daylight hours and good only for local communications during the night. However, there is an exception to this rule. Both bands sometimes open at night, though the exact time of the opening cannot be predicted. So call CQ on 15 and 10 even when the band sounds dead. If everyone listens, and no one calls, there will be no way of knowing if the bands are open. On more things...both 15 and 10 Meters have skip zones so you will seldom hear any stations closer than 500 miles or so on either of them.

Propagation can be a blast; just don't get angry at your transmitter because you can't work DX on 80 Meters at 12 noon.



Washington Amateur Communications
P.O. Box 813, Washington PA. 15301

To

FCC ADOPTS THIRD REPORT AND ORDER in Docket 20120, changing the names of the Citizens Radio Service and its sub-designations and implementing an editorial reorganization of Part 95 of the rules. The name of the Citizens Radio Service was changed to the Personal Radio Services; the Class A Citizens Radio Service was changed to the General Mobile Radio Service; the Class C Citizens Radio Service was changed to the Radio Control (R/C) Service; and the Class D Citizens Radio Service was changed to the Citizens Band (CB) Radio Service. The reorganized Part 95 consists of four subparts, one for each of the three Personal Radio Services. The fourth subpart contains technical standards applicable to all Personal Radio Services. The rules have been revised to require that licensees in the Personal Radio Services must have in their possession those subparts which are applicable to them, instead of a complete Rule Part 95. Additionally, only Subpart D is required to be furnished with each CB Radio Service unit sold.

FCC PROPOSES TO SIMPLIFY licensing and operating requirements for stations in the Amateur Radio Service now licensed as repeater stations, control stations, and auxiliary link stations, and changing the present Amateur repeater station subband allocations (Docket 21033). The primary proposals of the FCC include: (1) permitting repeater, auxiliary, and remote control operation of Amateur stations under primary, secondary, and club station licenses and to discontinue the issuance of separate licenses for such operation; (2) deleting the requirement that the transmissions of so-called "open" automatically controlled repeater stations be recorded and the recordings be retained for a 30-day period, and making minor revisions to the logging requirements for remotely controlled stations; and (3) allowing Amateur licensees greater flexibility in the choice of frequencies for repeater and auxiliary use.

To Catch An Illegal Operator!

More than \$65,000 in allegedly illegally used Amateur Radio equipment was seized recently in a crackdown on illegal transmitting in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

This was the largest simultaneous execution of search and seizure warrants against illegal radio operators in the country.

The seizures were the result of an extensive investigation by the Federal Communications Commission into the operation of illegal radio stations that allegedly were transmitting on unauthorized frequencies, operating overpowered equipment, and violating other FCC regulations.

The illegal stations also were allegedly invading and overpowering channels reserved to legitimate CB users.

United States Marshals from Baltimore and Washington, accompanied by FCC agents from the Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and Norfolk field offices and the Special Enforcement Facility at Laurel, Maryland, simultaneously executed 19 search warrants, seized the equipment, and closed down the stations.

COLLECTION OF ALL FEES has been suspended by the FCC. The action is in response to four decisions released December 16 by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In general, the court directed the commission to justify each fee assessment and to calculate the cost basis for each fee. The FCC determined that the appropriate, immediate response to these decisions would be to suspend any further collection of fees and to make a study of the legal and administrative implications of refunding fees in order to determine the extent and nature of any refunds that might be necessary. The commission urged the public not to call about fees or refunds since this would only delay action on applications or other filings.