

The HARC Spark

May, 1998



The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6253

Philadelphia, Penna. 19136
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>

Packet BBS WA3RCA 145.030 MHz

ATLANTIC DIVISION LICENSE TESTS

May and June

(A) = ARRL/VEC (L) = LAUREL/VEC (M) = MOUNTAIN/VEC (5) = W5YI/VEC
P = Pre-registration requested *N* = No walk-ins

EASTERN PA

MAY

- 2 Bristol, 9:30 AM. Penn Wireless Assn. George LeNoir, 215-943-4886 *N* (A)
- 2 Bryn Mawr, 9:15 AM. Mid-Atlantic ARC. Bob Lees, 610-265-6032 *P* (A)
- 7 Philadelphia, 6 PM. Phil-Mont MRC. Dusty Rhoads, 215-482-0386 (A)
- 8 Nazareth, 7 PM. Delaware-Lehigh ARC. Mark Petrino, 610-264-8343 (A)
- 9 Bensalem, 11 AM. Lorraine Hoffmaster, 215-638-1655 (A)
- 13 Dunmore, 7 PM. Scranton-Pocono ARK. Art Sposto, 717-342-8591 (A)
- 18 Telford, 6:30 PM. RF Hill ARC. Joe Burgess, 215-723-6697 *P* (A)
- 21 East Stroudsburg, 7 PM. Pocono ARK. Dave Haney, 717-424-0945 *N* (A)
- 27 Matamoras, 7 PM. Tri-State ARC. Cono D'Alto, 717-491-2377 (A)
- 27 Warminster, 7 PM. Warminster ARC. Tom Michaud, 215-343-3494 (A)

JUNE

- 1 Myerstown, 7 PM. Strangers/Pilgrims ARK. David Brubacker, 717-933-5301 *N*(A)
- 4 Philadelphia, 6 PM. Phil-Mont MRC. Dusty Rhoads, 215-482-0386 (A)
- 5 Nazareth, 7 PM. Delaware-Lehigh ARC. Mark Petrino, 610-264-8343 (A)
- 6 Bristol, 9:30 AM. Penn Wireless Assn. George LeNoir, 215-943-4886 *N* (A)
- 6 Tamaqua, 9 AM. Tamaqua Wireless Assn. Allen Breiner, 717-668-3098 (A)
- 13 Shrewsbury, 10 AM. So. York Co VEs. Carol Kirschman, 717-235-0273 (A)
- 15 Telford, 6:30 PM. RF Hill ARC. Joe Burgess, 215-723-6697 *P* (A)
- 18 East Stroudsburg, 7 PM. Pocono ARK. Dave Haney, 717-424-0945 *N* (A)
- 18 Ironville, 6:30 PM. Red Rose Rptr Assn. Carlos Rivera, 569-2984 (A)

24 Matamoras, 7 PM. Tri-State ARC. Cono D'Alto, 717-491-2377 (A)
24 Warminster, 7 PM. Warminster ARC. Tom Michaud, 215-343-3494 (A)

73 and good luck on your upgrade de
Kay Craigie WT3P, Director Atlantic Division (wt3p@arrl.org)
Bernie Fuller N3EFN, Vice Director (n3efn@arrl.org)

1998 ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARD WINNERS

The Atlantic Division ARRL is pleased to announce the winners of the 1998 Atlantic Division awards.

The "Amateur of the Year" is John Creel WB3GXW, from Silver Spring, Maryland. Licensed since 1967, John is an ARRL Life Member and an Official Bulletin Station. He owns and operates repeaters on 2 meters and 440 MHz. He is active in RACES and in demonstrating Amateur Radio to youth at summer camp. The Foundation for Amateur Radio named John their "Ham of the Month" in April, 1998.

John is also involved in leadership of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club=s Laurel VEC and participates in the annual National Conference of VEC=s in Gettysburg. He is an active Volunteer Examiner for Laurel VEC at monthly test sessions and sessions held at Amateur Radio events in the Washington /Baltimore area.

John belongs to a family of radio Amateurs. His mother, wife, and two daughters are also licensed hams. As the Foundation for Amateur Radio said in their "Ham of the Month" commendation, John "has made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service and is an outstanding model of a public and community service volunteer."

The "Grand Ole Ham" lifetime service award for 1998 goes to Rolland Madara W3PWG, from Lansdowne, PA. He was nominated by the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club of Philadelphia, PA. Known as "Rollie" to his many friends in the Amateur family, he has been licensed for 47 years and has also been a member of Navy MARS for 36 years and Army MARS for 41 years. For more than 25 years, he was an operator at the Franklin Institute Science Museum=s Amateur Radio exhibit W3TKQ (now W3AA). Although he has turned over trusteeship of the station callsign to a younger ham, Rollie still volunteers one day each week at the Museum.

Now in his late 80=s, Rollie served 24 years in the U.S. Navy, followed by employment with RCA and GE until his retirement in 1972. Since then he has been an active ambassador for Amateur Radio through W3TKQ / W3AA to the thousands of museum visitors of all ages. Another interest in his life is genealogy, and he has traced his lineage through many generations. The Amateur Radio community is indeed fortunate to have a gentleman like Rolland Madara W3PWG on our family tree!

The 1998 awards will be officially conferred at the Atlantic Division Convention, held in conjunction with the Rochester, NY, Hamfest on May 29 -31, 1998.

LAND MOBILE SEEKS SHARED ACCESS TO 70 CM BAND

The ARRL is organizing opposition to a new threat to the 70-cm Amateur Radio band. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has asked the FCC to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis.

Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis, and the 430 to 440 MHz segment is an international allocation. The 70-cm band is the second most popular of the hobby's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment.

The LMCC request, based on "additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community," acknowledges Amateur Radio's use of 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz, and suggests that ham radio applications can remain secondary to PMRS

in those segments, but offers no explanation of how sharing could be accomplished. The LMCC says it believes

the 430 to 440 MHz subband "is more important to the amateurs for use in emerging technologies such as links with spacecraft and amateur television applications."

The petition also suggests that equipment availability and technology resulting from an expanded PMRS presence on 70 cm would benefit hams "pursuing such applications as compressed video television in the 430-440 MHz band." The LMCC concedes, however, that its "most urgent need" for PMRS is voice and low-speed data applications, not advanced technologies which might come later on.

The petition also notes that PMRS already uses 420 to 430 MHz in three Canadian border cities (Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit) and a "reduction in military use of this band is foreseen."

The LMCC also seeks allocations at 1390 to 1400 MHz, 1427-1432 MHz, and 1670 to 1675 MHz as well as 85 MHz at 960 to 1215 MHz by 2010.

Comments are due on the LMCC's Petition for Rulemaking, RM-9267, by June 1. Reply comments are due by June 15. The FCC has not indicated if it will accept electronically filed comments in this proceeding.

From the ARRL Letter Vol.17 Number 19

The following message was prepared by ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner K1ZZ for all radio amateurs. 73 - Kay Craigie WT3P

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RM-9267: A Threat to Amateur Radio Interests

On April 22, 1998, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) filed a petition for rulemaking with the Federal Communications Commission to have two-thirds of the 420-450 MHz band (70 cm) reallocated to the Private Mobile Radio Service. The petition is designated RM-9267, and the FCC is accepting public comment until June 1, 1998. The ARRL opposes the LMCC proposal. The 70 cm band is very popular among radio amateurs, and plays a critical role in our ability to provide emergency, public service, and public interest communications. The ARRL believes that the LMCC proposal is incompatible with continued amateur use of the band. RM-9267 is still only a proposal, and has not been acted upon by the government. We need your help in communicating our concerns to policy makers as they consider how to handle the LMCC's request.

Frequently Asked Questions About RM-9267

What is the LMCC?

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a non-profit association of organizations representing users of land mobile radio systems, providers of land mobile services, and manufacturers of land mobile radio equipment. The user community includes public safety, business, industrial, private, common carrier, and land transportation radio users. The membership of LMCC includes the following organizations:

Association of American Railroads (AAR)
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
American Automobile Association (AAA)
American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)
American Petroleum Institute (API)
American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA)
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials - International, Inc. (APCO)
Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)
Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA)
Forest Industries Telecommunications (FIT)
Forestry-Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)
Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc. (ITA)
Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA)
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)
International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)

International Taxicab and Livery Association (ITLA)
Manufacturers Radio Frequency Advisory Committee (MRFAC)
National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
UTC, The Telecommunications Association (UTC)

Why are they seeking more radio spectrum for land mobile radio?

In response to a provision of the 1993 Omnibus Budget Act calling for regulatory parity among wireless Common Carriers and certain private wireless licensees that were providing service that was substantially similar to Common Carrier Service, the FCC developed separate definitions for Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) and Private Mobile Radio Services (PMRS). LMCC members mainly are interested in PMRS. They claim that the FCC is favoring CMRS over PMRS because CMRS licenses can be auctioned, generating substantial revenues for the Federal Treasury.

What is the actual proposal, and how would it affect Amateur Radio?

Based on its own spectrum requirements analysis, LMCC claims that the future additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community are as follows: 15 MHz by the year 2000, 44 MHz (i.e., another 29 MHz) by 2004, and 125 MHz (i.e., another 81 MHz) by 2010. It proposes:

Immediate needs be satisfied by a reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS;

Immediate/mid-term needs be satisfied by FCC allocation of 1390-1400, 1427-1432, and 1670-1675 MHz to PMRS, pursuant to its reallocation to the private sector from the government;

Reallocate 85 MHz of the aeronautical band, 960-1215 MHz, to the PMRS by the year 2010 to satisfy longer term needs, shared with the developing DOD JTIDS/MIDS service.

At present in the United States, the Amateur Radio Service is secondary to military radiolocation (radar) in the 420-450 MHz band. Originally a primary allocation, secondary status came about during the 1950s when Cold War concerns made national security a high priority. Limited non-government, non-amateur use of the band is permitted -- but amateurs have priority over such use. LMCC misinterprets the significance of amateur secondary status and states that "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS." LMCC also suggests the possibility that, "recognizing that amateur radio service will see a net constriction by the recommended reallocation of 420-430/440-450 MHz," 1390-1395/1427-1432 MHz might be allocated to the amateur service to offset this constriction. "Constriction" is, of course, a bit of an understatement; LMCC has offered no ideas as to how amateurs could continue to share the bands.

What should amateurs do?

First, what you shouldn't do: Don't complain to your Congressman about the FCC, or write a nasty letter to the FCC. The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal. By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it. Criticizing the FCC at this stage would be inappropriate and counterproductive.

Here is what you should do.

1. Examine the list of LMCC members. You may be a member of one or more of these organizations. If you are, write to that organization as a member and inform them that the LMCC, which has listed them as a member and supporter, has taken an action that is contrary to your interests. Don't assume that they know anything about the petition or its implications for Amateur Radio, but do make it clear that as a member, you expect them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects

Amateur Radio. A sample letter is attached.

2. Prepare a comment on RM-9267 and submit it to the FCC. At the top, it is very important that you clearly indicate the file number: RM-9267. Send an original and four copies to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554. In your comment, explain how the loss of access to the 420-430/440-450 MHz band segments would affect you personally, and how it would affect the ability of radio amateurs in your community to provide needed public service. Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or in another band, that you do use. Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments.

3. If you are involved in amateur radio public service communications, arrange for the government and non-government agencies that you serve and ask for a written statement of their support.

4. Arrange for any Amateur Radio organizations that you belong to, to submit comments. This is especially important in the case of organizations with interests in the 420-450 MHz band.

What if, in spite of our comments, the FCC decides it likes the idea?

The primary occupant of the 420-450 MHz band is the military. Before the FCC can take the next step toward reallocation, it must first obtain the agreement of the federal government. Then it would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and must solicit public comments on its proposal. In other words, nothing is going to happen overnight and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment.

It seems we hear about threats to the amateur bands all the time. How serious is this one?

The threat must be regarded as very serious. The LMCC is a bona fide and respected organization. We must assume that their proposal will be taken seriously.

Where can I get a copy of the LMCC petition?

The petition, with attachments, is 72 pages. We will have it available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/> as quickly as possible.

[sample letter to LMCC member organization]

American Automobile Association
1000 AAA Drive
Heathrow, FL 32746

Dear Sirs:

I have been a satisfied member of AAA-Connecticut since 1974. Recently, however, I have learned that an organization of which AAA is a member has taken a position, allegedly with the support of AAA, that is contrary to my interests.

On April 22, the Land Mobile Communications Council filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (designated RM-9267) that seeks to reallocate the frequency bands 420-430 and 440-450 MHz for the use of the Private Mobile Radio Service. These bands are now heavily used by radio amateurs, operating in the Amateur Radio Service, for a variety of public service and public interest communications. The reallocation proposed by LMCC is incompatible with these operations.

As a licensed radio amateur for 35 years, I am dismayed by the LMCC proposal. I am even more dismayed to find that AAA, an organization I have long supported, is listed as an apparent sponsor of this proposal. I ask you to determine whether AAA has, in fact, adopted a position in support of RM-9267, and if so, what steps can be taken to request reconsideration of this position. If AAA has not adopted a position in support of RM-9267, I request a written statement to that effect.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
David Sumner

Prepared May 12, 1998, by the American Radio Relay League, Inc., as an information service to members.
ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 USA

SKYWARN TRAINING CLASSES

Once again, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring Skywarn Storm Spotter training classes on Sunday, June 14th. at 1:00 p.m. over at the ASO (our usual meeting place). For more details, or to be put on the list, contact Bob WA3PZO or Dave KB3AKK. The classes are sure to fill up early, as they will be the only area classes this year, so don't delay!

FIELD DAY

The 1998 HARC field day will be held at Alverthorpe Park on Jenkintown Road in Abington. If anyone is interested in helping out for the weekend, we could use your help! We will be setting up everything at the June General meeting. So, stop by the HARC General meeting on May 28th. and volunteer your services. Look forward to seeing everyone out at field day on June 27th. & 28th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go out to Kim (wife of Bob WA3PZO) on her passing of her Technician class license! Look forward to hearing you on the air soon!!

And if anyone else upgrades their license class or knows of a person that just received their first ticket, let us know so that we can announce it here in the ASpark@!

SKYWARN Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Here is a brief summary of the Minutes of the SKYWARN Technical Committee out of Mount Holly, NJ from May 20.

There have been over 600 hits to the WX2PHI WebPage. It is located at www.qsl.net/wx2phi. There will be pictures on the page soon. The pictures were taken with a digital camera.

John, WX3TAZ, presented the new SKYWARN Spotter ID cards he made for Joe Miketta.

The idea for a traveling Technical Committee Meeting is not feasible at this time until there are more members in the Committee.

John, WX3TAZ, will start scheduling Net Controls for Thursday Night Nets. Right now there are 5 Net Controllers. They are Rich-N2SMV, Cully-N3HTZ, Rob-WX3ROB, John-WX3TAZ, and Boyd-W2HOB. In order to get more participation, we will open up the Net to all SKYWARN spotters as well as the County Coordinator. You can find the frequencies used on the WX2PHI WebPage.

Rob, WX3ROB, the Chairman of the Technical Committee, asked John, WX3TAZ, and he accepted the position of NEPA Vice Chairman. Cully, N3HTZ, also accepted the position as the SEPA Vice Chairman. Rob will be working on finding Vice Chairpersons for NNJ, SNJ, MD, and DE.

If you are interested in anymore information about the SKYWARN Program, go to the WX2PHI WebPage. If there is something you are interested in, contact either Rob, WX3ROB, at wx3rob@qsl.net, or John, WX3TAZ, at wx3taz@qsl.net.

73,

John Holmes, WX3TAZ
NEPA Vice Chairman/ Secretary
SKYWARN Technical Committee
NWSFO, Mt. Holly, NJ

ATLANTIC DIVISION HAMFEST CALENDAR

+ indicates ARRL Hamfest

MAY 24 + Maryland FM Assn - West Friendship, M
MAY 29-31+ Rochester Hamfest - Rochester, NY
Atlantic Division/NY State Convention
JUN 6 Champlain Valley ARC - Plattsburgh, NY
JUN 7 + Breezeshooters - Butler, PA
JUN 13 + Skyline ARC - Cortland, NY
JUN 21 + Frederick ARC - Frederick, MD
JUL 4 + Harrisburg RAC - Harrisburg, PA
JUL 5 + Murgas ARC - Dallas, PA
JUL 12 + North Hills ARC - Pittsburgh, PA
JUL 12 + Genesee RA - Alexander, NY
JUL 12 Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn - Brunswick, MD
JUL 12 + Mid-Atlantic ARC / Valley Forge - Kimberton, PA
JUL 18 + Utica ARC - Frankfort, NY
JUL 18 + Jonestown Mountain Repeater Assn - Beach Haven, PA
JUL 19 Indiana Co. ARC -
JUL 26 + BRATS - Timonium, MD
AUG 8 Tompkins Co. ARC -
AUG 8 Juniata Valley ARC - near Lewistown, PA
AUG 15 + Rome RC - Westmoreland, NY
AUG 16 Peninsula Radio Operators Soc. - MD
AUG 22 + Pioneer Radio Op Society - Chaffee, NY
AUG 23 + Gloucester Co. ARC - Mullica Hill, NJ
AUG 23 + Greater Buffalo Hamfest / Lancaster ARC - Depew, NY
SEP 12 + RA of Erie - Erie, PA
SEP 12 + Delaware-Lehigh ARC - Schnecksville, PA
SEP 13 + Foundation for Amateur Radio - Gaithersburg, MD
SEP 13 + Butler Co. ARA - Butler, PA
SEP 19 + Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY
Western NY Section Convention
SEP 19 + South Jersey RA - Mt. Holly, NJ
SEP 20 + York Hamfest - York, PA
SEP 26 + Delaware Valley RA - Trenton, NJ
SEP 26 ARA of the Southern Tier - Horseheads, NY
OCT 3 + Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse - Syracuse, NY
OCT 4 + Columbia ARA - West Friendship, MD
OCT 4 Pack Rats - Warrington, PA
OCT 17 + Hanover Area Hamming Assn - Pleasant Hill, PA
OCT 17 + Susquehanna Valley ARC - near Lewisburg, PA
OCT 18 + RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA
OCT 18 Foothills ARC - PA
OCT 25 + Mason-Dixon Hamfest - Westminster, MD