

HAM RAG

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED

Newington, CT USA
February 25TH 2005

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services in the event of reallocation to other services of primary amateur spectrum or the diminution of secondary amateur spectrum. The bill also would cover additional allocations within Amateur Radio bands that "would substantially reduce" their utility to Amateur Service licensees. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his appreciation to Bilirakis this week.

"As president of the American Radio League and on behalf of the more than 670,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout the country, I would like to thank you for once again sponsoring the 'Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act,'" Haynie told the Florida Republican. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor. Bartlett chairs the Projection Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. One of three scientists in the 109th Congress, Bartlett also is a senior member of the House Science Committee.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

For general guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KV3JLF, on the ARRL Web site.

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NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH 2005

PROGRAM

AMATEUR RADIO AND TERRORISM
BY KEITH OWANO, KB9YKM

LOCATION

OSF ST ANTHONY MEDICAL CENTER
5666 EAST STATE STREET
ROCKFORD, IL 61107

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

No President Corner received this month.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Rockford Amateur Radio Association February 11, 2005 General Meeting Minutes St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford IL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Bill Peters, WB9MCZ.

Minutes were read by President Peters. The minutes were corrected to read that at the December meeting Bill Peters, WB9MCZ, read a report that had been submitted by WB9MMM concerning the meeting place at St. Anthony Hospital. Also Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ, RARA Treasurer gave the Treasurer's report. Also Tim's name is Peterson not Peters. N9SH moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected, seconded by Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was read by Carl, W9TQ. Total cash on hand is \$5,767.80. Gene, WB9MMM, moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Tim Peterson, KC9DNN. Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Old Business:

Congratulations to Gary Hilker, K9LJN, and to Dan Hunt, KC9ATR, RARA's duel Hams of the Year. A list of the membership should be ready by the end of March and to be put in the Hamrag.

New Business:

Gary Hilker asked about Dick Fleming, KC9BCB, who had surgery in December. Fred, W9WOQ, reported that he is doing well.

Gene Harlan read from Amateur Radio Newline about the continuing saga of Jack Garretson, KG6IRO, vs. the FCC.

Chuck Ingle, AB9KA inquired about when the Technician class was to be held. No information as yet; this to be discussed at the board meeting.

Shari has tickets for the March 13th Sterling Hamfest.

Dates to look forward to:

Breakfast in the Park, June 11th at Alpine Park in Shelter 1.
Field Day, June 25th and 26th at Alpine Park in Areas 6 and 7.
Family Picnic, August 14th at Alpine Park in Shelter 2.

Sue Peters, KA9GNR, announced that the Weather Spotter class will be held March 19th at the Administration Building at the Greater Rockford Airport. Richard, N9ZO knows of two weather spotter classes to be held at Highland Community College in Freeport. Contact Scott Allshouse W9SBA for information.

Gene Harlan announce that the RARA ATV group meeting will be February 19th at his QTH at 9 AM. Then a pizza meeting with the ATV'ers from around the region will be at John's Pizza on 11th Street at 4 PM March 12. This will include family members as a social gathering.

Bill Peters announced that the Arne Johnson Run will be April 3rd. KA9BOD is organizing this event.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM by Chuck Derwent, K9SAN, seconded by Dave Bond, W9MG.

A great program followed about Courage Handi-Hams presented by Pierre, K9EYE, from Crystal Lake and his guide dog Lucky.

Shari Harlan - N9SH, ARRL Illinois Section Manager

W5YI TESTING

Amateur radio exams for all classes are given by W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners the third Saturday of every month at OSF St Anthony Medical Center; 5666 East State Street Rockford, IL 61107 in the St. Francis Room.

The tests are given beginning at 9 A.M. with no applicants after 10:30 A.M. Fee for the session is \$14.⁰⁰ Walk-ins are always welcome.

All applicants must show two forms of identification with their signature on them, one which must include a photograph such as a drivers license. All licensed amateurs and/or holders of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination must show the original and leave a copy.

For further information, contact Randy Scott W9HL at (815) 877-4328 or via email at w9hl@arrrl.net.

[information submitted by Randy Scott W9HL]

ARRL LETTER

FCC Morse, Restructuring Proposals Could Hit the Street by Mid-Year: March 4th 2005, The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC is planning to tackle all 18 rulemaking petitions within the framework of a single proceeding.

As far as the code issue is concerned, petitions--and comments in response to them--run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.) The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions. While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-2005, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM will initiate yet another round of public comments - this time on what the FCC has proposed. An FCC Report and Order to implement any new rules re-

FEBRUARY RESULTS

For the month of February we had one applicant resulting in one upgrade.

Alvin Alexander, KC9GIO, - Upgrade to General

garding Morse code and license restructuring is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then.

Anticipated Peter I Island DXpedition Postponed Until 2006: February 28th 2005, The anticipated Peter I Island (Antarctica) 3Y0X DXpedition (www.peterone.com/main.htm) has been called off at the eleventh hour. The DXpedition team announced February 17 that its charter vessel, the Cavendish Sea, has been delayed until February 20 instead of the hoped-for February 18. With a projected February 21 departure, the DXpedition ran out of time. "This latest delay, on top of numerous previous delays, simply makes it impossible for us to spend a sufficient amount of time on Peter I to justify the DXpedition this year," said the announcement from Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR. "So, we have no choice but to postpone the DXpedition until 2006." The DXpedition's first vessel and helicopter backed out at the last minute, forcing the team to quickly regroup with a new vessel and helicopter earlier this week.

FCC Proposes Holding the Line on Vanity Call Sign Fee: February 28th 2005, The FCC has proposed retaining the current \$20.80 Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee for the 10-year license term. The fee went from \$16.³⁰ to \$20.⁸⁰ last August. In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2005" (MD Docket 05-59) released February 15, the FCC says it's proposing to collect more than \$280 million in regulatory fees for fiscal year 2005, as mandated by Congress "to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities." The FCC anticipates 8000 vanity call sign applications during FY2005 - up from 7800 applications in FY2004 - and it expects to raise \$166,443 from vanity call sign fees.

**ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

SINGLE ADULT: \$25⁰⁰ ADULT W/ FAMILY: \$30⁰⁰
SINGLE SENIOR: \$15⁰⁰ SENIOR W/ FAMILY: \$20⁰⁰
STUDENT: \$15⁰⁰

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via e-mail.

HAM RAG VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE: \$12⁰⁰

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ RETIRED _____

RADIO INTEREST _____

OTHER INTEREST _____

SUGGESTIONS: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126

**Rockford Amateur
Radio Association,
Inc.**

P. O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

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**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**