THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 17 © Issue 01 January 2006

Randall McCloy

KC8VKZ

No change in condition of West Virginia mine disaster survivor (Jan 10, 2006) -- The medical condition of Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 3 Sago mine explosion that claimed the lives of a dozen of his co-workers, remains essentially unchanged. The 26-year-old father of two is still in critical condition at West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. He continues under sedation, but doctors report McCloy has activity on both sides of his brain, has moved his eyelids, bitten down on his feeding tube and clasped the hand of his wife, Anna. Lloyd Robinson, W8ZT, says McCloy's brother-in-law, Rick McGee, told him McCloy's vital signs are good. "He was talking to Randal about going fishing, and Randal was nodding his head and moving his hand and squeezing his," Robinson told a news group. "He is not opening his eyes as of yet." Robinson said the family is "overwhelmed by the support and prayers." McCloy, a Technician licensee who lives in Simpson, West Virginia, earlier underwent treatment in a hyperbaric chamber at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to counteract the effects of exposure to carbon monoxide and dust. An investigation is under way into the cause of the mine explosion that trapped McCloy and the 12 other miners some 260 feet underground for more than 40 hours. The incident is being called the worst mining disaster in more than 35 years. Hams may wish to send a note of support on a QSL card to Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, PO Box 223, Philippi, WV. 26435. At press time it was unconfirmed that his condition has improved and he was being transferred to Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia.

145.17 Repeater Antenna Installation went Smoothly

Good News! The new antenna was installed this morning by N2LUD, N2OWC, N2PEK, N1JP, K2EP, K2BX and Mike & Son. Everything went along very smoothly and the complete installation took a little more than a couple of hours. I'd really like to thank the guys from the Albany Amateur Radio Association for volunteering their services. They're a really "First Class" group and this just proves it! The old antenna will be used as a backup antenna once Roy repairs it.

Below are names of those that have donated towards the replacement of our damaged 2 Meter Telewave Antenna for the 145.17 MHz Repeater.

As you can see we've added 1 more donations today!
73 de NY2U "Mr.Bill"

DONATIONS AS OF JANUARY 2, 2006

SANTA $200.00	**KS2O & KB2SPM $50.00**
NY2U $50.00	**KC2NMX $25.00**
N2MOA $20	**WB2HPR $100.00**
WA2TQK & Buddy "Ralph" $50.00	
KB2KFV & KB2JZI $25.00	**KC2BSC $50.00**
N2OWC & N2PEK $50.00	**KA2KVZ $50.00**
NK2Y $25.00	**W2RMW $50.00**
N2TJM $40.00	**KC2MNW $25.00**
WA2IWW $25.00	**KC2HNC $50.00**

$885.00 **Donations To-date**

Thanks again to all of Our Supporters for your Generosity

More than a Club SKYWARN *We're a Family*

Local “Hams” Set World Distance Record

Here is a story with some local flavor. Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, in the article below works very closely with Dick Frey, WA2AAU, of the W2SZ - RPI Radio Club, Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force.

73 de NY2U "Mr. Bill"

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Did you hear?

By Tom Wilmoth

Larry Stanecker, WA2OLP, of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club, reported this week that Brian Justin, WA1ZMS set a new world distance record on December 8th when he and Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, with “Geep” Howell, WA4RTS assisting, held a two way conversation on the new 134 Gigahertz Amateur Radio band.

The spanned distance of 60.1 km (approximately 37.3 miles) between Apple Orchard Mountain, off the Blue Ridge Parkway, and a spot east of route 29 north of Gretna not only set a new world record , but brought the record back to the United States. Justin indicated that the former record of 56.4 km was held by two Japanese hams.

“World distance records set on the VHF (very high frequency) and UHF (ultra high frequency) Amateur Radio bands are like land speed records - they are made to be broken,” Justin said.

True to his word, the team of Justin and Lascell broke their own world record on December 14 when they set a new, and of this moment, the current world record of 79.6 km from Apple Orchard Mountain to a community near Copper Hill, Va., again using the 134 Gigahertz Amateur Radio band.

While discussing this newest record, Justin indicated that between Dec. 8 and Dec. 14 he and Lascell had actually set two additional world records - but didn't bother reporting them.

Justin said that as one moves higher in frequency, from the VHF region of the radio spectrum into the UHF region, radio waves take on some rather peculiar characteristics. In addition to traveling in straight lines, moisture in the atmosphere absorbs the energy.

Add to this, the fact that it becomes more difficult, and expensive, to generate high power levels on these frequencies. As a result, world distance records are relatively short and to take advantage of the lowest humidity levels, most records are set on the coldest nights in winter.

Justin's main interest in Amateur Radio is exploring the propagation of radio signals in the VHF and UHF portions of the radio spectrum - and setting world records for distance in the process. He currently holds world records on six different Amateur Radio bands and at one time or another held 18 or 20 records. He said he lost track of the exact number - most of which have been broken, many by his team.

Stanecker states that one can appreciate that these microwave frequencies are not commonly used by the majority of Amateur Radio operators and as a result, as one goes higher in frequency, there is little or no commercially available transmitters and receivers. Justin designs and builds all his own equipment - in fact, since he must have someone to talk to, he builds two complete stations, Stanecker added. Justin, Lascell and Howell are members of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club; in addition Justin is a member of the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force. The MGEF is an organization of Amateur Radio operators, most of whom are current or alumni members of the RPI Amateur Radio Club of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute located in Troy, NY. The members of the MGEF are primarily interested in the VHF and UHF portions of the Amateur Radio spectrum.

When pursuing new world distance records, Justin uses the MGEF's Amateur Radio call sign - W2SZ, rather than his own. Stanecker stated. Additional information about the organization can be found at www.mgef.org

Justin is a radio frequency engineer employed by M/A-Com. He resides in Forest with his wife Laura who holds a degree in Chemical Engineering.

MIchael Powell leaves his 2005 Legacy

Nepotism doesn't fall far from the Bush. He may have succeeded in stuffing federal coffers with millions of dollars in indecency fines and triggering the fallout that eventually pushed Howard Stern off the radio, but Powell's Legacy will most likely go down as Colin's little boy who carried the cross for Pat Robertson and fanatic friends plus his refusal to fairly weigh the pro's and con's of the Broadband over Power line Issue. He repeatedly supported the side of BIG BUSINESS and the POWER COMPANIES even though it violated Federal Statute.

Powell's War against Howard Stern, although Howard and his stations were heavily fined only succeeded to make Howard more popular with the publicity of Powell's One Man Crusade against him.

As a result Howard is $500 million dollars richer, because he is now a star on XM RADIO. The bleeping and digital blurring has ended. Now we'll have to pay a monthly fee to get our unedited fix of drunken dwarfs and porn star amputees. Stern and his dedicated minions
will continue to pay and Howard will get richer and will laugh at Powell all the way to the Bank.

Congratulations, Michael Powell you left a great mark on history.

Echolink Saves Life Of Ham Having Heart Attack

As I sat in front of my computer with Echolink on and connected to The Missing Lynk System a message comes across that fellow ham needs help. G4WDI was suffering from a heart attack right at his home while talking on the radio. WA4VWV was chatting with James when it happened and this is an email that was sent to me directly from Steve, WA4VWV:

"James...you sounded like things were not going well...and then I got the text message that simply said "HELP"

We rallied the troops and had the paramedics dispatched to your QTH. Hope you didn't mind that friends of yours was concerned, but when I get a message that says "HELP" then be assured that I will gather every resource available to make sure it happens.

It took several folks on MissLynk to assist and gents from Indiana, Arizona and Washington were directly involved and the entire network went quiet until we were sure that assistance was on the way. Geez, talk about the spirit and intent of amateur radio. We all anxiously await positive news!

Let me know what you can, when you can. Take care and be well!

73 de Steve, WA4VWV"

Also sent in another email was an update:

"Let the record show that our good gang did, in fact, save a life. The British Army Air Corps responded and found him damned near flatlined, fired up a chopper and flew him off. Apparently he was on O2, along with CPR during the flight.

A rush trip to the ER of his local hospital brought him around and about 4:15 this AM I got the word that all is once again well. Hey guys...let's face the reality of last night. Were it not for the "system" and some heroic reactions, we might have had a Silent Key on our hands. By all means, this should be an Amateur Radio Newsline item. What a classic example of our hobby, with several people involved, quite actually saving a life of a fellow ham in a whole different part of the world. Geez, am I proud of our collective efforts! Thanks to all involved! This not to pump sunshine up our skirts, but an acknowledgement of a job well done!

73 de WA4VWV"

Just goes to show, doesn't matter what you use as a tool as long as it's for the greater good.

Tech Talk

My Wi-Fi Zone

I have done many articles over the years on how to spot and properly defend you local area network from intruders. I have described everything from what to do with firewall hits, viewing router logs, locking down your wireless network, and even how to securely use Hot Spots. However, I have yet to run across a good program that can help you monitor what's happening on your wireless networks. Until now...

This week I ran across a little gem of a program that will help you keep an eye on who's using or attempting to use your wireless connection without your consent or knowledge. This issue has been the focus of many legal debates lately. Should it be legal to connect to your neighbor's wireless network when they in fact are the ones broadcasting the signal onto your property? I don't feel that this is right, but it goes on. In fact, it goes on everyday, as more and more end-users have WiFi capability.

Over the past two to three years, the number of wireless networks in homes is seriously on the rise, and according to McAfee, 20 to 60 percent of these networks are completely unsecured. I have personally noticed that between home and here at the office, there have been several new wireless networks broadcasting their SSID all over the place (300 to 500ft), and if you have a wireless network, there's a possibility you're doing it right now too.

With today's **Security Article**, rightly named My WiFi Zone, you can obtain the access to drop any potential wireless trespassers. Every time a new system attempts to access your network, a small balloon will pop up in the lower right hand corner of your desktop alerting you of the actions taking place. You can quickly scrutinize any connection attempts by viewing the information in this pop up and comparing it to the information of the systems you are responsible for. If you choose not to authorize this unknown entity attempting to gain access to your network, then simply select **Deny** from the pop up window and bingo-bango, this party crasher is stopped cold.

Everyone using a wireless router should have some sort of WiFi monitoring software on his or her system, and with My WiFi Zone, you get this protection for free. So protect yourself from WiFi interlopers with My WiFi Zone. It's easy to use and free. Now that's a deal.

Here are those "My WiFi Zone" raw links to check out:

-Former articles done on WiFi defense and other related links:

· **Wireless Security**: http://www.worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/172

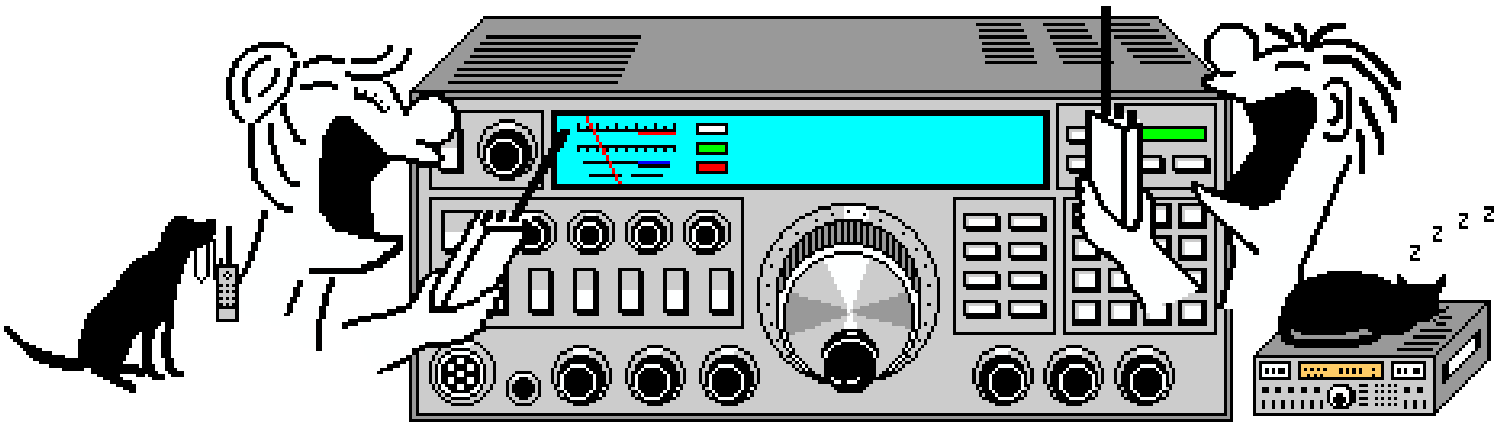
· **Securely Using Hot Spots**: http://www.worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/1322

· **Router Logs & Firewall Hits**: http://www.worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/1510

· **Firewall Hits**: http://www.worldstart.com/tips/tips.php/1549

-Link to "My WiFi Zone" download: http://www.mywifizone.com/download1.asp?version=3

Chad Stelnicki
Worldstart.com



HAM RADIO - USE IT - OR LOSE IT

NOAA Weather Radio Primer

Monitor Severe Weather Alerts And More

By Joseph Pasquini

From the November 2005 Edition of "Scanning USA" magazine
http://www.scanningusa.com
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One of the best values for our federal taxpayer dollars – and of interest to radio enthusiasts as well as to the public in general - is NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Just about every scanner and communications receiver ever produced is capable of receiving this VHF-based informational and early warning radio service. With advances in technology, the format and the scope of this National Weather Service production has evolved over the years. Thanks to such improvements as enhanced RADAR imaging and analysis, an expanded alerting system, the use of SKYWARN spotters and the implementation of computer synthesized broadcasters, NWS forecasters are more prepared than ever to deliver potentially life saving information in a more efficient manner to the audience which it serves.

WHAT IS NWR?

Best defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) itself, NWR is an all-hazards public warning system, broadcasting forecasts, warnings and emergency information 24 hours a day directly to the general public. Recognized as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is comprised of a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information and is offered by NOAA as a public service. Each National Weather Service office is assigned an area of responsibility, and local NWR stations broadcast warnings, watches, special statements, forecasts and other hazard-related information 24 hours a day throughout the coverage area. Today, NWR includes more than 900 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories.

In the 1950s, the old Weather Bureau - the precursor of the modern National Weather Service began broadcasting aviation weather across two stations. During the 1960s, stations were added for marine users. By the late 1970s, the system spanned over 300 stations and increased to more than 600 transmitters by 2001. According to NOAA, the number of stations today exceeds 900 with coverage at over a rate of 90%.

There are seven frequencies used throughout the NWR network: 162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525, 162.550 MHz. Each station is licensed to broadcast on one of these frequencies. NWR stations have a typical range of 40 miles but it does vary by terrain and conditions. Depending upon your location, you may be able to monitor more than one station. When possible, you should obviously try to listen to the one that serves your specific area during severe weather periods.

NWR is also capable of disseminating information regarding many types of hazards, not just weather concerns. The National Weather Service is considered the primary communications medium for the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Homeland Security's National Response Plan. The purpose of the EAS is to broadcast official emergency information to the general public within a specific region; the National Response Plan establishes a comprehensive "All-Hazards" approach designed to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents.

As part of the all-hazards concept, NWR broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of emergency situations:

- Natural (e.g., weather, floods, earthquakes, volcanic activity, forest fires, etc.)
- Environmental, whether accidental or intentional (e.g., chemical spills, nuclear incidents, etc.) Law enforcement and other local emergency support activities (e.g., Amber alerts, bridge collapses, terrorist attacks, etc.).

According to the NWS, the radio network is used to disseminate non-weather related emergency messages when they originate from an official government source, time is critical and the public safety is at risk. When governmental officials want to broadcast a non-weather message on NWR, the officials provide text information about the hazard and the appropriate response directly to the local NWS offices. In order to facilitate the process, NWS offices typically have pre-arranged agreements setup with the various governmental entities.

DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER **145.170/449.225** **CHECK-IN & MONITOR**

SKYWARN

SOUNDING THE ALARM

During an emergency, NWS forecasters interrupt routine NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts and send a special tone intended to trigger local weather radio receivers. When the 1050 Hz tone is received by the weather radio, the receiver is activated so that the broadcast can be instantly heard by the listener. Though this method was functional and undoubtedly saved many lives, it also became a nuisance to some listeners due to the radio being activated for events often many counties away from the listener. As a result, early radios were often turned off altogether by their owners in exchange for a good night's sleep. While the alerts had their benefits, it was clear that a mechanism designed to target alerts towards a specific audience needed to be developed if the broadcasts were to be most effective.

NWR BROADCAST DEFINITIONS

- **WARNING**: A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurring. A warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property.
- **WATCH**: A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so that those who need to set their plans in motion can do so.
- **EMERGENCY**: An emergency refers to an event that by itself would not kill, injure or do property damage but indirectly may lead to other things that could result in a hazard.
-

In 1994, NOAA began broadcasting coded signals called SAME (Specific Area Messaging System). This SAME code contains the type of message and the county or counties affected. SAME was developed by the National Weather Service to diminish the number of alerts received by NWR listeners by allowing them to hear the alerts only for the county or counties they are interested in thus increasing the effectiveness of the broadcasts. Rather than turning off their radios due to alerts for distant areas during the middle of the night, NWR listeners could instead leave their SAME-capable receivers turned on all the time.

Each digitally encoded SAME alert contains information about the type of alert, as well as the specific geographic locations affected by the alert and the expiration time of the message. The SAME burst is then followed by a ten second broadcast of the standard 1050 Hertz warning alarm tone. Once the tone is sent, an audio feed composed of additional information is then received.

While any VHF receiver and many transceivers are capable of picking up the audio portion of NWR broadcasts, a NOAA weather radio receiver or scanner is required to monitor alert broadcasts. An appropriately programmed NWR SAME receiver will then turn on for that message, with the listener hearing the 1050 Hz warning alarm tone as an attention signal, followed by the broadcast message. Depending on the characteristics of the receiver, the digitally encoded SAME transmissions may be heard as a very brief static burst by the listener. At the end of the message, listeners may hear another brief static burst which indicates an end-of-message. Following the broadcast, the NWR station may either resume its normal programming or preempt it with special statements regarding the situation if it is ongoing.

The geographic locations are designated using Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes. Each county or similar political division in the US and its territories are assigned a FIPS code. In addition, certain special regions and wildcard settings can be assigned. In order to program a SAME capable receiver, you need to know the six digit code for county or counties

whose alerts you want to monitor. Once you have that information, program your NWR SAME receiver following the directions supplied by the manufacturer. FIPS codes are available from NOAA's website at http://www.weather.gov/nwr/ or by telephone at 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263).

FIPS codes are in the format *nSSCCC*:

- **n**: A special designator for dividing a county into more than one region. This is especially helpful for counties covering large areas of that experience drastically different types of weather. For an entire county, a '0' is used.
- **SS**: The state code.
- **CCC**: The county code.

For example, Schoharie County in New York is assigned a FIPS code of 036095.

- 0 indicates the entire county
- 36 indicates the state of New York
- 095 indicates Schoharie County

NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies (in MHz)

162.400	162.425
162.450	162.475
162.500	162.525
162.550	

County codes are typically assigned by alphabetical order starting with 001 and incrementing by a count of 2. As a result, a buffer zone is created between each code designation allowing for future growth caused by county or sub-county designation changes.

EVENT FILTERING

In addition to the FIPS information, SAME transmissions also include information detailing the type of event. In May of 2002, the FCC added adding numerous new civil emergency, weather and natural disaster event code types. Warnings, watches, and statements that may activate the NWR SAME system include, but are not limited to, the following products:

Weather Related Events

- Blizzard Warning
- Coastal Flood Watch
- Coastal Flood Warning
- Dust Storm Warning
- Flash Flood Watch
- Flash Flood Warning
- Flash Flood Statement
- Flood Watch
- Flood Warning
- Flood Statement
- High Wind Watch
- High Wind Warning
- Hurricane Watch
- Hurricane Warning
- Hurricane Statement
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Severe Weather Statement
- Special Marine Warning
- Special Weather Statement
- Tornado Watch
- Tornado Warning
- Tropical Storm Watch
- Tropical Storm Warning
- Tsunami Watch
- Tsunami Warning
- Winter Storm Watch
- Winter Storm Warning

Non-Weather-Related Events (National)

- Emergency Action Notification (Not currently implemented)
- Emergency Action Termination (Not currently implemented)
- National Information Center

Non-Weather-Related Events (Relayed from Local Authorities)

- Avalanche Watch
- Avalanche Warning
- Child Abduction Emergency
- Civil Danger Warning
- Civil Emergency Message

Non-Weather-Related Events (Relayed from Local Authorities) **Continued**

- Earthquake Warning
- Evacuation Immediate
- Fire Warning
- Hazardous Materials Warning
- Law Enforcement Warning
- Local Area Emergency
- 911 Telephone Outage Emergency
- Nuclear Power Plant Warning
- Radiological Hazard Warning
- Shelter in Place Warning
- Volcano Warning

Administrative Events

- Administrative Message
- National Periodic Test (Not currently implemented)
- Network Message Notification (Not currently implemented)
- Practice/Demo Warning
- Required Monthly Test
- Required Weekly Test

While many NOAA weather radios and now scanners and communication receivers offer SAME decoding using the county FIPS codes, a few high-end NOAA weather receivers also feature the ability to filter received messages by both the FIPS regional code and the event type. The computer programmable **Emergency Alert Radio** (EAR) from MTS Communication Products (http://mts-comm.com), for example, only activates when both the FIPS and event codes match those programmed into the radio. The now discontinued Radio Shack **7-Channel NWR-SAME Weatheradio with USB Interface** (catalog number 12-258) also provided for simultaneous FIPS and event filtering.

CONCLUSION

For the average listener, monitoring NOAA Weather Radio on a normal, uneventful day may not be very exciting. But, when severe weather or other emergencies strike, not only is the information interesting – it more importantly has to potential to save both lives and property. For radio enthusiasts, however, NWR offers more than weather and other hazard information. Even if you don't take advantage of the radio services offered by the National Weather Service, monitoring more distant NWR stations makes an excellent means of determining VHF propagation!

AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN PROCESSING WILL RESUME JANUARY 4

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines. The Commission said licensees or applicants needing relief beyond the initial extension periods should follow the process for submitting waiver requests provided in §1.925 of the Commission's rules.

"The Bureau will consider additional relief related to the hurricanes on a case-by-case basis," the FCC said December 19th in a public notice.

Earlier this year, the FCC announced it would extend filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida directly affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. During the extension periods, the WTB temporarily suspended certain automated licensing functions. These included dismissing applications that are returned and not amended on a timely basis, changing the status of a call sign from active to expired if a license is not renewed within the two-year grace period for Amateur Radio licensees, and issuing vanity call signs.

In September, the FCC said it had to suspend routine vanity call sign processing because the extensions included the two-year grace period and could conceivably affect the vanity program.

ARRL Experimenting with Icom D-Star Digital System

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 14, 2005--Thanks to the generosity of Icom, MFJ and NCG (Comet), the ARRL has embarked on a project to learn firsthand what D-Star digital technology has to offer and to assess its capabilities in a real-world Amateur Radio environment. Icom, so far the only ham radio manufacturer offering D-Star equipment, has donated a D-Star voice repeater (model ID-RP2V), data repeater (model ID-RP2D) and controller (model ID-RP2C) to W1AW. Eight model ID-1 D-Star 10 W mobile transceivers are on loan from the manufacturer.

"We appreciate Icom's cooperation and support as we explore D-Star's capabilities and learn more about digital radio systems," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said in expressing the League's gratitude.

MFJ donated an MFJ-1532N Pulsar, which is serving as the transmitting antenna, while NCG contributed a pair of Comet GP21 antennas for receiving digital data and voice for the 1.2 GHz (23 cm) multipurpose D-Star system. The antennas have been installed on two of the W1AW antenna support structures.

Although still in the early phase, the project plans to exercise the technology's digital voice and data capabilities as well as its capability to become part of a wider D-Star digital repeater network via an Internet gateway.

Icom Amateur Products Division Manager Ray Novak, N9JA, says the D-Star standard, first published four years ago, resulted from government-funded research in Japan administered by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) to investigate Amateur Radio digital technologies. Novak emphasizes that D-Star is an open protocol that's available for implementation by anyone, and Icom is working with other manufacturers to get more D-Star compatible gear on the market.

"Amateur Radio is again out there in the forefront of technology," Novak says. Although he concedes there's a steep learning curve ahead, he predicts Amateur Radio users will invent new ways to put D-Star technology to work as they get better acquainted with its possibilities.

At this stage, the D-Star 23-cm repeater is up and running in digital voice mode, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, and ARRL Web and Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, enjoyed the first contact through the repeater on November 30. In the meantime, Bloom has been working to interface the D-Star system with a *Linux* server, which will serve as an Internet gateway, to check out that aspect of the system.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ (left), accepts a donation of Icom D-Star equipment on behalf of ARRL from Icom's Ray Novak, N9JA.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, with the installed Icom D-Star voice and digital repeaters and repeater controller.

Matt Strelow, KC1XX, installs the donated MFJ-1532N Pulsar transmitting antenna for the 1.2 GHz D-Star system.

Icom D-Star System

Novak says the digital voice stream can simultaneously handle voice at 3600 bps with error correction and data at up to 1200 bps. Since a D-Star voice signal occupies only 6.25 kHz, Novak says, the potential is there to make more efficient use of available spectrum on 2 meters by squeezing up to four D-Star repeaters into the same space as two analog channels. New repeater modules are in development for 2 meters and 70 cm, he said.

Working through a D-Star repeater is a bit different than using an analog repeater. While the basic "repeater" concept is the same, some aspects are altogether new. Your call sign is the key to a D-Star system since it's incorporated into every transmission you make, Novak explains. "Because of D-Star's call sign-routed system, registered users are able to cross-communicate with stations registered on another network's D-Star repeater, wherever it may be."

This means that if a user calls a station registered elsewhere, the voice transmission would be routed to the appropriate repeater where it would be heard just as though both stations were using the same repeater.

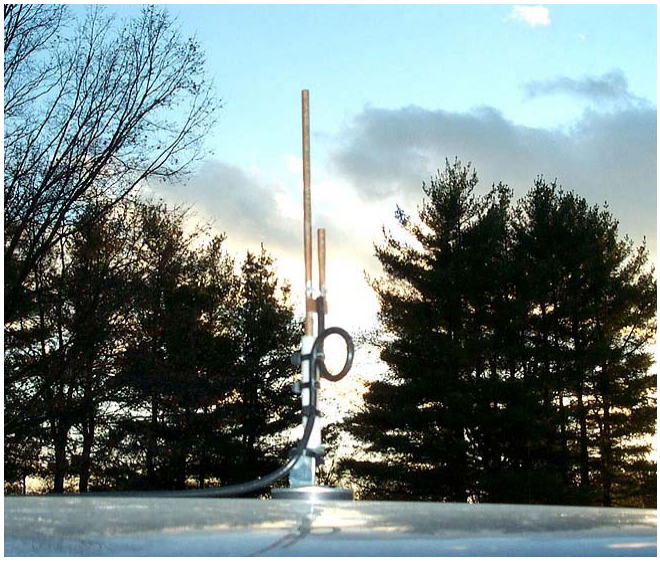
Novak says the 1.2 GHz D-Star system's high-speed data capability is another exciting feature. "The high-speed data stream has a data rate of 128 kbps and a maximum occupied bandwidth of 130 kHz. "With the Ethernet jack on the Icom ID-1 transceiver, you now have the functionality of an ISDN (integrated services digital network) line available in your vehicle."

Icom has VHF and UHF D-Star user radios are available now, Novak says, and repeaters are in the prototype phase. He expects these to be on the market before Dayton Hamvention in May.

"We'll have to find new ways of using this technology," he said. "That will be where ham radio changes. This opens up an unbelievable array of features for repeater systems--including graphics, schedules, tables, photos, you name it!"

A D-Star Last Heard Report page on the Web lists stations heard, their location and the date and time and, sometimes, type of transmission. The K5TIT Dallas D-Star Web site includes a repeater listing and a discussion forum, and a promise of more to come.

Carcia checks out the ID-1 D-Star transceiver in his vehicle.



Using copper tubing, Carcia fashioned his own mag-mount mobile antenna for 1.2 GHz for use with the Icom ID-1 D-Star transceiver.

145.170 **Tune in Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM** **449.225**

For the

TARA International Trader Net

***** ECHOLINK *****

FRANKS FUNNIES

A GOOD PUN IS ITS OWN RE-WORD

Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.
A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.
A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
Corduroy pillows are making headlines.
Is a book on voyeurism a peeping tome?
Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.
Without geometry, life is pointless.
When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.
Reading while sunbathing makes you well-red.
A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
What's the definition of a will? (Come on, it's a dead giveaway!)
A backwards poet writes inverse.
In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes.
A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
Every calendar's days are numbered.
A lot of money is tainted. It t'aint yours and it t'aint mine.
A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
Acupuncture is a jab well done.

John Sweeney K9EL To Direct "CQ DX MARATHON"

Hicksville, New York - January 5, 2006 - CQ magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, today announced the appointment of John Sweeney, K9EL, of Schaumburg, Illinois, as Manager of the new CQ DX Marathon program. The Marathon is part of CQ's three-pronged "Waking Up DXing" program announced in the magazine last year. The year-long DXing competition began on January 1.

John is an accomplished DXer, with some 30 years of experience both in chasing DX and being DX, operating from a variety of rare locations during the course of a nearly 30-year career with Motorola. He is now a telecommunications consultant. He has worked more than 300 countries on each of the major HF ham bands except 80 and 160 meters, and he's closing in on 80, with 280 confirmed. He needs only North Korea on CW to have "worked them all" on both phone and CW.

"We are very pleased to have K9EL at the helm of the Marathon program," said Moseson, "and we are very confident that he will get it off to a solid start, both in terms of logistics and promotion."

"I am very excited to have the opportunity to participate in this program and I look forward to working with the DX community," added Sweeney. "CQ has given me so much over the years. Here is my chance to give something back."

The CQ DX Marathon is a cross between an award and a contest. It runs for a full year at a time, with competitors trying to contact as many countries and CQ zones as possible within the year. There are no carryovers from year to year, however, and everyone starts fresh each New Year's Day.

The original CQ DX Marathon was run in 1947, as an effort to promote DXing activity as ham radio came back to life after World War II. After one year, the program "morphed" into the highly successful CQ World Wide DX Contest. The decision to bring it back was part of a three-pronged response by CQ to perceptions that DXing activity outside of contests was dropping off. The other two new programs are the CQ DX Field Award and the CQ iDX Award. Information on all three programs is available on the CQ website at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com

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THE TARA NEWS

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Visit us on the Internet
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Regular monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
7:30 p.m.
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