



# THE PROPAGATOR

8 Donner St.  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD

**AUGUST 2010**

## UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, August 4 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. This will be a regular business meeting. For all meetings, guests are welcome and refreshments will be served. Please try to attend.

The second meeting in August, also at the Red Cross, will be on **Wednesday, August 18 at 7:30 PM** and will feature our own Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK talking about "Storm Chasing." It should be an interesting topic, especially as we near the peak of hurricane season. As always, refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

## FCC MODIFIES RULES FOR DRILLS

In a Report and Order (R&O) released Wednesday, July 14, the FCC amended Part 97.113 to allow amateurs to participate without an FCC waiver in government-sponsored disaster preparedness drills on behalf of their employers participating in the exercise. The FCC also has amended the rules to allow employees to participate in non-government drills and exercises up to one hour per week and up to two 72 hour periods during the year. The effective date of the R&O is to be determined and will be 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register. Read more here. (*See background information starting on page 7. - Ed*)

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 22, 2010

## GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

Have you checked it out recently?

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the Martin family to GSARA. They live in Valatie, New York but have a summer place in Sea Girt. The licensed members of the family include Gia Martin, KC2WLT, who is a jeweler/gemologist and sons Philip Martin, KC2YBJ age 14 and Richard Martin, KC2YKT age 13. They all hold technician licenses and own a Yaesu VX-7R handheld transceiver. Please add:

**KC2WLT**, Gia Martin  
433 Rapp Road  
Valatie, NY 12184  
646-639-3875  
kc2wlt@arrl.net

**KC2YBJ**, Philip Martin  
433 Rapp Road  
Valatie, NY 12184  
646-639-3875

**KC2YKT**, Richard Martin  
433 Rapp Road  
Valatie, NY 12184  
646-639-3875

Please welcome Ralph Ciappa, KC2YNL from Freehold, NJ. Ralph recently got his Technician license and is retired from the police department and Jersey City water. Please add to your roster:

**KC2YNL**, Ralph Ciappa  
16 Greenwood Drive  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-761-8673

Please welcome James Arthofer from Jackson, NJ. James is an electrician studying for his technician license and hopes to obtain it soon.

**No Call**, James Arthofer  
201 Grant Lane  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
732-749-5651  
drumroll@optonline.com

## GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Vice Pres.	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
Engineer	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
Publicity	NJ2H	Bill Shockley	207-4466
Trustees	KG2NV	Don Pingitore	229-2925
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	WA2FVL	Jack Keating	264-7670

## PROPAGATOR AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

Would you like to help the finances of GSARA and at the same time get your issue of *The Propagator* a few days earlier? You can get every issue e-mailed to your computer every month by simply giving your e-mail address to Josh Gluck, KC2TKK and request *The Propagator* electronically. Josh's e-mail address is <kc2tkk@gardenatateara.org>.

## BADGES AND PATCHES

If you would like a GSARA name badge, you may order one by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$7.00 payment.

We also now have patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

## OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). We then send them as a group at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

## PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

Click on "The Propagator" and then select the month you want.

## HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

<http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Special thanks to Ken Hampton, KY2S who provided several missing issues of *The Propagator* to make my archive collection more complete. I still have a few missing months but they may not have ever been issued. In the early days of *The Propagator*, it was not unusual to miss publishing a particular month.

For the past several months, the ARRL Letter has published short versions of their various stories and provided a link on the internet for those wishing get more information. I have generally followed that same pattern when I include these stories in *The Propagator*. For those getting *The Propagator* electronically, this works quite well as you simply have to click on the link pointer and you will automatically get the additional information. It doesn't work quite as easily for those receiving paper copies of *The Propagator* as the link url is not given. I toyed with the idea of providing the actual urls but what little feedback I received about this indicated that it wasn't necessary and was another source of possible error since some of the urls are very long and complex. In cases where I think that the additional information might be useful (and I have room), I have printed the additional material.

For example, regarding the FCC rule change for employees participating in drills reported on page one, I thought many would be interested in some of the background material on this subject so have included it on pages 7 and 8. I'd like to know what you think about this approach. Do you want more short stories featured or would you prefer more depth in fewer stories? Please let me know.

If you are interested in obtaining a [gardenstateara.org](mailto:gardenstateara.org) email address which will give you webmail and POP3/SMTP access, please send an email to Josh at [kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org](mailto:kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org) with your First Name, Last Name, and Call Sign. Your email address [call\\_sign@gardenstateara.org](mailto:call_sign@gardenstateara.org) will be created and the login information sent back to the email address your request came from.

Remember if you change your e-mail address; please be sure to inform Josh Gluck, KC2TKK.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for *The Propagator*. The deadline for the September issue is August 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

## MINUTES OF JULY 7 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Red Cross at 7:30 PM. There were 15 members and two guests present. The guests were Ralph Ciappa, KC2YNL from Freehold and James Arthofer from Jackson. After the pledge to the flag, all members introduced themselves.

### Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Tom, N2VFK to accept the minutes of the June meetings as published in the July Propagator. The motion was accepted unanimously.

### Correspondence

A QSL request was received regarding the January K2USA operation and another received regarding Field Day. Both were turned over to Jeff, N2LXM.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ gave his report. A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Tom, N2VFK to accept the report. The motion was accepted unanimously.

### New Members

An application for membership was received from Ralph Ciappa, KC2YNL from Freehold. Another application was received from James Arthofer from Jackson who does not yet have his license. Both were unanimously approved for membership.

### Old Business

Field Day results were about the same as last year. The details will be reviewed at the July 21 meeting. Joe, W2KQ was interviewed for the WBCQ International Radio Show.

### New Business

The NJDXA Hamfest will be next held on Sunday, September 12 at the Maecom parking lot (same as it was on May 23). To be more successful, more volunteer help is needed. To that end, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Tom, N2VFK that GSARA team up with NJDXA for the September 12 Hamfest. If there is a loss, it will be shared 50-50 between the two organizations. If there is a profit, it will be shared between the organizations in proportion to the number of volunteer hours put in by each organization's

members. The motion was amended by Bruce, K2QXW to authorize Frank, W2XYZ to represent GSARA in all subsequent negotiations with NJDXA. The motion and its amendment passed unanimously.

Tom, N2VFK reported that the ARCS Corp. was formed many years ago to coordinate the volunteer amateur public service communication activities. As the years passed, the ARCS Corp. has become less effective. It is proposed that these activities come under the GSARA umbrella. In such cases, donations from the served agencies would go to GSARA and in return, GSARA would provide the liability insurance for the participants. After much discussion, it was decided that Frank, W2XYZ will look into our insurance for such an endeavor and report back to the members at a future meeting.

### Announcements

The next OMARC tailgate Hamfest will be on Saturday, October 2.

The Sussex County Hamfest is Sunday, July 11 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

Jeff, N2LXM had K2USA operating over the July 4 weekend from the OMARC station at the Diana site and made 358 contacts.

The Lighthouse/lightship weekend is August 21-22. The NADXA will be operating from the Sea Girt lighthouse. Guests are always welcome.

Ken, KY2S has a 40 foot, 2 section crank-up tower built by Leo Deeny, WA2ESZ for sale. There is no winch or base plate. An ad will be placed in the next Propagator.

When the weather cools, a work party will be formed to move the W2EXQ trailer with a tower to the Red Cross.

The shed at Fort Monmouth still needs to be cleaned out by the end of July. There is also some GSARA property still in the MARS building which has to be moved to the Red Cross.

### Closing

The door prize of \$15.50 was won by Bruce, K2QXW. A second door prize of a GSARA patch was won by Andy, KA2VXA. There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Tom, N2VFK to close the meeting. The motion was accepted unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

## **.MINUTES OF JULY 21 MEETING**

**By Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ, Acting Secretary**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by President Frank, W2XYZ.

After the Pledge to the Flag and introductions of the attendees, the President presented the current status of the closing out of the MARS station at Ft. Monmouth. After the discussion he requested all those capable of providing assistance be at the MARS station on July 24, 2010 at 12:00 noon to assist with the movement of the last items to the Red Cross Building.

The evening presentation by W2XYZ was on the ARRL Field Day Club results. Frank presented the various antenna configurations. A 3-Element Tri-band Beam loaned to the club by K2EI and mounted on a 35 Foot Bucket Truck worked very well. A Windom, a NVIS Antenna and a Vertical all contributed to our score. The operators at Field day felt that the Beam and Vertical Antennas were the most effective.

WXYZ then went into some detail on number of contacts vs. bands used and the comprehensive analysis provided by the N3FJP Logging program. The result of the 2010 Field activity was about equal to our score in 2009. All operators had a hard time with difficult band conditions. After completing the presentation Frank asked for ideas for our 2011 Field Day. Discussion was on using the Red Cross Building and the number of operators available will determine what class we use next year. The Presentation was well received by all attendees.

N2VFK Tom stated that he would be our next guest speaker scheduled for the second meeting in August with the subject "Storm Chasing".

A motion was made to close the meeting by Howard, W2HTS and seconded by Tony, KA2ZSI.

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## **SCOUT JAMBOREE IN VIRGINIA**

The National Scout Jamboree takes place July 26-August 4 at Fort AP Hill, Caroline County, Virginia. A myriad of exhibits and activities await the close to 40,000 Scouts, leaders and staff. Coming from all 50 states -- and even territories and foreign countries -- they will have the opportunity to live, work and play together in an atmosphere of Scouting fellowship. And just like the National Scout Jamborees in 1973, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1993,

1997, 2001 and 2005, the 2010 event will feature Amateur Radio.

A team of 17 Scouters and two Scouts will activate K2BSA as a demonstration station at the Jamboree. According to K2BSA Staff Member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, they will be demonstrating various operating modes to the visiting Scouts, with activity primarily on HF, around the published Scout frequencies. Wolfgang is the ARRL Liaison to the National Scout Jamboree. Another group of 17 Scouters and one Scout will assist other Scouts in earning the Radio merit badge, while seven Scouters will be offering classes and will help administer Amateur Radio licensing exams. Read more here.

*From The ARRL Letter, July 22, 2010*

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## **THE PEACOCK ON THE EYEBALL**

You might call this story a case of failing technology. It happened on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> when audio from NBC Nightly News was heard on the competing CBS Evening News, and it all happened live.

According to the website TVNewser.com, when CBS anchor Katie Couric tossed to correspondent Mark Strassman who was doing a live report from Louisiana on the latest on the oil spill. But instead of hearing Strassman, CBS viewers heard the audio from NBC Nightly News reporter Martin Fletcher. Fletcher was across the big Atlantic pond live from London on the spy swap story.

When CBS News realized what was going on, it quickly ran Strassman's pre-produced version of the story in its place. There was no mention of the audio snafu when Strassman tossed back to Couric.

What caused the problem is anyone's guess. One engineer who has spent 30 years in the technical side of TV news thinks that it was likely a problem outside the direct control of the two networks. Rather he believes it was most likely at the switching hub of one of the companies that the various news organizations with contract long haul satellite and fiber optic feeds. But adds our expert, that's only a guess on his part.

This broadcast snafu is on-line at [http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/cbs/audio\\_from\\_nbc\\_nightly\\_news\\_heard\\_on\\_the\\_cbs\\_evening\\_news\\_167246.asp#more](http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/cbs/audio_from_nbc_nightly_news_heard_on_the_cbs_evening_news_167246.asp#more) (TVNewser.com)

*From Amateur Radio Newslite, July 23, 2010*

## FCC VANITY FEES DECREASE AUG. 17

On July 19, the FCC announced via the Federal Register that the cost of a 10 year Amateur Radio vanity call sign will decrease 10 cents, from \$13.40 to \$13.30. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making August 17, 2010, the first day the new fee is in effect. In FY2010, the FCC anticipates granting 14,800 vanity call signs, bringing in \$196,840 from the vanity call sign program. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM), seeking to lower the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The notice in the July 19, 2010 edition of the Federal Register -- entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2010; Final Rule" -- includes all FCC regulatory fees; these fees are expected to recover a total of \$336,712,213 during FY2010, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 22, 2010

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## \$8,000 DIY HAM SATELLITE KIT

If you have ever wanted your own personal ham radio satellite but thought it was financially out of reach, the Make Magazine blog carries a short item on a satellite that can be yours for just \$8,000.

Called a TubeSat, the magazine says that the kit for a tiny bird from Interorbital Systems that is designed to function as a basic satellite bus or as a simple stand-alone satellite. Included are the satellite's structural components, printed circuit board, electronic components, solar cells, and everything needed to build the satellite. Also included are the required programming tools.

Make's blog says that with these components alone, the builder can construct a satellite that puts out enough power to be picked up on the ground by a hand-held amateur radio receiver. It says that simple applications include broadcasting a repeating message from orbit or programming the satellite to function as a private orbital amateur radio relay station.

Interorbital Systems says it can deploy 32 of these tiny satellites simultaneously on a Neptune 30 launcher from the Pacific island of Tonga. The first launch is slated for the end of the year. These satellites will go into a very low Earth orbit and would probably have a lifetime of only a few months.

From *Amateur Radio Newslines*, July 23, 2010

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## TWISTING CRYSTALS

Chemists in the United States and Russia have created crystals that can twist and untwist. This they say points to a much more varied process of crystal growth than previously thought and could pave the way for new electronic products.

Crystal growth has traditionally been viewed as a collection of individual atoms, molecules, or small clusters adding to a larger block that remains in a fixed translational relationship to the rest. But the New York University and St. Petersburg State University chemists have discovered a wholly new phenomenon for growth in a crystal structure that continually changes its shape as it grows.

To do this, the researchers focused on crystals from hippuric acid which is a derivative of the amino acid glycine. As molecules were added to the end of fine crystalline needles, stresses built up at the tips of the crystals and resulted in a helical twist. The process was reversed when crystals thickened from the opposite end of the growing tip thereby undoing the twisted formations.

The researchers' work, which appears in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, may explain some of the properties of high-polymers. These are used in clothing and liquid crystal displays, among other consumer and telecommunications products.

From *Amateur Radio Newslines*, July 23, 2010

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## TOWER FOR SALE

40 foot, two section steel crank-up tower for sale.

This tower was built by Leo Deeny, a professional welder. It does not include the winch or baseplate.

If interested, contact:

Ken Hampton, KY2S  
Ocean, NJ  
732-531-0791

## UPSWING IN NEW HAM LICENSES

With more than 18,000 new Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year -- 18,270 to be exact -- 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio. So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses. As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 1 percent rise over all of calendar year 2009. Broken down by license class at the end of June 2010, there were 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced and 121,640 Amateur Extra licensees. Read more here.

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2010					
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960	1,726
Feb	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263	2,749
Mar	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463	3,734
Apr	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430	3,508
May	2,283	2,607	2,562	2,717	3,136
Jun	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011	3,417
subtotal	11,388	15,121	15,623	16,844	18,270
Jul	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220	0
Aug	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102	0
Sep	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116	0
Oct	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404	0
Nov	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344	0
Dec	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114	0
Totals	21,112	26,728	28,066	30,144	18,270

As of June 30, 2010, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses. Click [here](#) for a larger image.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 15, 2010

## NEW POPCOMM WEBSITE

Popular Communications magazine has launched what it calls a new and easier-to-navigate website. The updated site features a clean new look and a streamlined user interface to make it quicker and easier for visitors to find what they are looking for.

Current issue highlights include sample pages in full-color layout, to give prospective readers the ability to see what the magazine itself looks like in print. Live links to Internet sites mentioned in

upcoming issues' editorial content will help users further explore topics of interest to them.

Highlights of back issues remain on the website with easier access than in the past. The site also includes contact information for editors and columnists, direct links to advertisers' websites, other CQ Communications publications and an extensive collection of hobby radio links and radio club information. In addition, a direct link to the magazine's Facebook page makes it simple for readers to provide feedback and connect with other hobbyists.

The new Popular Communications website is in cyberspace at [www.popular-communications.com](http://www.popular-communications.com).

From *Amateur Radio Newline*, July 23, 2010

## THE ARRL's A-1 OPERATOR CLUB

First organized in May 1933, the ARRL's A-1 Operator Club has a proud history and occupies an important place in Amateur Radio tradition. By early 1934, the roster of recognized A-1 operators had swelled to more than 400; by the end of 1938, to 1000. As of mid-2010 there are more than 6000 members of this special club! Then, as now, nominations were not made lightly; through the years, recognition as an A-1 Operator has represented an unsolicited acknowledgment of one's high standing among one's peers. Read more here.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 15, 2010

## ARRL NOW ON FACEBOOK

With more than 400 million active users, Facebook is the most popular social network site on the Internet. And since radio amateurs are generally a social bunch, many hams are active on Facebook. Thanks to Herman May, KE5HYW, the ARRL has its own Facebook page. Check out the page to see a lot of features you won't find anywhere else, such as pictures from ARRL events and interactive status updates. We invite hams to "like" the ARRL Facebook page and leave productive comments. Joining Facebook is free, and you just might be surprised at who you'll find on the site.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 8, 2010

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From the August 1985 Propagator: John, KZ2S wrote a critique of our Field Day operation with suggestions for getting more points next year. Harry Polhemus, KN2B announced the fifth expedition to Treasure Island coming up in October. Ken Proctor, N2DQD was voted in as a new member. George, NA2H gave instructions on how to modify the IC-740 to cover the WARC bands.

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## TEN YEARS AGO

From the August 2000 Propagator: Guest speaker at the second meeting in August would be Gary Palamara, KB2YTN (SK) talking about rebuilding HT battery packs. To celebrate Fort Monmouth's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, GSARA will operate the MARS station August 5 and 6. Coordinator was Frank, W2XYZ. The GSARA Hamfest will be on October 14 at Croydon Hall. Several Field Day pictures taken by Bruce, K2QXW were published in the Propagator.

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## AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

Amateur radio exam sessions in this area are as follows but please contact the responsible person to be sure that the time and date are accurate.

**Middletown**, Croyden Hall on Leonardo Road: Exams are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The contact person is Mario Sellitti, N2PVP 732-787-7184 or e-mail to [n2pvp@n2pvp.com](mailto:n2pvp@n2pvp.com).

**Toms River**, Riverview Park Recreation Building: Exams are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. The contact person is Ed Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to [wa2nda@aol.com](mailto:wa2nda@aol.com).

**Toms River**, Holiday City South Clubhouse, Meeting Room #1, Mule Road at the corner of Santiago Drive on the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (September 11, 2010) at 10 AM and on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (August 11, 2010) at 7 PM. The contact person is Larry Puccio, K2QDY, 732-349-2950 or [lpuccio1@comcast.net](mailto:lpuccio1@comcast.net).

In all cases, the fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms you have. Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a picture ID.

## NEW DISTANCE RECORD ON AO-7

A new ham radio in space record was set on one of the hobbies oldest birds. At 2226 UTC on July 15<sup>th</sup>, PY5LF in Curitiba, Brazil worked Josef Spandler, K3SZH, via AMSAT OSCAR 7 and achieved a new DX record for that bird of 7843 km which equates to 4898 miles.

What makes this contact all the more amazing is that AMSAT OSCAR 7 was launched some 36 years ago on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1974 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc, California. AO-7 still continues to provide limited service even though its batteries failed years ago and it is only operational when its solar panels are in sunlight. (Southgate, ARNewsline™)

From *Amateur Radio Newsline*, July 23, 2010

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## BACKGROUND ON FCC CHANGES

The Federal Communications Commission report and order has changed the amateur radio service rules to allow hams to transmit messages in certain circumstances during disaster drills. This, regardless of whether the ham is an employee of the organizations participating in the drill.

In issuing its Report and Order on Docket RM 10-124, the FCC acknowledged the role that amateurs can play before and during emergencies. It noted that many governments and safety organizations make hams a part of their emergency planning. As such, the commission agreed that Part 97 rules, as written and codified, had in essence prohibited communications in which an operator has a pecuniary interest. This included communications on behalf of an employer, even when that employer was serving the needs and welfare of the American public.

Until about a year ago, the FCC had unofficially turned its back when hams employed by cities, townships, emergency response groups, hospitals and the like provided services during drills and other training exercises. But that changed when one ham who had provided such a noble service posted about his work on an Internet website. In turn, other hams who oppose ham radio involvement in anything that might even remotely be construed as business related reported the posting to Laura Smith at the FCC. This was followed by what many construed as a warning from the FCC issued by its rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention:

Bill said, "No communications on behalf of an employer means just that. There's no exception for the 15 minutes you are on a break. There's no exception for ...gee it's the weekend. Or, there's no exception because you want to do it. If it's your employer, you cannot transmit communications on their behalf. That is a commercial communications."

In the real world, this edict meant that hams who work for public safety agencies and hospitals could not participate in tests and exercises even though these same operators would be expected to be ready in time of a real life emergency situation. This satisfied those hams opposed to any business communications and other groups who are anti ham radio being involved in emergency communications. It also brought with it an out-cry from those hams who have devoted their lives to emergency preparedness as well as from a number of emergency communications groups and responders that have traditionally utilized the services of ham radio volunteers.

A few months later, the FCC bowed to public pressure and agreed to issue waivers on a case by case basis to permit ham radio operators to participate in training exercises and drills sponsored by government agencies and those that a government entity might appoint to oversee a practice session. In the meantime, several petitions were filed to change 97.113 to in effect codify into the Amateur Service rules what hams have been doing for almost a century.

Public safety agencies and other first responders generally supported such a rule change. Several ham groups also argued the change would help improve the skills of employees who might have to act during disasters. Others felt it could increase the usefulness of programs such as ARES, RACES and even MARS.

Those who opposed the change felt that it would erode the not for profit amateur status of the service. They called the proposal an essential change for the worse in the United States Amateur Radio service.

Others felt a more liberal rules change might encourage hospitals or public safety agencies to replace commercially available commercial mobile radio service equipment with ham gear, or that ham bandwidth might become de facto emergency service spectrum. There was even commentary that such a change could lead to employees being

coerced into using their ham privileges, possibly in prohibited ways.

But in rendering its decision, the FCC categorically refuted all comments that had been filed against the rules modification. It stated that such a change would not erode amateur radio because the new exception is narrowly crafted. That it is essentially limited to a given drill or exercise, and that ham radio communications are only one component of test activities. But to negate concerns that non-government entities like private hospitals could use this rule to pressure employees to get ham licenses or engage in questionable practices, the regulators included a time cap to have hams participate in such drills. For non-government entities it is one hour a week and only two drill sessions of up to 72 hours per year. No time limit was placed on ham radio participation in drills sponsored by government entities.

The FCC also dismissed other objections, including the coercion for employees to get licenses argument. In regard to the latter the regulatory agency said that it did not expect that employer over-reaching is likely to be a problem. This, given that the amended rules reflect a spirit of cooperation among the public safety and amateur communities.

In the end the FCC stated that its decision reflects the practical reality that a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer amateur radio operators. This, to conduct emergency drills and exercises in concert with other modes of communication, such as land mobile radio. It called such activities as essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first responder community.

What the FCC appears to be saying is that the needs of the general public in time of disaster outweigh any concerns that members of the ham radio community might have expressed. It's also saying that the only way the ham community can be prepared for real disaster situations is through education and practice, and that's what permitting radio amateurs on the clock to take part in training exercises is really what this is all about.

You can read the report and order, which includes the new rule language from a link at our website at [www.arnewline.org](http://www.arnewline.org).

*From Amateur Radio Newline, July 23, 2010*

## NOTES ON CALENDAR (see last page)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g. **NJ2H** August 8. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the August QST, p. 74.

August 1 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

August 2 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 PM.

August 3 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

August 3 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 7 PM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

August 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

August 3 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

August 4 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.

August 4 - **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-35 wpm). See August. QST, p. 74 or [www.arrl.org/w1aw](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw)

August 5 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

Aug. 6-8 – **10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party**, 10 meters from 8:01 PM Friday to 7:59 PM Sunday. See [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

Aug. 7-8 – **North American QSO Party**, CW from 2 PM Sat. to 2 AM Sunday. See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

August 9 - **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 PM.

August 10 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or [n2pvp@n2pvp.com](mailto:n2pvp@n2pvp.com)

August 11 – **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 PM in Toms River. Pre-register with Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at [lpuccio1@comcast.net](mailto:lpuccio1@comcast.net)

August 12 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

August 14 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

August 15 – **ARRL Rookie Roundup**, SSB from 2 PM to 7:59 PM. See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

August 16 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 PM.

August 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls.

August 19 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 4 PM (10-35 wpm). See August QST, p. 74 or [www.arrl.org/w1aw](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw)

August 19 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or [wa2nda@comcast.net](mailto:wa2nda@comcast.net).

Aug. 21-22 – **North American QSO Party**, SSB from 2 PM Sat. to 2 AM Sunday. See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

Aug. 21-22 – **New Jersey QSO Party**, SSB & CW from 4 PM Sat. to 10 PM Sun. See [www.qsl.net/w2rj](http://www.qsl.net/w2rj)

August 23 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 PM.

August 28 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

August 30 - **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 PM.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 InfoAge	2 ARES/RACES 7:30	3 Pancake House MARC Mtg 7 PM Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg CW Qual. Run	5 W2ML Hol. City Mtg.	6 10-10 QSO	7 10-10 QSO N.A. CW QSO
8 NJ2H 10-10 QSO N.A. CW QSO InfoAge	9 WA2DJN RACES Net 7:30	10 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	11 Hol. City VE	12 JSARS Mtg.	13	OMARC Mtg. 14 N2GT
15 Rookie Roundup InfoAge	16 ARES/RACES 7:30	17 K2EI QCWA News 9 PM	18 GSARA Mtg	19 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE	20	21 N.A. SSB QSO NJ QSO Pty.
22 N.A. SSB QSO NJ QSO Pty. InfoAge	23 ARES/RACES 7:30	24 QCWA News 9 PM	25	26	27	Neptune Mtg 28
29 InfoAge	30 ARES/RACES 7:30	31 QCWA News 9 PM				



G.S.A.R.A.

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FIRST CLASS