

## SUPERSTITION

Amateur Radio Club, Inc

PO Box 1551

Apache Junction, Arizona 85217

Editors:

Rod Bevill, K7RLB

Larry Kuck, WB7CRK

WB7TJD Repeaters

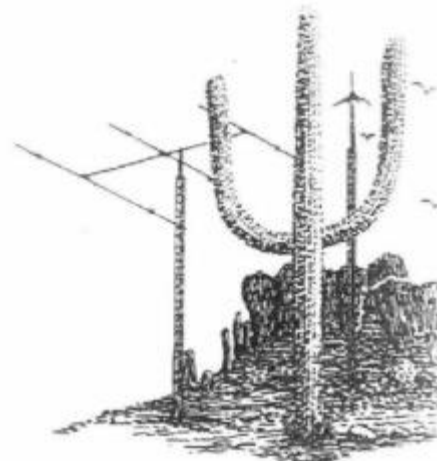
147.12 MHz (+) 162.2

449.60 MHz (-) 100.0

Mesa, Arizona

On the Internet:

<http://WB7TJD.org>



## FCC Charges for Vanity Renewal

### ***ARLX007 FCC upholds vanity fee policy, sets new fee start date***

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current \$14.50 fee per vanity call sign application. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost \$30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the FCC concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing

"a nominal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call sign," the Commission said. The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request makes it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site at:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc).

— American Radio Relay League

## 2003 Officers

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### Communicator

Editor: Larry Kuck, WB7CRK.....480-986-2298...wb7crk@juno.com

Editor: Rod Bevill, K7RLB will be coming on board!

### Net Control Station

Wednesdays: KG7FA, John.....147.12 MHz Repeater at 8:00 PM

Thursdays: WB7CRK, Larry.....147.12 and 28.47 MHz at 7:30 PM

Amateur Radio Newline both nights: Provided by the net host

**COMMUNICATOR** is the official publication of the Superstition Amateur Radio Club, Inc., and is published monthly.

Beginning with the February 1998 issue, this publication is also being made available via Email for use by the blind.

### Submitting articles, classified ads

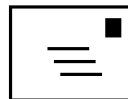
Please submit articles and Classified Ads by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

Please submit via Email to:

wb7crk@juno.com

Or typewritten copy preferred, by U.S. Mail to:

Editor  
9527 East Empress Ave  
Mesa, AZ 85208



*Superstition ARC COMMUNICATOR and its sources shall be credited if articles are used in other publications. Permission is hereby granted for their use.*

## Meeting House

*The Club Meets at the Mesa Community College, at Southern and Dobson in Mesa.*

*Our meeting room is in the basement of the Clock Tower, center of Campus.*

*Our General Meeting is on the Third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, August 19, 2003.*

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*The Board meets at Peter Piper Pizza, Greenfield and Main, Mesa, NW corner, at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday, August 12.*

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*VE Testing is held at 6 PM on the third Monday at Mesa Utilities Office, 640 North Mesa Dr.*

*August 18*

## ***G5RV antenna Namesake SK***

R. Louis Varney, G5RV, inventor of the world-famous G5RV antenna, became a "silent key" at home in West Sussex, UK, on June 28, 2000. He was 89.

The G5RV antenna was first described in the November 1966 issue of the RSGB Bulletin.

— Steve, KJ7WK

## ***Ground Rods and Such***

The subject of ground rods came up recently on our club nets. Good fodder for a newsletter topic, I think.

Jonathan, KD7VCF asked about a choice between a four-foot steel and seven foot copper-clad ground rod on the Thursday net. I suggested he go with the 7 footer, and suggested he first put a water pipe on the end of a garden hose and then bore a hole into the ground with it, letting the water do the work. Then pull that out and insert the ground rod.

Another suggestion was made to first put the ground clamp on the rod before you apply a sledge hammer to it. This way, the clamp is on before the tip of the rod is flattened from the hammering. I believe it was either Terry, NK7T or Ron, KD7FGY, who had to saw off the top of his driven rod in order to place the ground clamp on, and I thank him for sharing that experience!

While on the subject of grounding, I brought up that my ground system here consists of 1400 feet of copper wire buried a few inches under the surface of the ground. When dealing with low-frequency ground-mounted vertical antennas, 160 through 40 meters in particular, a lot of wire under the near field of the antenna versus a sparse number of quarter-wave radials utilizing the same amount of wire will improve the antenna's efficiency considerably. Once you establish a lot of wire under the near field, then you can extend wires out to a quarter wave or more to enhance the low takeoff angle.

Grounding to the heavy-steel base of a heavy-

duty shed will also serve a useful purpose for grounding. Scott, KG7RYV mentioned he has a Tuff Shed brand shed on his property that he grounded to. This would be a good capacitive coupler to ground.

## ***Mt. Lemmon fire takes out many repeaters***

The Aspen fire raged through Radio Ridge on Mt. Lemmon on June 21st destroying most of the buildings and radios located there. The Cholla Amateur Remote Base Association building was destroyed. (That club is affiliated with the Cactus Intertie System, a nationwide network of closed remote base repeaters.)

Repeaters in the building included the 448.625 CARBA remote and link, The 449.775 SARA repeater, the 145.39 Lemmon APRS and WX node, the 145.01 LMN packet node, the 224.3 repeater, the 53.72 repeater, and the 147.14 repeater. At this time all are off the air while rebuilding plans are in progress. (CARBA Web site)

The N5IA communications site was also gutted, destroying several commercial repeaters along with the Eastern Arizona ARS 147.16 Mt. Lemmon repeater. (EAARS Web Site)

## ***Whyizzit?***

The Bride never marries the best man at a wedding?

She always gets stuck with the groom!

## ***2m Amp for sale***

Eighty dollars will get you a Mirage B-34 amplifier brick for two meters. New, in good working order. Four watts in, 35 out.

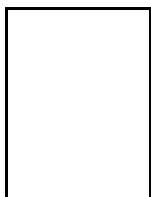
Contact Fred, K7RDN, 480-982-4530.

## ***Newsline Scripts found on WB7TJD.org***

Check there if you miss a week's report or need a Web address.



First Class Mail  
(Air Mail / Par Avion)  
Printed Matter



**August 2003**

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Apache Junction, AZ 85217-1551



## ***Broadband over Power Lines***

Amateur radio faces a big threat from harmful interference from power line communications systems being proposed to get high speed Internet to rural areas. The ARRL Web site reports that the NTIA has lauded the FCC for coming forth with a Notice of Inquiry, in E.T. Docket 03-104.

There is a large body of links on WB7TJD.org, including a copy of the Notice of Inquiry from the FCC, and a link to the Electronic Comments Filing System, where you can file your comments online.

I have links to two ARRL articles, one appealing to everyone, ARRL Member or not, for financial support to help fight this menace; the other providing technical information and links to audio of what this stuff sounds like.

An ARRL test shows a constant, loud crackle as the dial is spun across an entire band, or carrier after carrier going “Youp, youp, youp” as the dial is spun across 15 meters.

The strongest Amateur signals are barely audible. I made an MP3 soundtrack of this video clip with descriptive video narration, suitable for play on the air.

It means that we are going to have to speak UP when called upon, to get this thing torpedoed.

## ***HR-1478 Support Growing***

We have Congressman J.D. Hayworth, Arizona Congressional District 5, on board for HR-1478, the bill before Congress to extend PRB-1 to apply to covenants, conditions and restrictions, otherwise known as deed restrictions. PRB-1 is the Federal pre-emption of zoning ordinances that unduly restrict amateur antennas.

Congressman Hayworth is the only one from Arizona currently co-sponsoring the bill. You can see who is currently co-sponsoring this bill by visiting <http://1478cosponsors.wb7tjd.org>.

My thanks to Rod, K7RLB for this tip.