

THE LED

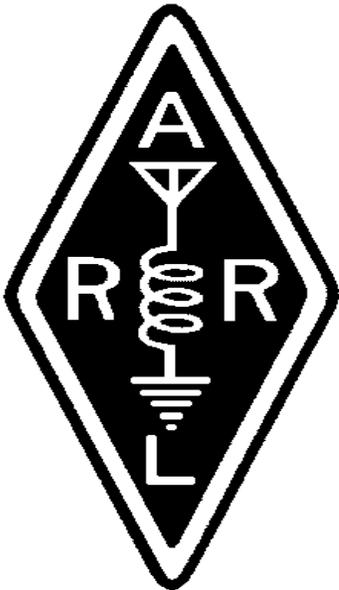
Published by the
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
Howell Michigan

September 2002

<http://members.ismi.net/lark>

Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48844

Dated
Material



NEXT KLUB MEETING
August 8th, 7:30 P.M.
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
300 SOUTH HIGHLANDER WAY

NET
146.680 SUNDAY 9:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Steve	N8GQ
Vice-President	Bill	K8BI
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasury	Dave	KE8Z
Program Director	John	K8OCL
Tech Coordinator	Kenny	N4KCD
Board Member	Jerry	N8DY

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

146.680 Repeater	Jack	KA8BOG
LED Editor	Roger	N8SGU

THE PREZ'S NOTES

What a month August has been, club meeting, picnics in the park, boat rides, RACES training, and yes even a trip to the repeater site and a little antenna work. Thank you to each and everyone for your help, participation and fellowship.

Elsewhere in the LED you will find an article written by Riley Hollingsworth. I hope that you take the time to read it carefully. I believe that a lesson can be learned not only from our on air misspeaks but also personally. We all need to remember that not only on the air conversations but also our personal conversations that someone else is listening and may be offended or misunderstood.

This leads to another area of discussion. Where would you like to see this club put its efforts? Public service, emergency communication, field day, contesting, a repeater club, picnics in the park, monthly socials or some type of highbred? Hopefully we will be able to discuss some of these issues this month.

As you know by now Operation Care was cancelled. I would like to thank Ray N8CPO for all the time and effort he put into this event. Unfortunately neither the board or I felt that it was a good idea to pursue this event with only 50% of the slots filled with less than 2 weeks to go. Try as he might the support for this event was not there. We will need to look into other areas to generate revenue.

RACES training this month was very well received. We had 21 members participate in this class conducted by Bruce N8WWX. Thanks Bruce for a job well done. I for one enjoyed it immensely and learned a lot. Obviously Emergency communications is an area of great interest to a number of our club members.

Our eyeball picnic went very well. Roughly 45 people attended on an absolutely gorgeous day. Thanks to Bill

K8BI and Greg AA5GO for bringing along the floating entertainment, Tim WB8HRO, Laura W8DYH for their help and a special thanks to our master chef Mac N8RBA and his wife Irene KA8MVW for their help.

Ken N4KCD and myself were invited to meet Paul N4VF at the repeater site. We were able to verify that the hard line is in good shape as well as the antenna. We were able to physically inspect the antenna and pigtail. Everything appeared to be in excellent condition. It certainly does not appear to us that our antenna is 20+ years old. This needs to be further looked into.

All in all August is gone and a lot has been accomplished. Hopefully with fall quickly approaching your antenna projects and inspections will be completed shortly. None of us want to tackle those in the winter.

Just a reminder CW classes will be starting up in October. Every Monday in October and November at 7 p.m. we will hold a CW class at the EOC. These classes are open to anyone who wishes to learn code or improve their code skills. On Monday December 2 a VE session will be held for everyone to pass their code test and get their upgrade. This testing session is open to anyone who wishes to take any other elements.

At a recent Section forum I happened to read this letter from Riley and thought that I would share it with you and ask you to share it with others.

"Good Amateur Practice is a hard thing to define. I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid. You have to realize that more people listen than ever before, especially since the events on 11 September, and our rights end where another person's begins."

"It means giving a little ground even if you have a right not to, in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete."

"It means not using that one Kenwood rig on 6kHz bandwidth when there are lots of people on the band."

"It means not acting like an idiot just because you were stepped on. It means being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and why damage it just to save face?"

"It means cutting a net or a contester a break even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting."

"It means being nice, because one thing we don't need more of are idiots in the radio world. Now this doesn't touch on a

lot of technical issues such as using 1,500 watts when your signal report received is 20 over 9."

"It just means a lot of things that can't be qualified, such as respecting a band plan because it makes it possible for every mode to have a chance."

"It means operating so that if a neighbor, niece or nephew or news reporter hears you, that person is impressed with Amateur Radio."

"It means realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance."

"It means just because you haven't done a creative thing in Amateur Radio in 25 years, and have been on the same frequency every morning for 135 years shooting the breeze with Harry, who's 200 miles away, doesn't mean you own the frequency."

"It also means NOT operating so whoever hears you becomes sorry as hell they ever got into Amateur Radio in the first place."

Riley Hollingsworth

73 Steve N8GQ

EDITORS COMMENTS

This month we are starting our electronic LED. I think I have a list of those who want it sent Via E-Mail. If you don't receive it by mail and you want it let me know and also if you don't receive it by E-Mail and you want it let me know. I would like to get it set up so we can send it the way it is wanted. If you need to get in touch with me my E-Mail is rjackson@cablespeed.com. I installed a Titan DX vertical by Gap and am having good results with it. I am in the process of setting up Psk31 and I have finally got it to transmit. At this time I am running DigiPan software and it seems to be a decent program.

Roger N8SGU

TREASURER REPORT

For period July 1, 2002---July 31, 2002

OPENING CASH	\$3682.86
Total income	\$10.00
Total Expenditures	\$58.16
Net Cash Flow	-\$45.16
ENDING BALANCE	\$3634.70

INCOME

50/50 Drawing

ARRL:

New Membership:

Dues	\$10.00
Interested:	
CD	
CD	
Checking Account	
Operation Care	
Sales of Books	

EXPENDITURES

Donations	
Gifts	
Insurance	
Maintenance	
Printing	
Post Master	
Sales Tax	\$0.42
Social Event	\$57.74
Telephone	
Training	

DAVE KE8Z TREASURER

SECRETARY REPORT

General Meeting

08/08/02

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill, K8BI, gave a presentation on FEMA online. John, K8OCL, gave a talk on XM radio broadcasting. Quite a few questions were asked about the demonstration that John put on for the members. Both talks were very interesting for all present.

A fifteen-minute break was taken.

Meeting was called to order with introductions. Mac, N8RBA, made a motion to accept Secretaries report for meeting of 07/01/02. Rick, KC8HEZ, seconded. Motion carried.

Bruce, N8WWX, made motion to accept treasurer's report for June 2002 as reported in the August LED. Jerry, N8DY, seconded. Motion carried.

Operation Care:
Unless you hear on the DVR there will be NO Operation Care for Labor Day.

Fox Hunt:

There was 6 participants Ernst, N8EK, and Paul, KC8UKF, was the BIG WINNERS. They pulled it off using odds and

ends out of the back end of their truck. Who says, "American ingenuity is a lost art"?

August Eye Ball:

September 18th is our Eyeball picnic. Hotdogs and condiments will be furnished. Pop will be sold for 50 cents a can. Get the word out. Sandy Mondro, KA8SHN?????, was sent a memo asking her to get the word out to other clubs in the area.

FEMA Course:

There will be an IS95 course offered on August 21st at 7 P.M. at the EOC.

LED:

Roger, N8SGU, received a lot of complements on the LED. GOOD JOB ROGER.

Audit Committee Report:

The audit committee did a fantastic job on the audit. The time period was the last 18 months (all of 2001 and the first six months of 2002). They compared what records they had with the bank statements and provided the board a breakdown by bank of checks written and deposits made. Thus they were able to provide the Board with an exact figure as to the amount of cash in the checking account.

It was also found that 18 months of documents, including bank statements, are missing. The Board is actively trying to recover these documents and the last six months of statements from Bank 1, our previous bank.

Financial Report to Club Members:

The President, Steve N8GQ, presented flow charts on the Expenditures and Income. These charts, prepared by the treasurer, show the expenses and income by category based on the figures provided by the audit committee. The expenditure chart displays the cost, by category, per paying member. In the case of the LED the cost was only spread over full members since the Life Members are no longer paying dues. Nor are the associated or silent key members. Thus the LED cost the full members \$25.26 each to publish and distribute. The income chart shows that dues will not cover the expenses of the club. We MUST have more fund raisers, increase dues, reduce expenses and recruit new members. The best idea is a combination of all three suggestions. Bruce, N8WWX, made a motion to e-mail the LED to everyone who has an e-mail address. John, K8OCL, seconded. Discussion followed. After a lengthy discussion, Bruce withdrew his motion. Jim, KC8MQK, made a motion to publish a hard copy of the LED and mail it for the rest of the year. Dale, A8KR, seconded. Motioned passed. (Secretaries note: Those who want to receive their LED by e-mail only can advise Roger, N8SGU, by e-mail, rjackson@cablespeed.com of this fact. This will save the club an average of \$8.42 per person.)

146.68 Repeater:

years old and the fact that a climbing crew would be working on the tower in September the value of The fact that the antenna on the 68 repeater was 20 plus purchasing a new commercial antenna and replacing the current one was discussed. Mac, N8RBA, made a motion that the club buy a new antenna and jumper and have them ready for when the climbing crew arrives. Jim, KC8MQK, seconded. The motion carried. Kenny, N4KCD, donated the jumper. The present antenna will be kept in storage as a backup antenna.

For Sale:

The Diamond Xr500H Dual band antenna that the club current owns is for sale. The antenna is already assembled and presently stored in Bill's barn. It will be advertised in the LED for the next 90 days. Make an offer to any Board member.

Steve, the President, asked the members to "take the next 30 days and think about what kind of club do you want?"

Make made motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 P.M.

50/50 tickets were sold after the meeting. \$25.00 was collected. The lucky winner was yours truly Mary, KC8SER. I won \$12.50 thank you all.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary KC8SER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

LARK Board Meeting
July 29, 2002
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Steve, N8GQ. In attendance were Board members Steve, N8GQ, Mary, KC8SER, Dave, KE8Z, Ken, N4KCD, and Jerry, N8DY. Guests were Irene, KA8MVW, Mac, N8RBA, and Charlie, KB8OVJ.

Issues from guest:

A prolonged discussion on getting an article printed and a Thank You letter into the Livingston County Press, on Operation Care (Memorial Day) was held.

The following question was asked:

What kind of a club are we Field Day, repeater, social, picnic, etc.? Or are we primarily a community service club to provide communication, such as SKYWARN net, etc. as needed. This is a question that will have to be answered by the member.

Operation Care:

Ray, N8CPO, has started a Sign Up sheet for Labor Day Operation Care. Dates are August 30th, 31st, Sept 1st and 2nd. If every shift is not filled by the 15th of August, LARK will not support Operation Care this Labor Day.

August Eye Ball Picnic:

Sunday, August 18th, at Thompson Lake (in front of Tim, WB8HRO, and Laura's, W8DYH, house on Roosevelt Road in Howell. Hot Dogs and buns will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs. The club will sell sodas.

Repeater:

Ken, N4KCD, reported that the 146.68 repeater, DVR and auto patch are working ok. However the system could use some fine-tuning. He feels this tuning could be done in less than one day. There is a need for a commercial antenna (ASP Model J977) to replace the one presently in place, which is over 20 years old. There is a climbing crew scheduled for September and the club will be notified before they arrive. There was a discussion on the Diamond antenna that the club purchased several years ago. It would not stand up to the conditions that an antenna must withstand at the top of a 300-foot tower. Steve, N8GQ, made a motion to sell the Diamond antenna. Dave, KE8Z, seconded it. The motion carried.

Insurance:

The question was brought up as to what insurance coverage did the club have in regards to its equipment and liability. Dave, KE8Z, stated that at this time he did not know but he would have answers by the next board meeting.

Club Property:

Ken, N4KCD, will pick up the old 145.21 repeater parts and bring them to Dave's, KE8Z, for storage. He will also pick up the gin pole, rope, banner, flag and other club property presently at Rays, N8CPO, house and bring them to Dave's for inventory and storage.

Audit Report:

The Audit Committee did a great job with what they had to work with. They took the last 18 months (Jan 2001 to Dec 2001 and Jan 2002 to Jun 2002) records and provided a picture of how much money came in and how much was spent during this period.

Dave took this data and broke it down into expenditures, income and a hypothetical budget with inflation figured in.

Ken, N4KCD, made a motion to open a saving account, call "Capital Equipment Repair", with \$600.00. The funds in this account will be used exclusively for the

purchase and upkeep of the clubs repeaters Steve, N8GQ, seconded. Motion carried.

The club will purchase a 2 drawer file cabinet, to go into the radio room, at the EOC. It will be used for Secretaries and Treasurers papers. Currently 18 months of documents are missing. In addition many historical records are also missing.

Jerry, N8DY, made a motion to adjourn and Dave, KE8Z, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary, KC8SER

Long Range LARK Meeting Program Plan

September 12, 2002 - Wire antenna design and practice (specific examples provided).

October 10, 2002 - Operating the new HF band at 5 MHz and the new LF band at 168 kHz.

November 12, 2002 - Assembling Your HF Digital Station (RTTY, PSK-31, MFSK)

We hope to see you at the meeting for a good time and warm fellowship. Bring along your friends and all the pocket cash you can spare for the 50-50 drawing and door prizes.

Respectfully Submitted John-K8OCL Lark Program Director

UPDATES TO ROSTER

No updates to date

FUTURE CONTESTS

September 14 - 16 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

21 - 22 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest Rules [PDF]

October 26 - 27 ARRL International EME Competition

November 2 - 4 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)

16 - 18 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

December 6 - 8 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

14 - 15 ARRL 10 Meter Co

SPECIAL EVENTS

Howdy Days

CW and SSB 1400 UTC Sept 11 to 0200 UTC Sept 13
www.qsl.net/ylrl/ylcontest.html#Howdt%20Days

European DX Contest

SSB 0000 UTC Sept 14 to 2359 UTC Sept 15
RTTY 0000 UTC Nov to 2359 Nov 10
www.waedc.de

POW/MIA Special Event

Sept 20 to Sept 22
From: FREEDOM Township, Ohio. The National
POW/MIA Recognition Day.
General Portion of 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. QSL SASE to
KB8UUZ.
Questions to: kb8uuz@arrl.net

PODXS 070 Club 80 M Autumn Sprint 80 Meter PSK Contest

Friday 20 Sept from 2000 ET to 21 Sept 0200 ET
Exchange: Callsign, RST & State/Province
Call "CQ 80m TEST"
www.angelfire.com/folk/leonards/80mrules.html

Collegiate QSO Party

1200 UTC 21 Sept to 0400 UTC Sept 22
www.qsl.net/wwvarc

Texas QSO Party

1400 UTC Sept 28 to 0200 UTC Sept 29 and 1400 UTC
Sept to 2000 UTC Sept 29
Non Texas stations exchange: callsign, RST and state.
www.k5vuu.com/tqp

For full contest/special event rules go to the URL address
on the Internet. For those who do not have access to the
Internet at home, work or the local library you can contact
Dave, KE8Z, before September meeting and tell him which
event you are interested in. He will bring a complete
printout of that events rule.

The following is preliminary coordination information.

1.2 GHz: Last week K8OCL/R operating on 1270.05 MHz
input/1282.05 MHz output from Inkster (Wayne County)
for several years was shut-off in reparation for its
relocation to Genoa Township (Livingston County). The
repeater's initial new location will be Lat 42.5642001, Lon -
83.851644. We would like to get it coordinated and on the
air by the end of September.

The repeater's primary function will be to support
collaboration of ARRL and AMSAT related
experimentation. An updated TDS Form will be submitted.

2.4 GHz: As part of the ARRL High Speed Multimedia
Working Group (see attachment), we are planning to
conduct spread spectrum point-to-point experiments over
the next 1-2 years in the Livingston County Area. We have
informed senior League officials in detail regarding our
plans, and were in turn advised by League officials to
inform you of our plans and conduct all
recommended coordination.

The digital protocol to be used during these high-speed data
experiments will be IEEE 802.11b. The Amateur Service
identifying callsigns will normally be part of the text (1-3
mbps), or voice identification in the form of streaming
audio, or it may consist of commonly accepted Fast-Scan
ATV identification methods via streaming video. Operating
output power will
range from 100 mw. to 2 watts.

One reason we think it is necessary to coordinate these
experiments with MARC is that the bandwidth of the
digital spread spectrum will be 22 MHz centered on an
operating frequency of 2437 MHz. According to the
present

ARRL band plan, this will place part of the signal
appropriately in the experimental portion of the band (2438
- 2450), but part of the signal will be also be in part of the
upper Fast Scan ATV segment of the band and a currently
unused satellite band.

Please advise us if you see any frequency coordination
issues, and what coordination information should be
submitted. Feel free to call me anytime, if you have any
questions, or need additional information.

Vy 73,

John Champa - K8OCL
Trustee, K8OCL/R (1.2 GHz Band)
Chairman, ARRL HSMM Working Group

Moon Wolf Spring
2491 Itsell Road
Howell, MI 48843-6458
Home/Cell: 734-657-1000

Emergency Communications Training to Begin September 1

Amateur Radio emergency communications training supported by a \$181,900 federal homeland security grant will begin within a few weeks. The League was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs. During its first year, the grant--from the Corporation for National and Community Service special volunteer program--will reimburse the cost of Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 1700 volunteers.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, says the national program will begin September 1 with the recruitment of at least 200 additional mentors and trainers. These volunteers then will help to manage and train the student load during the first year of the grant. Hobart and Dan Miller, K3UFG--formerly ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator and now the Emergency Communications Course Manager--have been working with CNCS to expedite the grant details.

This week, ARRL section managers were asked to recommend up to five students to sign up to take the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line course. These individuals also will receive additional training to become instructors and mentors. Hobart pointed out that additional mentors and instructors will be needed to help handle the expected volume of students training under the grant program. Anyone who has already completed the Level I course is qualified to become a mentor with some additional training.

Mentor candidates should contact Dan Miller, k3ufg@arrl.org, for information on how to take part.

Once the ARRL members hand-picked by section managers to train as mentors have completed the program, registration for routine Level I training will open October 1, initially for ARRL field appointees. Miller anticipates that the program will continue to handle approximately 200 students per month. "As much as we'd like to, we can't train everyone at once," he said. "Please be patient."

To comply with grant requirements, the ARRL also will survey served agencies and certain segments of the amateur population. Hobart said the League wants to ensure that the course offered accurately represents "what really happens in the field" during an emergency or disaster.

Students taking advantage of Level I emergency communications training under the grant program will be asked to pay for the course via credit card during the registration process. Level

I course candidates from Connecticut will continue to be trained under a \$33,000 grant from United Technologies Corporation to expand Amateur Radio emergency communications training opportunities. Upon successfully completing the training and certification, students will be reimbursed the \$45 fee.

STATIC ELECTRICITY AND CAR FIRES

I was just out at the (GM) Proving Grounds on Tuesday and we saw a presentation on electronic magnetic discharge. We were told that vehicles contain more and more electronics - items like CD players, OnStar, satellite radio, in addition to cruise control, ABS, on-board diagnostics to electronically controlled fuel injection.

All of this put together with vehicle materials, such as the Scotch Guard on the seats, creates more static. That's why you are more likely to get shocked just getting in and out of your car.

At MPG (Milford Proving Grounds), they stressed the two most important points to remember are:

- Don't use cell phones while fueling
- Don't go sit in your car while filling up the tank - especially in dry (and cold) winter conditions

Subject: Stop Static

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static " at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires. His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas, when finished and they went back to pull the nozzle out the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.

7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.

8) Seventeen fires that occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As I mentioned earlier, The Petroleum Equipment Institute, along with several other companies now, are really trying to make the public aware of this danger. You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org>. Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static".

I ask you to please send this information to ALL your family and friends, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time.

Tim WB8HRO

MICHIGAN TOWN COULD EASE AMATEUR ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS

ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, reports that the City of Troy, Michigan, appears poised to loosen restrictions on Amateur Radio antenna structures. Mondro attended a meeting of the Troy City Council August 5 at which he and five other hams spoke. As a result, city Council voted unanimously to send the current ordinance back to the planning commission. Council requested the planning commission rewrite the ordinance to allow a higher minimum antenna support structure without the need for a zoning hearing.

"The mayor was convinced that this was essential due to the services afforded by Amateur Radio operators," Mondro said.

The current ordinance in Troy--at 81,000 inhabitant's Michigan's 12th Most populous city--only allows an antenna structure 25 feet above grade or 12 feet above the roof, if roof-mounted. Anything higher requires the amateur to demonstrate that the allowed limit would "preclude communications."

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club President Phil Ode, AA8KR, said he, club members and individual amateurs have been working with city officials over the past few months to gain a more liberal interpretation. He said he's hoping to secure at least a 75-foot minimum for antenna support structures before a zoning hearing is needed.

In his remarks to council, Mondro mentioned the recent federal grant to ARRL that will support emergency communications training and certification. He also explained the ARES and RACES programs and the involvement of amateurs in public service in the community and the state.

Mondro said there were no dissenters present. Approximately 60 to 70 amateurs attended the meeting, which lasted until midnight.

"Another victory for Amateur Radio in Michigan!" Mondro declared.

Mr. James H. Davis
3174 San Ramon Road
Concord, CA 94519

RE: Amateur Radio License NN6EE: Warning Notice

Dear Mr. Davis:

On approximately 23 occasions since February of this year, the transmissions from your station have exhibited what appears to be alternator "whine" when mobile, and power supply noise or "hum" when operating from your base. Information before the Commission indicates that you have been notified several times about these problems but have neglected to take action.

We note that, as an Advanced Class licensee, you should have sufficient knowledge to correct this relatively simple problem and should also be familiar with the Amateur rules as set forth in Part 97. Please contact a local Amateur Radio club, however, if you are uncertain how to proceed.

Pursuant to Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, you are requested to notify this office within 20 days of the date of this letter as to what action you have taken to correct these problems. Failure to respond, or failure to take

corrective action, will result in enforcement action against your NN6EE station and operator licenses.

cc: FCC Western Regional Director

ARLB048 More Cosponsors Sign Aboard CC&R Bill, HR 4720

Additional cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. The list of 18 members of Congress who have agreed to cosponsor the measure includes two amateurs. They are Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR.

Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives.

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720--the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

In addition to Walden, Sessions and Ross, the list of HR 4720 cosponsors now includes Representatives JD Hayworth (R-AZ), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Ken Kalvert (R-CA), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA), John Duncan Jr (R-TN), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Charles Stenholm (D-TX), David Price (D-NC), Bob Schaffer (R-CO), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Charles Taylor (R-NC), and Ralph Hall (D-TX).

Visit the US House of Representatives Write Your Representative Service Web site at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> for information on how to contact your representative. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

News Release - Public Version

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), the national association of radio amateurs, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. John Champa - K8OCL, a senior telecommunications engineer with *Unisys*, as the Chairman of the organization's High-Speed Digital and Multimedia Working Group. Under the direction of the ARRL Technology Group, the purpose of the working group is to:

- **Note the existing amateur digital network, particularly higher speeds**
- **Study amateur experimentation at higher speeds**
- **Consider higher speed digital and multimedia systems developed by industry**
- **Prepare a vision statement for amateur high-speed digital and multimedia systems**
- **Promote experimentation involving digital and microwave experimenters**
- **Develop standards**

The time required for working group members to participate will vary, but there is no travel planned or envisioned. The work and discussion will occur via email, or web, video, and phone conferencing.

The ARRL encourages all licensed Radio Amateurs to consider working with the group to bring this technology to a reality in every day activity in the amateur service. Contact John at k8ocl@arrl.net. A background paper on High-Speed Digital Networks and Multimedia has already been prepared by Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, as a basis for the working group (<http://www.arrl.org/>).