

The "Membrain"

"Dedicated to the memory of our former Publisher, Peter WB2B"

A Publication of the Delaware
Valley Ragchew Club
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DVRC Club Net @10:00 PM Tuesday after ARRL Audio News

DVRC CLUB REPEATERS

146.820 (- 600) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz (offline)
147.210 (+ 600) Absecon NJ PL = 123.0 Hz
448.0250 (- 5.0 mHz) Camden NJ PL = 131.8 Hz

Also Accessible via Echolink at "W2CAM/R"

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Memorial Day – Cherry Hill NJ 2008

May 2008 Issue

Editor's Corner



By George – WA2RCB

The **May 2008 DVRC Meeting** will be held on **Saturday May 31st** starting at approx 10:00 AM at the Haddon Township Public Library building located at 15 Mac-Arthur Boulevard in Westmont, NJ. The library is located atop the hill right behind the Crystal Lake Diner, McDonalds & Wendy's. Turn at the traffic light on Cuthbert Road, go up the hill and the library entrance is just past the car wash. Talk-in is on the 448.0250 repeater.

Well your Editor made it thru his recent surgery and I now feel great after the expected post-op recovery period. My heartfelt thanks for all your prayers and concerns. With this behind us I am looking forward to June DVRC Field Day on June 28-29 2008. Remember that we only operate at the Gibbsboro NJ Radar Station on Saturday the 28th. There will be more discussion of FD-2008 at the May Meeting. Looking forward to seeing all you there.

This month we have some photos of Memorial Day in Cherry Hill or Delaware Township for you old-timers and some very nifty Dayton Hamvention 2008 pics from Ed Raybould. Enjoy!

George WA2RCB



Dayton 2008

SOLAR CYCLE DELAYED A YEAR

The next 11-year cycle of solar storms will most likely start next March and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. That's up to a year later than expected according to a forecast issued today by NOAA's Space Environment Center in coordination with an international panel of solar experts. (NOAA, QRZ.COM)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: A POSSIBLE ROBOTIC THREAT TO 70 CM

Howard Gordon, W3CQH, reports over the VHF Reflector on a Public notice posted by the FCC. This, on a proposal to use 430 to 448 MHz for remotely-controlled surveillance robots for emergency use.

Gordon says that for the power proposed and the limited use, that he does not believe the device will cause any significant interference to the amateur radio service. But he says that the real issue for the manufacture is how to stop the hams from interfering with the surveillance device.

W3CQH says that the possible threat to ham radio may be that once the manufacturer has its foot in the door on 440mhz, it could conceivably start petitioning the FCC for channelization to be done and assigned to it citing interference problems that have occurred in some future alleged emergency situations.

You can read the full FCC release on this robot device at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf (W3CQH via VHF Reflector)

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO DIGITAL OPERATIONS PETITION

Back at home the FCC has dismissed a petition for rulemaking filed by Mark Miller, N5RFX, requesting amendment of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules. This, to revise the operating privileges for amateur radio service stations that transmit data emission types.

Specifically, the Petition requested that several Sections of the Amateur Service rules be amended to revise various definitions and frequency privileges. While Millers petition covered a number of issues regarding digital operations.

The most controversial dealt with unattended digital operations on the High Frequency bands. And while Miller never named Winlink 2000 as the target of his petition, that's the way the FCC seemed to see it. And according to the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, speaking at last weeks Dayton Hamvention, there was an important reason for the denial of this portion of the Miller rules change request:

Cross Statement: "Winlink as a communications system seems to have become the Brussels sprouts of ham radio: You either love it or you hate it. And trying to bury it under ketchup or hollandaise sauce hasn't changed the basic like or dislike for Winlink.

"Most of the controversy here seems to swirl around how certain licensees use it. Some use it for a radio e-mail system. Others use it for getting weather maps while they are on sailboats in places the brave dare not go. Others use it for their personal business activities, such as buying and selling stocks. These uses are really a Section 97.113, a 'prohibited communications' question, not a technology question. The rules apply to the Control Operator of the station transmitting the message, not the Winlink system."

"As we have said until we are blue in the face, in the Amateur Service we do not license or regulate systems. We license stations. And it is the station licensee that is responsible for the proper operation of the station. Its your callsign on the transmission then it is your responsibility. In other words, whether a transmission is analog or digital really does not matter. What is important is that all hams obey the rules that the Commission has set out to guide the service."

It also can be read as the FCC saying that it will not re-regulate a service that its worked very hard to free from burdensome regulations just to placate the needs, wants or claims of any one group of hams regarding another. There more to be covered regarding the Miller petition and its being totally denied. Listen for it in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline - Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum)

A great story about a new Ham's short but ongoing Career in Amateur Radio

SOUTH HADLEY, MA - From a corner of his bedroom in a South Hadley ranch home, Ovid "Nick" Flannery, 76, talks with people around the world. He has conversations with people in California, Poland, Portugal, and Belgium.

A Korean war veteran who served in the U.S. Army, Flannery doesn't mind that many of the conversations revolve mostly around the weather; to him, connecting with other amateur radio enthusiasts is satisfying in itself. "It's a great hobby," he said. "It's challenging, and you never know, when you go on the radio, who you're going to hear or speak to that day. It's different every time."

Amateur radio, also commonly known as "ham" radio, is a popular pastime in the valley. Flannery belongs to two associations, the Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Association, which he says attracts about 40 people at a typical monthly meeting, and the Hampden County Radio Association, which brings in about 80 or 85 people at a meeting. At the latter club, members invite speakers on topics like old-time radio broadcasting.

Flannery says about a third of members are women, and attendees represent a wide age range, from Boy Scouts to retirees. Many Scouts earn merit badges for becoming proficient in amateur radio, which has three levels of licensing. "It's educational," Flannery said. "You learn a little bit about electricity and how the solar system affects radio waves. You learn a lot."

Flannery says that while many people still associate amateur radio with CB or citizen band radio, he sees the two as quite distinct. Ham radio operators are more heavily monitored and regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, so fines are imposed for misuse of airwaves such as obscenity.

Retired from his position as a senior auditor at the University of Massachusetts, Flannery became a licensed ham radio operator in the year 2000, at the age of 69. I've always been interested in this, he said. Then I happened to see an article saying that it was no longer required to know Morse code for a technicians license.

(Getting licensed) is not difficult. According to Flannery, those who are interested must study 385 questions, then take a multiple-choice test in which 35 of those questions are asked. To pass, the test-taker must answer 26 of them correctly. If you pass, you get your call letters in about 10 days, he said. The exam costs \$14, and the license is good for 10 years.

In order to get started, a person would need to purchase equipment that can cost less than \$120. Such equipment would enable operators to speak locally, perhaps as far as Vermont. Those who wish to talk to people in other countries would need to purchase or borrow equipment that's more sophisticated.

Though Flannery is quick to point out that he is just one of many enthusiasts in the area, and many have more experience than he does, he has made himself available as a contact person for those wishing to learn more about amateur radio. (S. Hadley Observer)

R. Hollingsworth K4ZDH to announce retirement at Dayton Hamvention

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth has announced plans to retire from the FCC later this year. "My intention," Hollingsworth told the ARRL, "is to head out in July, assuming the results of the second round of the PAVE PAWS/440 repeater monitoring in California present no complications. It has been a privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators. I am extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Hollingsworth (K4ZDH) had planned to retire earlier this year, but changed his mind, saying, "There [were] several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not been named at the time of this writing, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said he considered it an honor to have given something back to "the incredible enjoyment and benefits that Amateur Radio has given me since age 13. And to every one of the thousands of you that thanked us for our work, many of whom waited for long periods after a forum or radio meeting just to come up and express appreciation for what the FCC was doing in enforcement, you have no idea how much that was appreciated every single time. It sure wasn't a 9 to 5 job, but it was a gift and a daily joy to work for the best group of people on earth.

The only bad day in nearly 10 years was September 21, 2001, when we lost Steve Linn, N4CAK. We still miss him." Linn, deputy chief of the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch for private wireless within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and his wife Lesley were sadly killed in a car accident on their way to the Virginia Beach hamfest.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the new crop young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I met at Dayton, who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; "I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed. The Amateur Radio Service is part of the American heritage, and I am going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can," Hollingsworth explained. "Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio!" (ARRL)

Company claims Windows Vista less secure than Windows 2000

A recent statement from anti-malware and threat-detection software manufacturer PC Tools claims that Windows 2000 is a more secure operating system than Windows Vista. The company's claims, as covered by Infoworld, have attracted a good deal of coverage—no one wants to miss out on a good Microsoft bashing but an examination of the company's methodology raises serious concerns about the validity of the conclusions.

According to company CEO Simon Clausen, "recent research conducted with statistics from over 1.4 million computers within the ThreatFire community has shown that Windows Vista is more susceptible to malware than the eight year old Windows 2000 operating system, and only 37 percent more secure than Windows XP." This certainly sounds dire, and at first glance, the company's numbers back its statements up. Data reports from the company's ThreatFire security program state that Vista allowed an average of 639 threats per 1,000 computers "through." Through, in this case, presumably means that the malware in question successfully installed itself and became active. Windows 2000, meanwhile, was successfully breached by 586 threats, Windows Server 2003 by 478 threats, and Windows XP by a massive 1,021 threats per 1,000 computers. The immediate "conclusions" from these results are twofold. First, Windows Vista, despite all of Microsoft's work and claims to the contrary, is supposedly less secure than the positively ancient Windows 2000. Second, all of us running Windows XP are completely screwed; PC Tools data indicates that Windows XP systems are infected, on average, with 1.02 "threats." (Infoworld)

DAYTON 2008 Photos by Ed Raybould



Conversations monitored on many of the 75 and 40 meter nets and regulars/groups the Saturday night of Hamvention 2008 was that the crowds were 1/3rd less in overall attendance this year versus 2007. Many attendees did not bother going due to the high retail price of petrol. One commenter said it was very unusual to be able to walk about inside the Hara Arena and outdoor flea market largely un-impeded by the normally huge crowds.





YES there was one of the new "Smart" car's on display in the Dayton Hamvention exhibit Hall this year! This is a two-seater three cylinder auto set to make it's debut in the USA in July 2008. Do a google search under 'Smart Car' for more info. Locally this car will be available at Dealerships in Cherry Hill NJ and Devon PA next month. Word is it gets 50 MPG City.

W5YI was there of course (love the hat Gordo!)

Memorial Day 2008 – Cherry Hill NJ



(Photos of 2008 Memorial Day Cherry Hill NJ by G. Primavera WA2RCB and S. Abruzzo)