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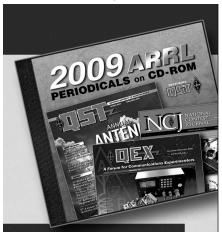
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QST Issue: Dec 1993

Title: Station Location Dropped from FCC License Forms

Author: James Cain, K1TN

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FCC Plan: Instant On-the-Air Privileges

The FCC has proposed temporary operating authority to unlicensed people who pass the examination for a new amateur operator license. The temporary operating authority would begin when the exam is passed and an application for a license is filed, and last until a full-term license is received from the FCC (not more than 120 days). The temporary operating authority wouldn't be available to anyone whose license has been revoked or suspended or who has been involved in other enforcement proceedings before the FCC. Under the proposal, the Commission would also reserve the right to cancel such temporary operating authority without a hearing if a need to do so arose.

People operating under the proposed new rules would use call signs determined by the initials of their names and by their mailing addresses. The prefix for each such call sign would be WZ, followed by a number indicating the appropriate_Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) region. The Commission said it believes this system "would be useful to the amateur community, yet practical to implement." The FCC also said it was making the proposal "to better serve new amateurs and to increase productivity in the processing of license applications."

The proposal, assigned PR Docket 93-267, was based on a petition made in July by the Western Carolina ARS (WCARS) VEC of Knoxville, Tennessee (RM-8288). The WCARS-VEC aired its proposal at the National Conference of VECs in June. At press time, only the FCC news release, not the actual text of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was available.

In July, the ARRL Board of Directors said that the Commission's ongoing program to implement electronic filing of amateur license applications was the preferred method to eliminate any perceived need for temporary operating authority. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that the League has always supported getting new amateurs on the air quickly, and has offered as much encouragement as it can to the FCC in the implementation of electronic filing, which would allow FCC staff to make the most of the limited time available for Amateur Radio license administration.

The League believes strongly, Sumner said, that "any operating authority must stem directly from the FCC, not from some 'middleman' private entity, even though the ARRL/VEC is the largest such 'middleman.'

"Many protections we enjoy against arbitrary local and state regulations," Sumner said, "are the result of our being federally licensed. It would be a serious mistake to allow this federal status to be diluted in the interest of some short-term expedient."

Sumner said that the League would respond to the FCC proposal when the full text of the NPRM is available and when League Members have had a chance to express their views on the subject to their ARRL Directors.

STATION LOCATION DROPPED FROM FCC LICENSE FORMS

Effective November 15, 1993, the FCC will no longer require that a station location be shown on amateur license applications or on applications for reciprocal operating permits. The Commission, in an Order adopted September 24, said that because portable and

mobile equipment is so often used by amateurs, a station's location frequently changes, sometimes daily. The FCC said that deleting the station-location requirement would expedite the processing of license applications. It said that because this rule amendment isn't likely to be controversial and that it's a "nonsubstantive" change in

licensing procedures, no notice and comment period was needed.

The amended FCC Rule "Section 97.21 Mailing Address" is as follows:

"Each application for an amateur service license and each application for a reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee must show a mailing address in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC. The mailing address must be one where the licensee can receive mail delivery by the United States Postal Service."

FOUR HAMS FINED FOR MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

Four amateurs have received FCC Notices of Apparent Liability (NALs) for \$2000 for malicious interference on the 2-meter band. In June, the four gave responses to FCC Notices of Violation, but the FCC wasn't persuaded by their arguments. Receiving the NALs are John Genovese, WB5LOC, of Slidell, Louisiana; Will Blanton Jr, N5ROC, of Carriere, Mississippi; and Joseph Richard III, N5JNX, and Vernon Paroli, KA5OWW, both of New Orleans. All four had until October 10 to respond to the NALs.

MISSISSIPPI HAM/BALLOONIST WINS BIG PRIZE FOR FLIGHT

Hot air has paid off for Robert Vardaman, N5KBQ, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Vardaman, a skilled balloonist, won the "key grab" in the 1993 Sky Parade, an aerial exposition held at the Juckson, Mississippi, International Airport over Labor Day weekend. His prize was \$50,000.

In the competition, pilots attempt to maneuver their balloons into position to grab a key from atop a 30-foot pole. It's a complex task involving precise measurement of altitude, wind speed and wind direction. Although the contest is a fixture at balloon events, it's rarely won because of its difficulty. More often than not, the prize is a new automobile; but at Sky Parade, cash awaited the winner. That was fine with Vardaman, sales manager for an automobile dealership. In addition to holding a balloonist certification, Vardaman, 35, is a fixed-wing aircraft pilot and experienced skydiver. (Thanks to

Lucky day!

Something unusual always seems to happen at the annual Headquarters staff outing in early September. This year it happened to Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, WA1SVF (smiling at right). One of the staffers at the park hosting the outing dragged out some old radio equipment, figuring the "radio people" there that day might be interested in taking it off his hands. Among the items was the gear shown in the photo with Mike, a vintage Hallicrafters pair from the 1960s.

In the course of negotiations among the owner, Mike and other HQ hams, it suddenly dawned on Mike that not only were the HT-40 transmitter and SX-140 receiver the models that made up his first station (WN1SVF), they were the exact radios Mike first used on the air. He had sold them to a local woman nearly 20 years ago, and she subsequently stored them at her son's house; he brought them to the office outing.

