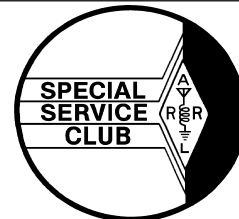


FEEDBACK



DECEMBER 2000

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 12



DECEMBER MEETING.

The meeting for the month of December will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on December 1, 2000 at 8:00 PM.

Well ! Here it is December already ! Remember last year at this time everyone was worried about Y2K? Everyone was worried that their computers would blow up, we would all freeze to death, and the airlines would not run on time and a whole lot of other troubles would befall us. Well all of it turned out to be a lot of bunk.

We all made it through this year just fine and we will make it through next year just as well. Last year's Hamfest was good and this year's Hamfest was GREAT! We made some money and everyone had a great time! More on this later... but first...

First order of business at the meeting will be the election of Officer's for 2001. To be eligible for office you must be (according to our Code of Regulations) at least 21 years of age, Technician Class or above, and have been a member in good standing for at least three (3) consecutive years. We will elect a new Vice President (current Vice President automatically moves up to President), a new Secretary, Treasurer, and one new Trustee. Elections shall be by secret ballot. All recounted ballots will be sent to Florida. We promise though, we WILL know who the next MARC President will be after this meeting!

The second order of business will be the nominations of persons to receive awards at the January Banquet. Official information is:

Awards Dinner

Abby Road Restaurant

Saturday, January 13, 2001 6:00 p.m.

Cost: Same as last year....\$12 each (plus tax .60) = \$12.60

Covers everything = 3 Entrees: Abby Chicken / Steak / Fish (make 1 choice)

Includes Dessert.

Reservations and pre-payment to Treasurer N8GAF by January 8, 2001

Since this is a "sit-down" dinner, exact attendance is required.

So if you would like to nominate your friend for Officer or you know someone who would make a very fine Officer of MARC, or perhaps you know someone who is deserving of an award, please attend this very important meeting. See you there !

- SHORT SKIP -

Remember CPO ' S ? NO, not navy jackets, Code Practice Oscillators. N4MW has a C P O museum and you can tour it on the Internet at n4mw.com .

HOT TIP FROM Skip.... Mail those out - going QSL's **NOW** as postage rates are going up after January.

God Bless you all and hope you have the best Christmas ever !

73 DE WB80WM



November 3,2000 MARC MINUTES

The October meeting was held at the Senior Center with 30 members and guests present. ATV was used by Perry W8AU calling the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. via the television. The Pledge of Allegiance was given then he returned to the meeting room, then a round of introductions was made.

John K8LBZ made motion to suspend reading of the October minutes and was second by Sandra N8TZB.

The financial report was given by the treasurer Anne N8GAF. She had 2 reports, The regular October report and the MARC Hamfest report. The Hamfest did well, the net was \$994.81. Motion was made to accept by John K8LBZ and second by Sandra N8TZB.

Dan N8DZM gave his report on the survey that was taken at the Hamfest. A few suggestions were made but overall the results were positive.

John K8LBZ asked if all Hamfest admission tickets for next year to be \$5.00, giving all advanced tickets holders an extra stub for the main prize drawing. It was later discussed in new business Don W8DEF second it and was carried.

Dan N8DZM was thanked for all the work he did in printing the Hamfest tickets and all the flyers.

Perry W8AU read a letter from ARRL about the movie Frequency. It was a winners list and MARC wasn't on it, but we were thanked for our efforts.

MARC received a nice thank you note from silent key Leroy W8CZA's family. Also from Hospice of Wayne County for the donation.

Anne N8GAF asked about next year's Fairground contract and deposit. Perry W8AU said it didn't need a vote. Don W8DEF will deliver both Monday for the 2001 MARC Hamfest.

Don W8DEF read the ARRL letter and highlighted on some of the mail he had received. He received a thank you by e-mail for attending the Medina Hamfest.

The Fort Wayne Hamfest will be Nov. 18th.. Kip K8KIP and Gary KC8IHR will be given 2 entry tickets, they will be taking MARC 2001 Flyers to hand out.

Don W8DEA reported there was positive feedback from the vendors. Many will be returning next year.

OLD BUSINESS

Perry W8AU presented Sam KB8FFC the Pagasus the 1st. prize at the Hamfest. Congratulations Sam!!!!

Perry again thanked everyone for making the Hamfest a big success also Bruce AB8FB and everyone involved in getting the ATV up and running.

NEW BUSINESS

We need about 14 people to help with the parade on Nov.18th,

We had a drawing, congratulations Gary KC8IHR for winning the CD ROM call book and Smitty WD8CIB for winning the mobile antenna.

Jim WA8GXM surprised everyone on the T V, he was mobile working his ATV. Don W8DEF and Perry W8AU explained how ATV works.

It was agreed to have the January dinner meeting at Abby Road again if that night is available.

Again there was some more items donated from Leroy W8CZA's estate for anyone wanting them.

John K8LBZ spoke for the QCWA Club thanking MARC for the table at the Hamfest. He also explained how you must be a "ham" for 25 years to belong to the club.

Nominations are being taken by the officers and trustees for next month's election, spots to be filled are Vice President and 1 Trustee.

Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Everyone had refreshments, and the 50-50 for \$13.00 was won by Sam KB8FFC.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

.... HAMFEST 2000 WRAP-UP

It's finally over ! Planning began on Hamfest 2000 the day after Hamfest 99 was over and it well worth the effort. Twelve months of planning and probably a hundred hours of effort added up to a very successful hamfest again this year. I have always believed that advertising our hamfest was a key to its success and this year was no different. By my count we distributed about 2500 flyers at 13 different hamfests throughout the year. Combine this with a listing in 5 different national magazines, several packet bulletin boards, a host of web sites and flyers at both Amateur Electronic Supply in Cleveland and Universal Amateur Radio in Columbus made for a tremendous effort to promote our hamfest. Oh yes, did I forget to mention that we also had about 1200 individual mailings to previous years attendees as well.

What about table sales ? Again this year we just about sold out all the 200 tables by hamfest Sunday. This year we were lucky to attract several vendors of radio equipment as well as the usual computer vendor. Like it or not this is the direction that the hobby is going and it helps to draw additional attendance. I'd like to thank the volunteers who helped out on Saturday to set up tables and prepare the building for hamfest Sunday. The signup sheet listed the following club members, Don - W8DEF, Curtis Wendell, Kip - K8KIP, John - W8CYA, Terry - N8ATZ, Les - K8CP, Dan - N8DZM, Don - K8DON, Jason - KC8LIN, Jeff - KC8KIX, Perry - W8AU, Gary - KC8IHR, Bruce - AB8FB, Rick - K8RLW, Bob - KC8PIP, Ed - WA8DRT, Gary WC8W, and Jim - WA8GXM. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Thanks everyone for a job well done.

Dan - N8DZM has kept track of hamfest attendance since 1993 and with a few exceptions our attendance has grown slowly and steadily each year since. According to Joe Phillips - K8QOE ARRL Section Manager, many clubs have had a general drop in hamfest attendance over the past 5 years, but not ours ! This is no accident. It's the result of solid planning, great organization and a fierce dedication by our club. All the volunteers deserve a round of applause for a super job !

.... THE RESULTS ARE IN !

It's official, the ARRL has posted the results of this years Field Day scores and for the second year in a row the club has won the annual MARC/CARC Field Day award. Originally started over 40 years ago as an annual Sweepstakes Contest between the two clubs, interest eventually faded as participation in this contest slowed over the years. Two years ago in an effort to motivate interest and participation in club activities, Presidents of both clubs decided to dust off the old Sweepstakes Award and create a new annual club event, the annual Field Day Competition. The winner would have the honor of displaying the award for the next year. Presented last year to the MARC during our annual club dinner by then CARC President Dale Storey - KB8LWP, we have been the recipients ever since. We hope to invite a representative from the CARC to attend our club dinner in January to officially present the award to us again this year. Congratulations to the MARC 2000 Field Day team for a

super job. We totaled 1709 contacts for 5728 points. One of our best showings ever.

.... CLUB JACKETS ANYONE ?

It's been at least 2 years since the club sponsored monogrammed apparel. With the large change in membership we've experienced over that time I'm wondering if the time is right to try it again. Vice-President Don - W8DEF has been asked to research the availability and cost for club apparel after the first of the year. Many clubs have gone to a sewed or stitched method as opposed to the silk screened method we have normally used in the past. Don hopes to have some prices and information for both types soon. We are considering the following items, jackets (both lightweight and heavy lined), polo shirts, and maybe hats - something new for us. Would anyone be interested in any new club apparel ? Please let us know what you would be interested in. We normally require a minimum order for this to work. Let's discuss it briefly at the next club meeting.

..... ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS

One of the main reasons we come together at our annual club dinner in January is the presentation of our annual service awards. The executive committee is actively seeking your recommendations for this years awards. Check out the clubs website for complete details of our awards program. The awards were designed to show our appreciation to those members whose devotion to club and hobby helped to inspire us all.

..... A HAMS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

I end out this year by offering you a holiday poem that I discovered recently on the web site of the Bradford Amateur Radio Club in Florida. To big to reproduce here with my limited space, you can check it out on our web site on a special holiday page that I'm working on.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Years celebration. See you all at the club dinner !

That's it for this month, till next time 73's

Terry - N8ATZ

Season's Greetings



Anti-Technical? - Its a Matter of Perspective

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio Section Manager

The typical father-daughter argument; a throwback to the old generation gap days. My daughter Martha and I were in a heated debate about proper use of E-mail while waiting for an eastbound plane.

Her argument was that E-mail solves all communication problems to which I countered that much E-mail use causes as many problems as it solves. When Martha couldn't get me to accept the proposition that those who don't keep up with technical and advancements have to learn to fall in line, she played the trump card. "You're just anti-technical."

I can be obstinate, stubborn and very egotistical. But "anti-technical" when serving as the highest elected official of the ARRL in Ohio and a member of its most honored technical society (amateur radio). Anti-technical - I don't think so.

But the argument got me thinking about divisions which our changing technological society has created. The basis of that father-daughter argument. While these divisions are present in every group of our society, these divides are more pronounced in ham radio than anywhere else.

I like to place these groups in three designations and refer to them as - (a) the Electronic Wired, (b) the Electronic Inquisitive and (c) the Electronic Luddites. These three designations are far deeper in ham radio now than when I was first licensed in 1959 and the AM mode amateurs were being pushed aside by advocates of Single Side Band modes of operation. Or maybe in late 70s when the new VHF hams from citizens band were challenged by the hams of the 50s and 60s. Remember when the WA and WB hams wouldn't speak to those with WD calls? We have had some silly arguments in this hobby - that part of ham radio will never change.

The Electronic Wired - its membership mainly think changes can't take place fast enough. They proudly possess and fully use the latest toys from the APRS navigators and satellite tracking systems. Transmitting photographs by digital cameras in E-mail packages hasn't been a special event for the last three years. Surfing the internet is such old hat with this group.

Program a handheld? These folks program palm pilots with an amazing ease. They'd be wide-eyed to learn most of us don't even know what a palm pilot is. (It's the Franklin Planner Booklet idea packaged in a gizmo with a view screen and about three times the size of your average pager.)

The Electronic Inquisitive - which I fear is the home for most of us. We pick and choose those parts of the digital society which we find useful and we know just enough "buzz" words to keep pace in conversation with the Electronic Wired. As for the technological revolution, we want things to slow down at least long enough to be able to figure the purpose and use of new equipment before it becomes obsolete. We like handhelds which don't require

EE degrees to program and service manuals in plain English. Hopefully, the Electronic Wired keeps us from being comfortable with the status quo and constantly encourages the use and understanding of unfamiliar new technical advancements

The Electronic Luddites - I fear is a group which will always be with us and, among ham radio operators, can hardly be called anti-technical. (Luddites were 19th century English textile workers who sabotaged labor saving machinery because they thought it would bring lower wages and unemployment). But the old Ham Radio, which the Electronic Luddites currently practice, is good enough for living a successful life and they will have none of the changes until they are listed among our silent keys. Most prominent feature is an instant disgust for anything computer orientated and a promise to use computers as little as possible.

It is that third group which presents a challenge to our hobby that we've never faced. As in my earlier examples, the AM mode types in the 50s could practice their transmitting habits without interference - you may be surprised but then there was enough spectrum in all bands so both could coexist. And the WA-WB arguments in the 70s with the WD hams was more an issue of snobbishness than anything else.

But computer advancements - electronic newspapers, picture transmission, E-mail attachments - are NOT SPECIALTY MODES. And the dislike of anything computer by some is not a matter of simple snobbishness. These digital advancements are rapidly becoming ways of life. How will we in each designation respect each member of the other two groups? And respect for those hams dedicated to ignore everything computer — well, no one said it was going to be a walk in the mall.

"From the Ohio Section Journal, Ron Griffin, N8AEH, editor."

MULTI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR MEETING

The next scheduled Multi-County Meeting of amateur radio operators will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2001, at Tuscora Park, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. The session will begin at 2 P.M. and will last about two hours. These programs have been conducted for about two years and are held on a quarterly basis at various locations, usually in south central portion of the state (Guernsey and Muskingum counties).

In January 2000, the Tusco Amateur Radio Club hosted a meeting, in New Philadelphia, in order to attract amateurs from the Wayne, Stark, Summit, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Coshcton and Holms County areas. The meeting was very well attended and a decision was made to host another meeting in January 2001.

Presiding at these meetings is Sonny Alfman (W8FHF), from Norwich, Ohio. A number of topics are discussed, such as, field trips, hamfests, fund raising, charter bus trip to Dayton Hamvention, repeater operation, QRP kit building and operation, future meeting locations, ARRL news items, newsbulletins, antennas, various modes of operation and whatever else the assembled individuals care to bring forth that would be of interest.

It has proven to be a good way to meet other operators and discuss with the items of interest in a non formal atmosphere. These meetings are open to all licensed amateurs or those interested in amateur radio. You need not belong to any club, group or affiliation, in order to attend.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Tuscora Park is located on North Broadway (State Route 416), approximately seven blocks North of the city square (courthouse site). The 146.73 repeater will be monitored for those needing assistance with directions. Enter from Tuscora Avenue.

**(From the Tusco Amateur Radio Club, Dave
WD8CKK)**

MARC ASSISTS IN ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE

Continuing our long standing tradition of service to the community, members of the Massillon ARC proudly participated in this years annual holiday parade held on Saturday, November 18th. The weather was perfect for a holiday parade, a morning chill was in the air as a light snow fall mixed with the sounds of high school marching bands. Sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association, the club once again provided parade lineup and safety communications for this years event. Again this year we were also requested to provide parade marshall duties which helped to keep the parade moving smoothly through town. As the parade has grown in size over the past several years, lineup and organization has become very important to parade officials. Sixteen volunteers helped to organize the nearly 100 units in this years parade. We are glad to report that Santa Claus arrived without a hitch !

For the past two years the club has had the honor of showing off our EComm trailer in the parade. Modestly decorated to fit the season, it was heart warming to see the great response from the citizens of Massillon as we made our way through town. Check out the club's web site for some pictures of the trailers decorations. The parade was televised on Massilon Cable TV, we have a copy of the portion with the EComm trailer for club meeting night.

Communications Coordinator Perry - W8AU wishes to thank the following club members for their tireless dedication to community service. They are, Terry - N8ATZ, Jim - WA8GXM, Don - W8DEF, Linda - K8MOO, Dennis - K1FFA, Heather - KC8IIU, Jack - N8LCS, Dan - N8DZM, Bob - N8KXO, John - K8LBZ, Don - W8DEA, Bruce - AB8FB, Anne - N8GAF, Saundi - N8TZB and Jason - KC8LIN. Club member Joe Herrick - WD8BGW was also in attendance the morning of the parade fulfilling his primary role as a member of the Massillon Police Department. Congratulations everyone for a job well done.

ARRL PROPAGATION NEWS

ZCZC AP47

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 47 ARLP047

From Tad Cook, K7VVV

Seattle, WA November 22, 2000

To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP047

ARLP047 Propagation de K7VVV

This bulletin is written a day and a half earlier than usual because of the Thanksgiving holiday. For that reason, the projected solar flux and A indices expected for this weekend will not be quite as up to date as usual. Also, it is too early to include the sunspot number for Wednesday, the end of our normal reporting week, so next week's bulletin will have two week's worth of solar flux, sunspot numbers and planetary A indices.

Geomagnetic indices have been very quiet this week, with both the planetary and Boulder A indices in the single digits. The quietest day was Thursday, November 16, when the Boulder A index was one, and the Boulder K index was zero for most of the day. This indicates a very stable geomagnetic environment. The planetary A index was four on that day and on the next.

Solar flux has been rising after reaching a near term minimum on November 14. It was 173.7 on Monday, 185.4 on Tuesday, and today on Wednesday, the three daily readings were 192.4, 194.9 and 203.5. The noon reading of 194.9 is the official number.

The current projection has the 10.7 cm flux rising above 200 on Thanksgiving, peaking at 210 on Friday, then 205 on Saturday and 200 on Sunday through next Thursday. This looks good for the big DX contest this weekend, although generally the Maximum Usable Frequency is more dependent upon the average solar flux for the previous week or ten days rather than a value on the day of interest. The predicted planetary A index also looks good, which currently is projected to be ten for Thursday through Saturday, and twelve for Sunday and Monday.

There was a full-halo coronal mass ejection last week on November 16, but it was on the back side of the sun, projecting the energy away from earth. It was only partially seen. The region that produced that activity will be rotating into view sometime soon, but not soon enough to affect the contest weekend.

N0AX pointed out that last week's bulletin mention's something called a solar "flair". Of course, your author was only demonstrating a flair for erroneous homonyms. That thing coming out of the sun is still a flare, no matter what is written here. After re-reading the above three lines, your author realized that he actually referred to himself as your "other", so that homonym problem is only getting worse with age. Your author still thinks of himself as a young ham, but that is because he was first licensed at age 12. Never mind that this was over 35 years ago. Senior moments seem to be increasing weekly. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

NNNN
/EX

ARLD048 DX news

ZCZC AE48
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 48 ARLD048
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT November 22, 2000
 To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD048
 ARLD048 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, The OPDX Bulletin, N1RL, The Daily DX, 425DXnews, The 599Rpt, DXNL and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

SWAZILAND, 3DA. 3DA0NL is QRV until November 27. Look for activity on 40 meters. QSL via ZS6ANL.

MAURITANIA, 5T. Yannick, F6FYD, should now be QRV as 5T5YD/p from Banc d'Arguins, IOTA AF-050. QSL to home call.

UGANDA, 5X. Tapani, OH5BM, will be QRV as 5X1Z in the CQ WW Contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry. QSL via SM6CAS.

BAHAMAS, C6. Dick, N4RP, is QRV as C6AKP from South Bimini, IOTA NA-048, until November 29. He will be active on the CQ WW Contest. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Jeff, N5TJ, will be QRV from EA8BH during the CQ WW Contest as an All Band entry. QSL via operator's instructions.

ECUADOR, HC. Rick, NE8Z, will be QRV as HC1MD from November 25 to December 11. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. He may also be portable from other Ecuadorian locations. QSL via K8LJG.

JERSEY, GJ. GJ2A will be QRV during the CQ WW Contest. QSL via MJ0BJU.

GUERNSEY, GU. Look for MU2K to be QRV during the CQ WW Contest. QSL via OH3LQK.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Bernd, DL2DXA/HI9, will be QRV on all bands during the CQ WW Contest. QSL to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Tony, HS0/G4UZN, is QRV and will be active in the CQ WW Contest. QSL to home call. Also, Fred, K3ZO, will be QRV from HS0AC during the CQ WW Contest. QSL via operator instruction.

VATICAN, HV. Dan, N1ND, will be QRV November 23 starting at 1400z as HV0A. This call was issued to commemorate the Jubilee Year 2000.

Check 21295 and 28430 kHz. QSL via IK0FVC.

SVALBARD, JW. Per, LA3FL, is working for the Norwegian weather service, and will be here for 6 months. He will be on Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, and then go to Hopen Island, IOTA EU-063, in January, 2001. He will be QRV as JW3FL during his spare time. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Look for JQ1UKK, JF2SKV, JG3VEI and JH5OXF to participate in the CQ WW Contest as NH0S, as a Multi/Single High Power entry. QSL via JF2SKV.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Pertti, OH2PM, will be QRV as OH0R during the CQ WW Contest as an All Band entry. QSL via operator's instructions.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Paul, K1XM, and Charlotte, KQ1F, will be QRV as P29VPY and P29VCR, respectively, from Loloata Island, from November 27 to 28. Paul also expects to enter the CQ WW Contest as a Single Op/All band entry. Outside the contest, look for activity on all bands, including the newer bands, using SSB and possibly RTTY. QSL both calls via KQ1F.

EGYPT, SU. Jaro, SU9ZZ, has been QRV on 80 meters SSB around 1520z. QSL via OM3TZZ.

INDIA, VU. Pai, VU2PAI, will be QRV on 160 meters during the CQ WW Contest.

VANUATU, YJ. The Prairie DX Group is now QRV as YJ0PD until November 29. They will be active in the CQ WW Contest as YJ0V. QSL both calls via N9PD.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1. Roger, W7VV, is QRV as ZK1VV until December 3. This includes an entry in the CQ WW Contest. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ WW DX CW Contest will keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see October QST, page 101 for details on the contest.

NNNN
/EX

Page last modified: 01:50 PM, 22 Nov 2000 ET

Page author: wlaw@arrl.org

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 19, No. 45
November 24, 2000

==> LIMITED AO-40 USE POSSIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says plans are in place to make AO-40 available for a limited period of general amateur use "possibly within a week or two." Launched November 16, the next-generation Amateur Radio satellite formerly known as Phase 3D remains for now in a geostationary transfer orbit while initial housekeeping and checkout procedures are under way. The satellite's final high elliptical orbit will not be established for another nine months.

Just when and how the "limited operation" will occur is up to the ground controllers, Haighton said. The provisional operation would involve "one or two bands at a time," he said. Since the satellite's solar panels will not be deployed until AO-40 is in its final orbit, full power will not be available.

Details of the limited test period will be announced via AMSAT bulletins and via the AO-40 telemetry beacon on 2 meters, which also is transmitting text messages. (For more information on receiving AO-40 telemetry, visit the AMSAT-NA "AO-40 Telemetry" page, <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/ao40/ao40-tlm.html>.)

In a bulletin released Monday, AMSAT stressed that the Phase 3D/AO-40 controllers were closely monitoring the power budget and the satellite's current orbital parameters. "These two areas will be among the most important factors that determine what happens with P3D in the near future," the AMSAT bulletin said.

From all indications, most AO-40 systems are working properly at this point, with the possible exception of the 70-cm transmitter. According to a status report from Phase 3D Project Manager Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, "a problem with the 70 cm transmitter" led controllers to shift the telemetry downlink from 70 cm to 2 meters (145.898 MHz). Meinzer said AO-40's two 2.4 GHz transmitters were operated and are okay.

Haighton said the most likely configurations for the limited test period would be Mode U/V (Mode B)—70 cm up and 2 meters down—and Mode L/S—1.2 GHz up and 2.4 GHz down, SSB and CW.

AMSAT says there's still a lot of work to do until AO-40 will be fully ready for general Amateur Radio use. AO-40's geostationary transfer orbit puts it some 500 km from Earth at its nearest point, and 35,000 km at the farthest. AMSAT says that AO-40's attitude is being changed to prepare for the first motor burn. Meinzer's report says the 400-Newton motor will be used to put AO-40 into a 50,000 km apogee. The first orbital maneuver should be completed in a few days. Other orbital adjustments will follow over the next 270 days.

AO-40's solar panels will not be deployed until the satellite is in its final orbital configuration. Once that happens, the satellite should become available for full Amateur Radio use.

==> BOARD TO CONSIDER MORSE CODE POLICY REVIEW

The ARRL Board of Directors will review the League's position on the Morse code as an international licensing requirement when it gathers for its annual meeting in January. Because the issue is expected to come up at the IARU Region 2 Conference next October, the ARRL Executive Committee decided at its November 11 meeting in Irving, Texas, to place the issue on the Board's January agenda.

The ARRL's Morse policy was formalized by Board resolution in 1993. It supports the retention in the International Radio Regulations of the provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. Consistent with that policy, ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote earlier this year at the IARU Region 3 Conference in Australia on a motion calling for the eventual elimination of Morse as an ITU requirement for HF operation.

In January, the Board may decide to reaffirm this policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of members has supported the policy.

The Executive Committee also proposed that the Board determine a process for soliciting membership input on possible repartitioning of the HF bands in restructuring's wake. As part of its original restructuring package, the League had proposed "refarming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. The FCC has declined to take up any possible repartitioning, however, until it's had a chance to gauge the effects of restructuring. Amateur Radio license restructuring became effective last April 15.

In other action, Stafford and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported briefly on preparations for WRC-2003. Stafford is focusing on developing support for the Amateur Radio 7 MHz position within Region 2. The IARU seeks a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner has been named to the core IARU delegation to that conference.

The Executive Committee also heard a wide-ranging update of other FCC matters, including the League's efforts to gain primary amateur status at 2400 to 2402 MHz and at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

Sumner observed during the meeting that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills—HR 783 and S 2183—were not likely to be enacted during the "lame duck" session of Congress that's just ahead. Principal sponsors of both bills are returning to Congress in January and may be asked to reintroduce the legislation.

CLUB MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Here is something we have been wanting to do all year long. It involves surveying the desires of the membership in regard to club activities and direction. We are a "general interest" club and cater to all interests, from A to Z. We want to make sure we are covering areas of interest to YOU. Please mail or bring this with you to the next meeting. You do not have to sign it or identify yourself. Thank you for your time and interest.

- 1. Are you happy with the present status of the club? YES () NO ()
- 2. Are meetings conducted to your satisfaction? YES () NO ()
- 3. Too long? YES () NO () Too short? YES () NO ()
- 4. Do you like balanced meetings: 1/2 Program / 1/2 Business? YES () NO ()
- 5. What program subjects would you like to see? _____
- 6. Prefer Business only? (no program) YES () NO ()
- 7. Traditional items. Do you approve of: Club Hamshack? YES () NO ()

- Public Service? YES () NO ()
- Club Repeaters? YES () NO ()
- Club Hamfest? YES () NO ()
- Field Day? YES () NO ()
- Licensing Classes? YES () NO ()
- Emergency Comm Trailer? YES () NO ()
- Annual Awards Dinner? YES () NO ()

Standing Committees are not permanently staffed. What committee would you like to be a part of?

ECOMM Trailer () Hamfest ()

Repeaters () Parade ()

Fund Raising (safety break) ()

Licensing classes () Field Day ()

The hamfest net proceeds, plus annual dues, are not enough to fund an active club such as ours. Do you approve of the I-77 Safety Breaks? YES () NO ()

10. Can you suggest anything else as productive?

11. What subjects would you like more attention given? _____
- CW () AM () FM () ATV () PSK ()
 - RTTY () Packet () EME () Satellite () DF ()
 - Boat Anchors () HomeBrew () Contesting ()
 - Tfc handling () DX () Mobile HF/VHF ()
 - LF () HF () VHF () UHF () SHF () RC ()
 - Antennas/Transmission lines () Remote control ()

(fill

(fill in blank) _____

Thanks for your help,

Executive Committee