



The Hellgate Static

January 2020



Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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- FCC Proposes to Remove Amateur Radio Operators from 3GHz Band

Upcoming Events

To be determined

Officers:

President: Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S
Vice-President: Mike Leary, K7MSO
Treasurer: Vacant
Secretary: Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA

January Meeting Program

No formal program scheduled.

Standing Committees:

Emergency Coordinator: Jerry Ehli, N7GE
QSLs, Awards: Bob Henderson, N7MSU
Webmaster: Mike Leary, K7MSO
Radio License Exams Contact VE:
Paul Shuey, N7PAS
Static Editor: Terry Cook, KF7BQ
Bluetooth_one@hotmail.com

Please be sure to read the article from the ARRL Newsletter "FCC Formally Adopts Proposals to Remove Amateur 3-GHz Band."

This proposal would eliminate most Amateur Radio Emergency Data Networks and prevent additional similar networks from being built.

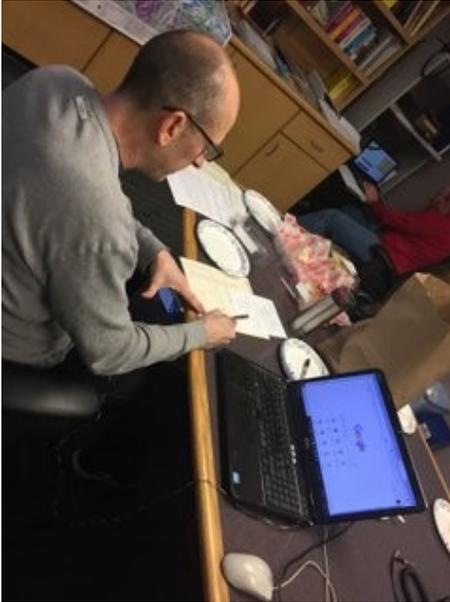
Repeater Advisory Committee:

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S (Chair)
David Herzberg, Vacant
Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA
Tom Hellem, K0SN (Re-elected)
Paul Shuey, N7PAS (Re-elected)

Comments are currently being accepted by the FCC regarding this issue, and at the end of the article you will find instructions to easily submit your comments.

This is likely to be just the first wave of attempts to take frequencies from our bands, to be sold to the highest bidder.

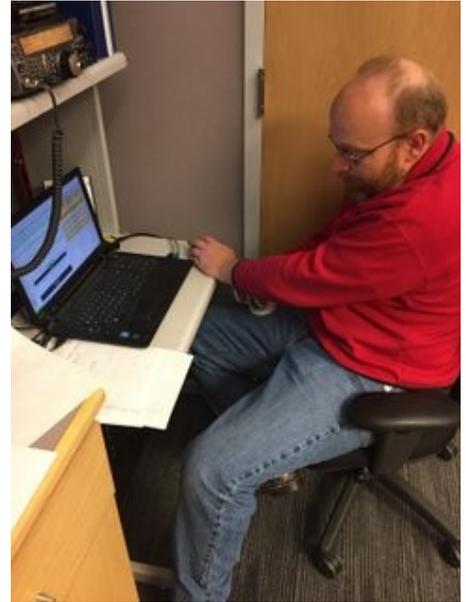
2019 Skywarn Recognition Day



Andy KF7CBY working Echolink



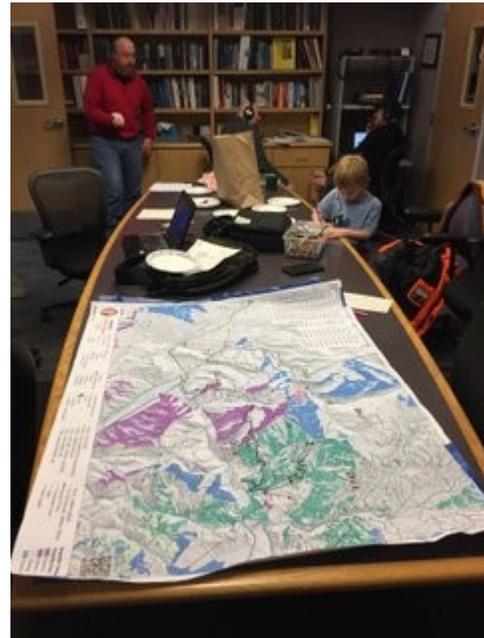
Mike K7MSO working FT8



Bryce working FT8



Trent KC0QBH and Eric NZ7S working some SSB



On 7 - 8 December, club members participated in the 2019 Skywarn Recognition Day, held at the National Weather Service office at the Missoula International Airport. We used IRLP, Echolink, FT8 and SSB. We contacted 13 NWS stations across the country. Participants were: KF7CBY Andy, K7MDT David, AF7RQ Bryce, K7MSO Mike, NZ7S Eric and KC0QBH Trent.

HARC 2019 Christmas Dinner

The 2019 HARC Dinner at the Eagles Lodge, was a great time had by all. The evening started with music by Donna, KC5WRA on piano and Rich Kingdon's grand daughter, Candace Olson, on guitar. Next was a vote for club officers for the year 2020.

Following dinner, Lance, Collister, W7JG put on an excellent program including a slide show about his latest EME DXpedition to La Digue Island, Seychelles. We ended the evening with a drawing for door prizes and the white elephant gift exchange.



FCC Formally Adopts Proposals to Remove Amateur 3-GHz Band, Invites Comments

From ARRL News 12/17/2019

At its December 12 meeting, the FCC formally adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 19-348 and invited comments on its plan to remove “existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations” in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and relocate incumbent non-federal operations. The FCC said it’s seeking comment on appropriate “transition mechanisms” to make that happen. ARRL has indicated that it will file comments in opposition to the proposal. The amateur 9-centimeter allocation is 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. The *NPRM* comes in response to the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act, approved by the 115th Congress to make available new spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use.

“By proposing to delete the existing non-federal secondary allocations from the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band, we are taking an important initial step towards satisfying Congress’s directives and making as much as 250 megahertz of spectrum potentially available for advanced wireless services, including 5G,” the FCC said in the Introduction to its *NPRM*.

Currently, the entire 3.1 – 3.55 GHz band is allocated for both federal and non-federal radiolocation services, with non-federal users operating on a secondary basis to federal radiolocation services, which have a primary allocation, the *NPRM* explains.

The FCC said it is seeking comment on relocating non-federal licensees to another band. With respect to amateur operations, the FCC invited comments on whether sufficient amateur spectrum exists in other bands that can support the operations currently conducted at 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. The 3.40 – 3.41 GHz segment is earmarked for amateur satellite communication. “We seek comment on the extent to which the band is used for this purpose, whether existing satellites can operate on other amateur satellite bands, and on an appropriate timeframe for terminating these operations in this band,” the FCC said. If non-federal licensees are relocated to 3.1 – 3.3 GHz band, the FCC proposes that they continue to operate on a secondary basis to federal operations, consistent with current band allocations.

Some comments began to arrive before the FCC formally adopted the *NPRM*, as it points out in a footnote. Kevin Milner, KD0MA, the secretary/treasurer of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club in Colorado, has argued that the club’s equipment cannot be re-channeled below 3.4 GHz, and the club is seeking relocation costs. Devin Ulibarri, W7ND, told the FCC that amateur networks in the current band cannot move easily into other amateur allocations because there is no readily available commercial equipment to support the bandwidth, the FCC recounted.

In the event the proposed amendments are adopted, the FCC “seeks comment on relocation options and on transition and protection mechanisms for incumbent non-federal operations.”

Also at its December 12 meeting, the FCC considered [another NPRM](#) in WT Docket 19-138 that would “take a fresh and comprehensive look” at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and propose, among other things, to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit “cellular vehicle-to-everything” (C-V2X) operations in the upper 20 MHz of the band. The FCC is *not* proposing to delete or otherwise amend the amateur allocation, which would continue as a secondary allocation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network ([AREDN](#)) has [offered its voice](#) in challenging the FCC proposals on the two bands, saying their adoption would “eliminate our use of the most-effective resource hams have to build its networks.”

“The AREDN Project is able to leverage low-cost commercial devices solely because they are designed to operate on adjacent allocations,” AREDN said on its website. “Moving to other allocations would be difficult if not impossible without a complete redesign, manufacture, purchase, and installation of new custom amateur hardware and software..., raising the price out of reach for the typical ham.”

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket 19-348 via the FCC’s [Electronic Comment Filing Service \(Express\)](#). Visit the FCC [“How to Comment on FCC Proceedings”](#) page for information on filing extended comments.

Note:

Additional help in submitting comments regarding damage to the AREDN network can be found at the [AREDN website](#).

Notes from the December Christmas Dinner Meeting

Elections:

President: Mike Leary K7MSO

VP: Eric Sedgwick NZ7S

Treas: tabled to January meeting

Sec: Donna Pecastaing KC5WR

Repeater Cmte:

Paul Shuey N7PAS

Tom Hellum K0SN

Dues for 2019 were tabled.

Wednesday night VHF net control assignments:

11 Dec. Terry KF7BQ

18 Dec. Paul N7PAS

25 Dec. Terry KF7BQ

1 Jan. Donna KC5WRA

8 Jan. Dean N7DLP

Next Meeting: Monday January 14th.