

JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Mississippi's Oldest and Largest Ham Radio Club
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W5PFC Report

The Jackson Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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ARRL Comments on Distracted Driving Laws

From the ARRL Letter

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "on a mission" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture".

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to

Come join us at our monthly meeting at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month.

The meeting is held in the American Red Cross building at 875 Riverside Drive in Jackson, one block south of Murrah High School.

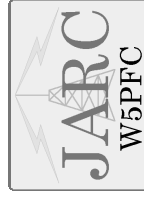
After the business meeting, we present a program of special interest, followed by a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. Stay for refreshments and fellowship after the meeting.

Monthly Club Meeting

communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation to the *Article Continued Inside...*



The W5PFC Report is a quarterly publication of the Jackson Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Members may submit articles for possible publication to the editor, Jeff Sykes, K5VU, either by US mail to 1750 Spring Hill Rd., Raymond, MS 39154, or by e-mail to k5vu@arrl.net. Space and printing limitations may affect the appearance or content of any item submitted. Photo submissions may be sent in any common digital format. All club correspondence should be directed to the club address.

Space Shuttle Endeavour Deploys Student-built Satellites

The space shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth on July 31, but before it left orbit, it deployed four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter (70 cm) amateur bands.

Twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE). Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 Mhz.

Endeavour also deployed student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2, respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 launched as one unit and then separated to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON. BEVO-1 transmits Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 beacons at 436.250 MHz. Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

CQDX!

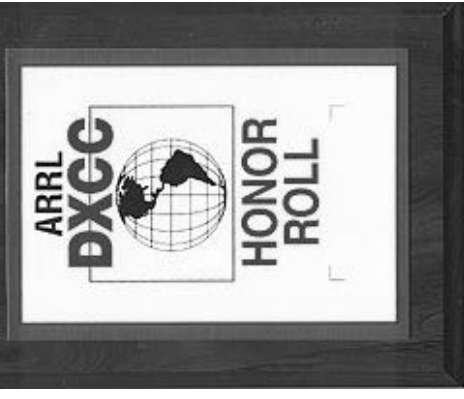
By John Bergman, KC5LK

A couple of articles ago I briefly mentioned some of the common methods of obtaining a QSL card from a DX Station that you work. After a brief departure from that line of thought let us continue where I left off. While this article will be directly concerned with QSLing stations outside the United States some of the same practices should be extended to those stations inside the United States that you wish to receive a card from. Today there are three ways to obtain a QSL card from a station: direct mailing, the QSL Bureau or buro, and electronic QSL. Each of the three has its pros and cons and it is up to you to decide which is or will be the best for you.

The direct mail method can be the fastest of the three but is also the most expensive. While it does not absolutely guarantee a return of a card the percentages say that if you are in the log you will receive a card. To use this method you must first have nested International Air Mail envelopes or be able to nest two envelopes of the same size. Next you must have a good address for the other station or manager. You must include an SASE or SAE with sufficient return postage from the station's country to the USA, you cannot use US postage to get mail from outside the United States or it's Territories. Lastly and most important you must include your QSL with the correct QSO data. This method does require a lot of preparation and materials to be successful. The envelopes can be obtained from many sources and are not very expensive.

There are several sources of return postage: use can use two or three US dollars, one IRC, or you can purchase from several sources mint foreign postage. Space will not allow a full discussion of sending the cards except this DO NOT use a Callsign anywhere on the envelope, and DO NOT use USA in your return address. The country name MUST be shown in large block letters in the destination address. Return time from anywhere in the world can be in the order of two weeks, most common time is usually less than one month.

Sending cards via the Bureau can result in a decent return rate, but has many pitfalls as well. You must be a member of the ARRL to use the outgoing Bureau. If not, you must send the cards to the Incoming Bureaus and wait for them to return the cards via the buro. You do not need to be an ARRL member to use the US Incoming Bureau. Other countries require National Radio Society membership to either send or receive cards via the buro. Another pitfall is that in some countries there are no Incoming or Outgoing Bureaus. Instructions for using the Outgoing Bureau may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qs/out.html>. Instructions for using the W5 Incoming Bureau may be found at www.okdxa.org/buro. Overall I would imagine that my return rate via the buro is 50% or less.



The last and newest method of QSLing is the electronic QSL. Currently there are two electronic QSLing methods eQSL and LoTW. Presently the QSL available from eQSL.cc are not acceptable for any ARRL award because of security reasons. The Logbook of The World or LoTW is by far the cheapest and can be the fastest method of QSLing provided that you do not want a printed card. To use the LoTW to store your QSO records costs nothing and you do not need to be an ARRL member. All you need is to download and install the LoTW software and obtain a security certificate. The only time you incur any cost is if you use any of the LoTW QSLs for an award. If you want to QSL 100% and incur no costs then using the LoTW is the way to go. That way if someone needs your QSL it costs you nothing and they still receive the benefit. The speed of the QSL is determined by how long it takes both parties upload their records. I have received QSLs in the order of a few minutes by using LoTW. My return rate for the LoTW is 25%.

How do I play the QSL game? I use whatever method or combination of methods is needed to obtain the QSL or QSLs that I need. I do not mind spending the money to obtain a card from another station and I expect no less from stations that want a card from me.

letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads.

"Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player.

There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times.

"The ARRL acknowledges numerous and increasing instances of state legislative proposals (and occasionally municipal ordinance proposals) to curb the use of cellular telephones while operating motor vehicles, ranging from prohibitions on hand-held telephones to prohibitions on all forms of electronic devices," the Policy Statement maintains. "These statutory proposals would supplement the more generalized motor vehicle code requirements that exist in various forms in virtually all States, which require operators of motor vehicles to pay full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle while driving. ARRL understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, and it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles."

Saying that the League understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, "it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles. Given the necessity of unrestricted mobile Amateur Radio communications in order for the benefits of Amateur Radio to the public to continue to be realized," the policy statement reads, "the ARRL

urges state and municipal legislators considering restrictions on mobile cellular telephone operation to narrowly define the class of devices included in the regulation so that the class includes only full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment, or alternatively, specifically identify licensed Amateur Radio operation as an excluded service."

"The ARRL is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention," the Policy Statement asserts. "Quite the contrary, radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

MFJ Acquires Cushcraft

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.