FCC Asked to Clarify Amateur Rules Governing Encrypted or Encoded Messages

The FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is soliciting comments on a Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed on behalf of New York University (NYU) seeking to clarify that Section 97.113(a)(4) of the Amateur Service rules prohibits the transmission of “effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning.” Comments are due by December 2, with reply comments (comments on comments already filed) due on December 17. The FCC has requested that all filings refer to WT Docket No. 16-239, which grew out of an ARRL Petition for Rule Making seeking elimination of symbol rate limitations on the amateur bands and is unrelated to the wider encryption issue.

“For years, certain amateur licensees have violated Section 97.113(a)(4) by relying on an interpretation that contravenes the two bedrock principles — openness and transparency — that have enabled amateur radio licensees to self-regulate the Amateur Radio Service bands effectively,” the NYU Petition asserts. “This interpretation has restricted Amateur Radio Service licensees’ efforts to effectively self-police the amateur bands, thus enabling the continued violation of many other amateur rules. Accordingly, the Commission should eliminate the lingering uncertainty regarding Section 97.113(a)(4)’s meaning and clarify that the rule prohibits the transmission of effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning.”

NYU explained its rationale for involvement in an amateur radio regulatory matter in a July 2019 ex parte filing from the university’s legal counsel. “As a major center of radio engineering research and scholarship and on whose faculty sat telegraph and Morse code pioneer Samuel Morse, NYU is committed to fostering innovation in, and attracting new entrants to, the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM),” the letter to FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch, signed by Ari Q. Fitzgerald of Hogan Lovells US LLP, said. “We can think of no better way for the FCC to promote these goals than to stand up for transparency and openness in amateur radio.”

NYU Electrical Engineering Professor Ted Rappaport, N9NB, filed the petition on the university’s behalf along with Michael J. Marcus, N3JMM. The petition reflects Rappaport’s view that Winlink amateur radio email software is “an example of a system that has contravened the Commission’s requirements.” He included PACTOR 2, PACTOR 3, PACTOR 4, WINMOR, ARDOP, and VARA in this category as well.

“For years, certain amateur licensees have skirted these requirements, sending and receiving communications over amateur bands using communications modes that incorporate dynamic compression techniques and, by extension, effectively encrypt or encode the communications,” the Petition contends. “These amateur licensees combine dynamic compression with automatic repeat request (ARQ), which allows only two linked stations to complete a transmission without error.”
A footnote in the *Petition* says the efficacy and availability of recently announced software to decode Winlink communications when sent using different PACTOR modes is “unclear” as it applies to existing PACTOR-capable modems. “If any bits or letters are missed or corrupted during the reception — as would be expected under HF propagation — the message cannot be realistically decoded,” the footnote asserts. SCS, the company that created PACTOR, recently unveiled its **PMON** software that it says offers the ability to monitor the content of PACTOR 1, 2, and 3 transmissions over the air.

**Links for Kansas Hams!**

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<tr>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARRL Main Page</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ARRL KS Section News Page</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas">http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/kansas</a></td>
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<td>ARRL Midwest Director's Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf">http://www.arrlmidwest.org/newsletter/newsletter.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Kansas Section Pages and KAR's</td>
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<td>Kansas QSO Party</td>
<td><a href="http://ksqsoparty.org">http://ksqsoparty.org</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.warc1.org">http://www.warc1.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enisor Museum</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org">http://www.ensorparkandmuseum.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>K-Link Repeater Network</td>
<td><a href="http://ks0lnk.net">http://ks0lnk.net</a></td>
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</tbody>
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Links to all known Kansas Clubs can be found at the bottom of https://ksarrl.org

If you change your Clubs web address, please contact Kent at kb0rwi@arrl.net

**S.A.T.E.R.N.**

*Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network*

http://satern.ksarrl.org/

**Net Reports courtesy of Richard, KØRCJ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club/Network</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Check-ins</th>
<th>Message passed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wichita Amateur Radio Club (WARC)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>WARC DMR nets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARC Fusion nets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Salt Plains ARC (GSPARC)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>43</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>QCWA Net</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØRCJ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSHR: 1-40 2-8 3-30 4-20 5-0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL 98</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Western Kansas Net information courtesy Matt, KDØEZS**

The western Kansas 160m net will be Tuesday nights at 9 pm central time on or near 1.960MHz LSB
Silent Keys

As a service to fellow hams across the state, I urge all individuals and Clubs to send me Silent Key notices. Please include a link to an obituary. I watch Larry's List for announcements of hams from Kansas. If you are not on Larry's List, I will forward the notice to him. He in turn notifies the ARRL. As Larry cannot include pictures, I do my best to find images so that a face can be put with the name and call. Thank you!

Bill Davidson, WØJLY

Area hams lost a great friend when William L. Davidson, WØJLY of Bella Vista, became a Silent Key on July 17th, just two months away from his 98th birthday. Bill is believed to have been the oldest and longest licensed ham in the region, and was a familiar voice on the airwaves for an amazing 80 years. Davidson was a charter member of the former Bella Vista Repeater Group, and in recent years, was honored as Member Emeritus of BVRC. He also was a member of the former Northwest Arkansas Amateur Radio Club and a former president of the local chapter of QCWA, the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Bill was a veteran, who served as a U.S.Navy radioman and radar technician. In 1984, he moved to Bella Vista from Topeka, KS, after retiring as vice-president of a tech company performing services for the railroad industry. Friends remember Bill as being incredibly knowledgeable, helpful, well-known, and active on the air daily, participating in HF nets on 75 and 40 Meters. Bill was also known as being a stickler for Resonant HF antennas, and was appreciated for diligently maintaining
area repeaters for decades.

Bill was preceded by his XYL, Mary, and is survived by his son, Craig Davidson, KF5JYV, and daughter in law, Hannah. Burial was at the Fayetteville National Cemetery with military honors; a memorial service was held Saturday, July 27th, at 3:00 p.m., at Bella Vista Community Church, 75 E Lancashire Blvd.


Ron Evans, K5XK, Bella Vista Area Radio Club Membership Coordinator noted Bill was a long time Topeka resident and active in the Topeka amateur radio community prior to 1984.

32 Things To Get Your Mind Off Politics

1. A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
2. Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.
3. The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
5. A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
6. A duck's quack doesn't echo. No one knows why.
7. A 2" X 4" Stud is really 1-1/2" by 3-1/2".
8. During the chariot scene in 'Ben Hur,' a small red car can be seen in the distance (and Heston's wearing a watch).
9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily! (A popular Facebook “news” item declared false, statistics unknown due to lack of required reporting and privacy laws)
10. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
11. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
12. The number of possible ways of playing the first four moves per side in a game of chess is 318,979,564,000.
13. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.
14. The name 'Wendy' was made up for the book Peter Pan. There was never a recorded 'Wendy' before.
15. The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.
16. If one places a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death. (Who was the sadist who discovered this??)
17. Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to s-l-o-w film down so you could see his moves. That's the opposite of the norm.
18. The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA.' (The first commercial production CD was “The Visitors” by Abba under Polygram Records in November 1982.)
19. The original name for butterfly was flutterby. (and that is a more accurate description)
20. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
21. The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
22. Roses may be red, but violets are indeed violet.
23. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you cannot sink into quicksand.
24. Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
25. Charlie Chaplin once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest. (???)
26. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
27. Sherlock Holmes NEVER said, "Elementary, my dear Watson."
28. An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards while dancing!
29. The glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.
30. The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.
31. Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them.
32. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave!

Now wasn't that calming and nice for a change?

Signs from Larry's List - date unknown

Signs of Life from Solar Cycle 25

Big things have small beginnings. Years from now, observers may look back from the perch of a new Solar Maximum and realize that the action began on Nov. 5, 2019, with a very small solar flare. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded the blast:

This is a B1-class solar flare--that is, relatively small, ~1000 times weaker than the intense X-flares of Solar Maximum. It is significant not because of its intensity, but rather because of its origin. It came from AR2750, an active region belonging to the next solar cycle.

Sunspot AR2750 first appeared in the sun's southern hemisphere on Nov. 1st, breaking a string of 28 spotless days. A picture of the emerging sunspot is inset in this magnetic map of the sun's surface from the Solar Dynamics Observatory:

How do we know AR2750 belongs to the next solar cycle? Its magnetic polarity tells us so. Southern sunspots from old Solar Cycle 24 have a -/+ polarity. This sunspot is the opposite: +/- . According to Hale's Law, sunspots switch polarities from one solar cycle to the next. AR2750 is therefore a member of new Solar Cycle 25.

Solar cycles always mix at their boundaries. So far this year, short-lived
sunspots likely belonging to Solar Cycle 25 have been reported on May 28, July 1st, July 8th, and Nov. 1st. They were interspersed with a similar number of old Solar Cycle 24 spots. This type of mixing is normal.

The increasing frequency of new cycle sunspots does not mean Solar Minimum is finished. On the contrary, low solar activity will probably continue for at least another year. However, it does mean that new Solar Cycle 25 is slowly sputtering to life—a process that will accelerate in the years ahead. If forecasters are correct, Solar Cycle 25 sunspots will eventually dominate the solar disk, bringing a new Solar Maximum as early as 2023.

Factoid: November 11 was the end of an 8 day spotless sun. The sun has been blank 75% of 2019.

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KSØJA
Jackson Amateur Radio Club

FALL “SWAPFEST”

Saturday, November 16th, 2019
From 8 AM to 3 PM
NEW LOCATION
Kansas Army National Guard Armory
1008 W 4th St, Holton, KS 66436

FREE ADMISSION
- $5 PER TABLE TO PARTICIPATE
- EVENT SET UP AT 7 AM. TABLES AND CHAIRS PROVIDED
- BREAKFAST BISCUITS AND GRAVY AND LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT
- TALK IN FREQUENCY 146.775 – 0.6MHZ, NO TONE

Website: www.jacksonarc.com
Email: club@jacksonarc.com
JOIN THE MAIL NOTIFICATION LIST FOR KAR

If you would like to join the Mailchimp list to be notified of the new KAR Newsletter you may do so on the web site https://ksarrl.org by clicking on the Email Notification link. http://eepurl.com/c25Go9

Use of the active to e-mail and eepurl links above will provide the unique ID for your subscription.

KANSAS HF NETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mgr</th>
<th>Freq</th>
<th>Net Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M, W, F</td>
<td>6:45AM</td>
<td>KØRCJ</td>
<td>3920 KHz</td>
<td>Kansas Phone Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>7:00AM</td>
<td>WBØBWE</td>
<td>3920 KHz</td>
<td>Kansas AM Weather Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Sun</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>KØRCJ</td>
<td>3920 KHz</td>
<td>Kansas Phone Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon - Fri</td>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>KC5MP</td>
<td>7253.5 KHz</td>
<td>Central States Traffic Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>WBØBWE</td>
<td>3920 KHz</td>
<td>Kansas Weather Net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
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<td>KØRCJ</td>
<td>3920 KHz</td>
<td>Kansas Sideband Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>N80Z</td>
<td>3547 KHz</td>
<td>QKS CW NTS Traffic Net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:30PM</td>
<td>WD0ESF</td>
<td>3547 KHz</td>
<td>QKS SS CW Traffic Net</td>
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<tr>
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<td>N80Z</td>
<td>3547 KHz</td>
<td>QKS CW NTS Traffic Net</td>
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I have posted public service nets on https://ksarrl.org/traffic.php

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Complete list of ECs and a printable State ARES map https://ksarrl.org/ares/


AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

MONTHLY EC REPORT

◆ Zone 4A – Brian KCØBS

OCTOBER MONTHLY ARES REPORT TO DEC & SEC

Total of ACTIVE ARES members: 150 +0

Local Net Name: Johnson County ARES

Emergency Coordinator = Brian Short KC0BS 913-638-7373
Alternate Emergency Coordinator, Recruiting = Jim Andera K0NK 913-884-6613
Assistant Emergency Coordinators:
Herb Fiddick - ECS Liaison
George McCarville WB0CNK - Training, Drills
Matt May KC4WCG - IDs, MECC
Bill Gery KA2FNK - Recruiting, Technology
Darren Martin N0MZW - Net Manager
Brad Kelsey KU0FAN – Membership
Jesse Gonzalez KE0ECS – CERT
Chuck Simpson KC0NUG - Rapid Response
Jim Andera K0NK - KCHEART

NTS liaison is maintained with the KS SSB Net:
Jim Andera K0NK                            Terry Reim WA0DTH
George McCarville WB0CNK              Jim Cordill KI0BK
Debbie Britain AB0UY                       Rich Britain N0ENO

Net Sessions: 50
QNI: 419
QTC: 0
5 nets - 2 Meter Voice
5 nets - 440 Voice
5 nets - 2 Meter SATERN Voice
5 nets – CW
5 nets - 6 Meter
5 nets - 2 Meter Voice Simplex
5 nets - PSK 31 SATERN
5 nets - APRS Packet
5 nets - 1.25 Meter
5 nets - SATERN 80 meter SSB

Report prepared by:
Darren Martin N0MZW
Johnson County Kansas

◆ Zone 6A, E & G – Rod KØEQH

Kansas AREA Zones 6A,E & G Net report October 2019
Total Nets......5
Total QNI.......36

Stations Participating: WB0QYA, N0OMC, N0OXQ, N0KQX, W0BYV, KG0VA, AC0E, K0EQH
Rod
K0EQH
NCS
Hallicrafters S-38D

There's been a recent thread on one of the Hallicrafters 'reflectors', with opinions on which old radio receiver is the best looking - several opted for the SX-99, I and many opted for the SX-62, and a bunch for the SX-28, which is very hard to find, unless you are willing to pay big bux for one... which I'm not.

Still, looking through my 1945 ARRL Handbook (my very first book on ham radio - given to me by a Navy Uncle), those wonderful green pages of Hallicrafters, still capture my eye. S-20R's, SX-28's (tremble, pant, pant), and all the rest of their line, still grab the kid that lives inside the 65 year-old body I call ME. In "those days", The Handbook always had ads in the back, containing all the wonders of the world that mere mortals usually couldn't afford, or at least not a 13 year old, who sold flower & vegetable seeds, and cashed in pop & beer bottles to make a few pennies here and there. We could only DREAM of owning a real "Ham Shack", just like the cartooned ones on QST covers, perhaps containing a Johnson 500 (whew!), and a National HRO-60 - or maybe even a Knight T-150 and a Hammarlund Super-Pro... or hopefully something home-brewed that was in a 6 foot tall, 19 inch RACK - yeahhhh, heck every kid knew that if it was in a RACK, it must be powerful and very cool, indeed. Oh yeah... lots of meters too - the more meters, the better it must work, with all those wiggling pointers that only the smartest of hams understood.

Home brew was very popular back then - yep... beer AND ham radio. Our neighbor used to regularly blow several bottle up in his garage and for a few weeks the area around his house, smelled like a brewery... but I digress. Analog tube-type TV sets were everywhere, and power-transformers to be had for the "cutting out". Every ham (and kid) had boxes of diked out resistors, capacitors, chokes, tube-sockets, switches, and wiring, that his Mother REALLY WANTED TO THROW AWAY, but didn't dare. I recall building a filament-continuity tester, a signal tracer, and a resistor/capacitor substitution box from plans in Popular Mechanics, all in Mom's recipe boxes (boy, was she mad). Hey, they were the right size and were metal, and best... the lid was hinged! Other REAL hams produced full-gallon amplifiers, and out-of-their-head exciters, built with nothing more than experience and knowledge of circuitry - schematics were for the weaker of us. A journey into a REAL ham's basement resulted in something akin to being a guest on the space-shuttle; vast displays of meters, dials, knobs, switches, and big "glowy" things in the back of viewing windows, that produced massive quantities of heat, sufficient to run the turbines of the USS MISSOURI (BB-63), or heat my entire school at least. All manner of gloriously constructed devices in RACKS (remember racks?), lending to the aura of magnificance. Tom Corbett and the Space Cadets didn't have rigs that looked like THIS! (actually, in the movie "Mission To Mars", there's a Hallicrafters SX-42 with a microphone plugged into the earphone jack!) Ohhhh, the depth of inspiration to a kid was beyond anything that resulted in science class - what's a Wilson cloud-chamber compared to a rack-mounted exciter, running 4 1625 finals... into four 813's in grounded-grid?

I recall a fellow in Mission, KS, on the NW corner of 52nd. and Maple, who MADE HIS OWN 600 ohm ladder line! I don't know who he was, but I recall seeing him with two big coils of copper wire, and
several glass rods. He broke measured pieces of the rod; laid 'em in routed grooves on some kind of wood or stone, then pulled the twin strands of wire, tightly ACROSS them and clamped the wires... all this time, he had a gas torch going, and would then play the flame across the glass rod, and melt it so that the wire was melted INTO the rod - he did this in about 3 foot sections and managed to make beautiful VERY LOW LOSS feeder line, for ultra-cheap money. It took me years to figure out what he had been doing, as I was just into crystal sets at the time. Imagine going to Associated Radio these days, and asking for 2 rolls of wire and a handful of glass rod to make your own ladder-line... actually, I'll bet the guys over there might actually HAVE some.

When I bought a rather beat-up Hallicrafters S-38D [http://www.rigpix.com/hallicrafters/s38d.htm] a few years ago - which I'd lusted after when I was a boy of 13, back in 1956, I wondered if I could "make it play" again - finally, I got it all fixed, working, and realigned - plus shined it all up and scrubbed the knobs with a toothbrush... I hooked up a piece of wire to the antenna screw, and let it warm up - after listening to the local 40's station here (KEZW), I put it up on the 30m band (9 mcs)... and while tuning about, I stumbled across the BBC, just like the old days, listening to other kid's short wave radios - I happened to glance on the dial-background (with all the names of cities, around the World... Paris, Moscow, Washington, Tokyo, etc... they used to do that) and the dial pointer was sitting DIRECTLY OVER "London" - I laughed out loud and said to myself - yep... back in 1956, nobody lied to kids.. if they said LONDON would be there - sure 'nuff, it would be!

...and it was.

Tom

This photo is me in 1962, as a new Novice at K6NCG (Treasure Island) while in ET school in Uncle's Navy... most likely, I didn't look a lot different when I was in San Diego in 1964.

This year, I used a '52 Gonset Commander w/matching VFO... and a 1958 Knightkit R-100A (which really surprised me, as to how good it was, once I fixed the 48 bad solder joints and FINALLY did an alignment on it, which it appears it had NEVER undergone!)