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ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update – November 2009
Division website: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

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===== Regulation 97.113 and Appropriate Use of Ham Radio =====

By now you can probably recite 97.113 verbatim in your sleep given all of the discussion taking place about FCC's renewed attention towards communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.

In late September – as a result of Laura Smith and Bill Cross raising this issue at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum due to receiving a number of questions and concerns from the ham community – the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial, non-profit and government entities, as well as recommendations for additional steps to be taken by the ARRL to educate radio amateurs and others on how to prepare and train for public service and emergency communications while complying with the current FCC Rules. These guidelines are available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/25/11094/?nc=1>.

Because of misinterpretations and rumors being made about FCC's attention towards 97.113 by both government officials and some hams within the last few months, FCC felt the need on October 20 to release Public Notice 09-2259 to clarify information surrounding the whole topic. This Public Notice is available for viewing at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/20/11151/?nc=1>. In addition to clarifications made, the Public Notice outlines a waiver process for those government agencies wishing to utilize ham radio communications for emergency communication drills.

On October 28 ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND provided a very informative presentation on the entire topic, especially as it relates to emergency communications, via a webinar open to all hams, as well as answered a number of questions asked by participants. If you missed this presentation, you can download the viewgraphs at <http://www.atldiv.org/20091028-Commercialization-Webinar-website.pdf>.

ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ continues discussion of this topic in his "It Seems to Us" column that will appear in the December issue of QST that should be delivered to your mailboxes soon.

So where do we go from here?

A Petition for Rule Making has already been submitted to FCC by a group of hams to amend Part 97 to allow "transmissions necessary for disaster relief or emergency response, including training exercises, planning, drills or tests, without regard to whether the amateur operator has related employment, where the transmissions are for the exclusive use of amateur radio operators for noncommercial purposes." A number of other petitions will likely be drafted and submitted in the future.

ARRL has not yet taken a position on any such petition, but you can count on a portion of the January Board of Directors meeting agenda being devoted to discussing this very topic and considering a course of action that is best for ham radio, if needed.

Your Rocky Mountain Division leadership invites your thoughtful comments and ideas on the matter of 97.113, as we do on any topic that is important to you as an ARRL member and ham. If something is broken in your view, we ask that you don't merely tell us that it's broken, but also

share your solution that's taken into consideration all potential intended and unintended consequences to ham radio in general. If something is NOT broken in your view, we welcome your thoughts and reasoning just as much.

We support the role ham radio plays in emergency communications. However we must also proceed with extreme caution when it comes to considering Part 97 rule changes as some have already done, especially those rules that were written to keep employers (whether for-profit, non-profit, or government) from using our ham spectrum for inappropriate reasons.

Furthermore, if you have general questions about 97.113 or FCC's Public Notice, your most knowledgeable point of contact on anything FCC related is Dan Henderson N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. He can be reached by telephone at (860) 594-0236, or you can email him at reginfo@arrl.org. If you choose to email a question to him, please CC both Brian N5ZGT and Dwayne WY7FD so we can learn from Dan's answers as well.

===== Rocky Mountain Division HF Net =====

Our next monthly Rocky Mountain Division HF net will occur next week to disseminate information and give us a chance to meet you and your ideas in QSO. Here are the details:

DATE: Wednesday, November 11
TIME: 7:30 PM MST
FREQ: 7240 kHz +/- due to any QRM

General check-ins will be accepted, news and information will be passed, and everyone participating will be invited to ask their Division leadership questions, raise any concerns, or suggest ideas. We hope you'll join us!

===== 2009 Field Day – Congrats, Thank You to all who participated =====

The results are out! A big thank you and congratulations go out to the 116 clubs and groups who participated in this year's event from within the Rocky Mountain Division. The number of Field day entries from the Rocky Mountain Division grew 18% from last year.

Members may view 2009 Field Day scores on the ARRL website by visiting http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html?con_id=176. There you can sort and filter the information to show results only within the division or your own section. Results will also be available in the December issue of QST magazine.

If you, your club or your group hasn't done so already, please post your experience, tips and pictures to the 2009 Field Day soapbox: http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=176

Mark your calendars for next year's Field Day: June 26-27, 2010. It's never too early to evaluate your preparation and effort from this year and begin planning for next year!

===== Rocky Mountain Division member survey...stay tuned =====

This fall/winter we intend to offer an online member survey to gather your thoughts on a variety of general and specific topics related to the Rocky Mountain Division and ARRL in general. We look forward to utilizing yet another avenue to solicit your feedback to help us represent you better.

The finishing touches are being put on a number of questions, and we'll keep you in the loop as to when the survey will be released and available for your input.

===== Upcoming hamfests, tailgates & conventions =====

November 7	285 TechConnect Radio Club Techfest (Morrison, CO)
January 16	Northern Colorado ARC Winter Hamfest (Fort Collins, CO)
January 30	Albuquerque Winter Tailgate (Albuquerque, NM)
February 7	Aurora Repeater Association Swapfest (Brighton, CO)
April 3	Longmont ARC Swapfest, LARCFest (Longmont, CO)
May 28-30	2010 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (Casper, WY)
August 22	Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site:
www.RockyMountainDivision.org

If you're organizing a Hamfest, convention or tailgate, please consider having your event ARRL-sanctioned. Sanctioning details can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/>

===== Upcoming on-air activities =====

In addition to chewing the rag with fellow hams, here are some additional on-air activities which await you on the airwaves.

Upcoming special event stations: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

Upcoming contests: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Operating awards: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/>

===== Final note... =====

Please touch base with your Section Manager if he can be of assistance to you:

Jeff Ryan K0RM (Colorado): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=CO>

Don Wood W5FHA (New Mexico): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=NM>

Mel Parkes NM7P (Utah): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=UT>

Garth Crowe N7XKT (Wyoming): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WY>

Vice Director Dwayne Allen and I continue to welcome your concerns, questions or ideas regarding ARRL policies. See you on the airwaves!

73,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division Director

Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Rocky Mountain Division Vice-Director

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