

Central Division News & Views

Issue #17 - December, 2006

ARRL Files Petition For Reconsideration With FCC

By the time you read this newsletter, the FCC R&O on **WT Docket 04-140** will be effective. However, I think you should know the rationale for the ARRL Petition for Reconsideration filed with the FCC on Monday, December 11, 2006 even though it may not be heard or granted.

If you have been following the ARRL web site news reports on FCC Report and Order on **WT Docket 04-140**, you are aware of the several FCC editorial corrections that have been made to this R&O. However, one major mistake remains. The shrinkage of the 80 Meter CW sub-band wipes out all auto-forwarded digital modes on this band. The ARRL has filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration of only this specific change by asking the FCC to move the 3600 KHz CW/SSB dividing line back up to 3635 KHz. This would restore the use of auto-forwarded digital modes to 80 Meters and provide a little more room for CW operation. Simply put, the FCC-ordered change of the 50/50 SSB-CW split to 80/20 would moved back to 73/27 percent.

Some of you may be asking why we did not ask for a larger 80 Meter CW sub-band restoration. The answer lies in the fact that a reconsideration petition is based on asking for the correction of mistakes and oversights, not asking for a restoration of the previous rules or large portions of them. This is a fine line to follow and the odds for obtaining FCC approval of this very limited petition are not very good. Asking for a major reconsideration of this R&O would be a waste of ARRL and FCC resources. It would not get a hearing.

End Of The Year Thoughts...

This is the time when I think about all that we all have experienced and witnessed during the year. We are seeing the inevitable spread of nuclear technology into the hands of governments, and possibly groups that are opposed to fostering basic human rights. I sincerely hope that rationality, even among those who disagree with us, will prevail as it has in the past. I sincerely hope that our continued "war on terror" becomes un-necessary and the resources we are spending in this pursuit can be used to at least reduce human pain and suffering. And I sincerely hope that the FCC becomes more rational in its decisions and stops taking so very long to make them.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New year!

Hamfests & Meetings

As of the publication of this newsletter issue, here is my ARRL travel schedule for January 2007. It is subject to change if required ARRL meeting dates are changed or there are last minute transportation problems.

Jan 6, 2007	West Allis RAC Hamfest	Waukesha, WI
Jan 17-21, 2007	ARRL Board Meeting	Hartford, CT
Jan 28, 2007	WCRA Hamfest	St. Charles, IL

I hope to see many of you at these hamfests. In addition to shopping for new and used equipment, they are a great way to renew and develop friendships and to meet some of the voices you have heard on your radios.

73 - George R. (Dick) Isely, W9GIG
Central Division Director