



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes a formal action.  
See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1214 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 28, 2008

## FCC Amateur Digital VHF and UHF Order

*Washington, DC* – The Nation’s Amateur 2 meter and 70cm spectrum will transition from analog broadcast service to digital broadcast service on February 17, 2009. The Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) today released the Amateur Digital Education Order requiring amateur repeater owners to promote awareness of the nation’s transition to digital VHF and UHF broadcast. The educational efforts of these diverse groups are intended to provide clear and correct information about the VHF and UHF digital transition.

The VHF and UHF digital transition will provide amateurs with better quality voice and data as well as provide more repeater channel availability. It will also make valuable spectrum available to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband

The Commission has been committed to working with representatives from ARRL, amateur public interest groups, other governmental entities, and Congress to make the significant benefits of digital broadcasting available to the amateur community and minimize the potential burdens the transition could impose. Today’s order takes numerous steps designed to facilitate a smooth transition, including:

- Repeater trustees must provide on-air information to their users about the VHF and UHF digital transition, and have the flexibility to comply with one of three alternative sets of rules to best serve their widely divergent communities. Repeater trustees must report these efforts, on a quarterly basis, to the Commission and the ARRL.
- Manufacturers of VHF and UHF transmitters, receivers and related devices must provide notice to consumers of the transition’s impact on that equipment.
- FCC.gov partners and winners of the 147 MHz spectrum auction must provide the Commission with regular updates on their consumer education efforts.



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See 47 CFR, FCC 3.15 F24.003 (D.C. CIR. 1974)

- FCC will assist the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (“NTIA”) in ensuring that retailers are fulfilling their commitment to the national
- VHF and UHF converter box program. This program will be similar to the program that is in place for the transition to DTV.

Action by the Commission February 19, 2008, by Report & Order (FCC 08-56). Chairman Martin issuing a statement; Commissioner Tate issuing a separate statement; Commissioner Copps concurring and issuing a separate statement; Commissioner McDowell approving in part, concurring in part and issuing a statement; and Commissioner Adelstein approving in part, dissenting in part and issuing a statement.

MB Docket No. 07-148

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News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found on the Commission’s web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## EDITORS NOTE

I have been told that a thorough discussion of this FCC Report & Order will be held at the next Klub meeting. Please bring your thoughts on what to do with our analog 146.680 repeater and when we should convert it to digital so we can be in compliance with this amateur radio transition to digital.