

## Status of Active FCC Proceedings Related to Amateur Radio as of May 10, 2010

### **ET Docket No. 10-98**

*Title:* In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2 and 97 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate Use by the Amateur Radio Service of the Allocation at 5 MHz

*Status:* Notice of Proposed Rule Making Released May 7, 2010, not yet published in Federal Register

*Comment Date:* Unknown (30 days after publication in Federal Register)

*Reply Comment Date:* Unknown (45 days after publication in Federal Register)

*Summary:* Based on an ARRL petition (RM-11353) the FCC proposes to substitute a new 5-MHz channel for one that is usually not available for amateur use, to increase the power limit to 100 watts ERP, and to permit CW, PSK31 and PACTOR-III operation with provisions to ensure that harmful interference to Federal stations is avoided.

*ARRL position:* The ARRL supports the proposals that are consistent with its petition. ARRL positions must be developed with regard to time limits for transmissions, possible additional emission types, VOX operation, encouraging ALE capability, and whether narrowband emissions such as CW and PSK31 must be limited only to the center frequency of each channel.

*References:* [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-76A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-76A1.pdf) (NPRM)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-additions-changes-to-amateur-5-mhz-allocation> (ARRL Web story on the NPRM)

<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=6518527442> (ARRL petition, RM-11353)

### **WP Docket No. 10-72**

*Title:* In the Matter of Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Amateur Radio Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills

*Status:* Notice of Proposed Rule Making Released March 24, 2010

*Comment Date:* May 24, 2010

*Reply Comment Date:* June 7, 2010

*Summary:* The FCC proposes to amend §97.113(a)(3) to permit a control station operator to “participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.” The FCC also seeks comment on whether employee operation during non-government-sponsored emergency communications drills should be permitted.

*ARRL position:* ARRL supports a rules change to permit an amateur station licensee or control operator, on behalf of an employer, to “participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include amateur operations for the purpose of emergency response, disaster relief or the testing and maintenance of equipment used for that purpose.” Such participation would not be limited to government-sponsored drills.

*References:* [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf) (NPRM)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/25/11405/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story about the NPRM)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2010/03/01/11308/?nc=1> (March 2010 *QST* editorial explaining the ARRL position and how it was developed)

## **WT Docket No. 10-62**

*Title:* In the Matter of Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Facilitate Use of Spread Spectrum Communications Technologies

*Status:* Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order Released March 16, 2010, not yet published in Federal Register

*Comment Date:* Unknown (30 days after publication in Federal Register)

*Reply Comment Date:* Unknown (45 days after publication in Federal Register)

*Summary:* In response to an ARRL petition (RM-11325) filed in April 2006 the FCC proposes to eliminate the automatic power control (APC) requirement for spread spectrum (SS) emissions with a transmitter power output exceeding 1 watt, but to reduce the power limit for SS emissions from 100 watts to 10 watts. In the Order the FCC corrects certain oversights, including an inadvertent 2006 reduction in the power limit for Technician licensees.

*ARRL position:* To be determined (i.e., is the reduction in the power limit an acceptable tradeoff for the elimination of APC?)

*References:* [http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-38A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-38A1.pdf) (NPRM/Order)  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/18/11396/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story about the NPRM/Order)  
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/SS-Rulemaking-Petition.pdf> (ARRL petition, RM-11325)

## **WP Docket No. 10-54**

*Title:* Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seek Comment on Request by American Hospital Association for Blanket Waiver to Permit Hospitals to Use Amateur Radio as Part of Emergency Preparedness Drills

*Status:* Public Notice Released March 3, 2010; comment deadline passed

*Comment Date:* April 2, 2010

*Reply Comment Date:* April 19, 2010

*Summary:* The American Hospital Association (AHA) seeks a blanket waiver of §97.113(a)(3) to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use amateur radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills.

*ARRL position:* ARRL supports the waiver as long as the FCC clarifies that the permitted communications must be limited to those necessary for participation in the drill, and that the waiver expires upon final disposition of the rule making proceeding in WP Docket No. 10-72.

*References:* [http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-10-365A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-365A1.pdf) (Public Notice)  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/04/11375/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the Public Notice)  
<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7020400257> (ARRL comments)  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/04/07/11425/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the ARRL comments)

### **WT Docket No. 09-209**

*Title:* In the Matter of Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules Governing Vanity and Club Station Call Signs

*Status:* Notice of Proposed Rule Making released November 24, 2009; comment deadline passed

*Comment Date:* March 26, 2010

*Reply Comment Date:* April 12, 2010

*Summary:* The FCC proposes to incorporate several policies related to vanity and club station call sign issuance into its rules, and to limit clubs to one club station license.

*ARRL position:* ARRL supports most of the proposed changes but offers a multi-part alternative solution to the perceived problem of too many preferred call signs being held by clubs.

*References:* [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-102A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-102A1.pdf) (NPRM)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/25/11220/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the NPRM)

<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7020397485> (ARRL comments)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/04/07/11423/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the ARRL comments)

### **WP Docket No. 08-63**

*Title:* In the Matter of ReconRobotics, Inc. Request for Waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules

*Status:* FCC granted the waiver request, with conditions, by Order on February 23, 2010. ARRL has filed a petition for reconsideration.

*Summary:* In January 2008 ReconRobotics sought a waiver to permit the licensing by public safety entities of a remotely controlled surveillance product that operates in the 430-448 MHz frequency range. ARRL opposed the grant of the waiver on several grounds, including the potential for harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC nevertheless granted the waiver request with conditions intended mainly to protect the primary federal government users from interference. ARRL continues to oppose the waiver and has filed a petition for reconsideration. ReconRobotics has filed in opposition to reconsideration, but assenting to ARRL's position with respect to labeling and notification in the device's instruction manual.

*References:* [http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf) (Public Notice)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ReconroboticsComments05-27-08.pdf> (ARRL's opposition)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/29/10130/> (ARRL Web story on ARRL's opposition)

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-10-291A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-291A1.pdf) (Order)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/25/11361/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the Order)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/04/06/11422/?nc=1> (ARRL Web story on the ARRL petition for reconsideration)