AMENDMENT TO COMMENTS, JANIS CARSON
TIMELY FILED OCTOBER 30, 2017

PLEASE APPEND TO MY EXISTING FILING:
FCC OET 17-215 INTERNET CB.PDF

In my comments, I reference a number of data sources on line regarding the use, abuse, and problems of HF email. I present evidence of the need for FCC to take corrective action in revision of rules, licensing standards, and enforcement. This piece of evidence slipped by my attention when I filed the original document. Please append it, as a reference of raw data.

Sailing forums discuss Winlink HF email use. This one is interesting to read, and is a fair presentation of what is going on FROM A VESSEL OWNER'S VIEW POINT. **I highlight the areas of interest in bold.** This is presented as supplemental evidence to my original filing.

THIS CLIP IS FROM SSCA SAILING FORUM FROM LINK:
https://www.ssca.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=1178&start=30

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Pactor III illegal?

by Balme » Wed Nov 22, 2006 1:09 pm
Having recently puchased SSB, tuner and PactorIII, as a way to keep us linked via email to spouse's family while cruising, and in view of the effort required to get the whole chbang up and running, I have to say that this sucks. I'd have gone the sat phone route and kept the old non modem equipped SSB had I known this was coming down the pike. Q: Is my Pactor III downgradeable to a Pactor II or is it only the Pactor II's that were upgraded to III that can be downgraded to Pactor II?

With this, I have some sympathy for the Hams. A lack of knowledge on my part regarding the bandwith was not intentional and were I able to actually use the rotten thing, I am sure I would have caused trouble inadvertently.

I think the whole radio thing is extremely complex and unfortunately tempers always run high when discussions turn to this topic, making it even harder to work out what's to be done when.

There's not enough simplified explanation of what's involved in being a Ham operator and I criticise the Ham environment for making it so difficult. I sadly admit to learning the answers to the license exam - rather than reading and understanding the book - because the book is so poor and so much irrelevant crap is included with it. A simplified book - with a more limited scope (and therefore a change in the license test) would have been enjoyable and interesting - and lead perhaps to a full understanding of the impact of the Pactor situation.

(My 2c!)
Bill
s/v Toodle-oo!
Outbound 44 #27
www.toodleoo.com

by Zest » Wed Nov 22, 2006 2:01 pm
My thought on this is that it's basically three problems. Firstly, I don't think the bandwidth issue is even important, there are other modes that take up the same or more bandwidth than Pactor III. But I do think there are three basic real problems.

#1 - The users don't listen before they transmit. It even says in the documentation for airmail right there in big bold letters that it's important to listen on the frequency before you transmit. If memory serves it actually even goes into a fair amount of detail about it on the website, maybe in the documentation too. But are users doing it ? Apparently not. <u>**I think part of it is just lack of education, and the rest is just a user community that has many users that wouldn't even be hams if it didn't get them free email, they just don't give a shit. User's should know what "listen before you transmit" really means.**</u> It doesn't mean tune to the frequency and listen for 2 seconds to see if you hear someone else's Pactor III transmission. What it means is tune to the frequency and listen for a FEW MINUTES to make sure there isn't anyone else using the frequency. Just like any other ham operator. CW operators don't just listen for 2 seconds and start sending out CQ's, they tune in and sit there and make sure the frequency is open for a while, sometimes even sending out a request asking if the frequency is open before they send out a CQ. <u>**You are a ham operator when you are using these mailboxes and you are supposed to be polite and a good citizen of the bands. Your unlicensed wife shouldn't be doing it, your kids shouldn't be doing it, and you as a licensed operator should know what you are doing before you do it. Ignorance isn't an excuse.**</u> And understand the system and what it is doing, learn and understand how you are affecting the other hams. But it doesn't seem like a lot of users are doing this, instead they seem to be just firing up the computer and transmitting all over the place without ever checking the frequency first, as if that frequency is reserved just for email or something ... it ISN'T! Other hams have every right to use that frequency for whatever they want, lots of them don't even know what winlink is, all they know is their qso is getting stomped on and it pisses them off. Wanting to get your email isn't a good enough reason to stomp all over someone else's qso.

<u>**#2 - The automatic stations aren't listening on the frequencies before they transmit. There can be 10 different people in various areas of the Pacific having conversations on a frequency and suddenly one user hits that automatic station with Pactor and WHAM ... the station starts blasting data from huge antennas at high power all over the Pacific ocean and wipes out every qso that is happening.**</u> This is not always the user's fault. The user might be on one side of the ocean and they cannot hear conversations that are happening on the other side of the ocean, so they can't always know that contacting the mailbox is going to blow somebody else's qso away. **But the automatic station SHOULD KNOW, it should have some mechanism built into it that insures it is listening on the frequency to make sure that it is clear before it just starts responding to user requests that it hears.** The people who have built this system have done nothing to insure that this works right (as far as I have understood), the stations are acting in a **completely automatic way when they answer requests, and they are responding with so much power and strength that they wipe out any chances of other people using that frequency over large geographic areas ... in essence, they take it over. And they take it over so efficiently that many novice users don't even realize**

that the frequency is used for anything else besides email. I think a good visual for a user to have in mind when they contact a station is this ... imagine you are in a giant room and it is partitioned into different sections and in each section there is a photographer developing film. When you are developing film in your area it is ok to use a small flashlight to look at your photos when they are done, you are far enough away from everyone else that it won't affect their darkrooms. But hitting that automatic station is similar to turning the overhead lights on in the room, it's so bright it just blows away all the darkness and ruins everyone else's film. Keep that in mind every time you hit that button to check your email, that you are causing that automatic station to blast a huge geographic area and wipe out everyone else on that frequency.

#3 - ARRL needs work on it's credibility with hams. There are hams out there who say that the ARRL is heavily influenced and shows favoritism to the company that makes the Pactor devices, and that this company in turn contributes money to the ARRL. Even if this is a completely innocent arrangement, it doesn't look innocent to a lot of hams, and some have even used the word kickback to describe the contributions. Hams really make an interesting case for it when they point to **proposals such as the one to allow Pactor III on 60 meters,** which seems to most folks to be an absurd proposal.
Last edited by Zest on Thu Nov 23, 2006 4:02 am, edited 4 times in total.

OFFLINE
Zest
    Posts: 152
    Joined: Mon Jun 19, 2006 3:29 am
    Location: Virginia USA

Cost of Iridium

by Kettlewell » Wed Nov 22, 2006 2:12 pm
Off topic, but **I donÃ,Â´t find Iridium that expensive.** The phones cost a lot less than a decent SSB set up, and less than most Ham set ups. I bought 500 minutes of airtime up front for $500, and I havenÃ,Â´t come close to using it up in almost 10 months of use, and that includes a lot of minutes wasted setting up the system so it would work. GMN or XGate are around $300 per year, so total cost for me will be around $800 for one year. ThatÃ,Â´s less than $70 per month, or about what I paid for phone service on land. When I use it I send around five or six emails per day and receive up to 10 or so per day. I usually do this around five days per week. **I couldnÃ,Â´t discuss business over Winlink so that is out of the question for me, and Sailmail costs too.** Plus, I can make the occasional important phone call whenever I have to. **I could even carry the Iridium into the liferaft if I needed to.**
Intracoastal Waterway Chartbook: Norfolk to Miami
Intracoastal Waterway Chartbook: Miami to Mobile
http://www.kettlewellcruising.blogspot.com

End of quote.

Respectfully submitted,
/S/
Janis Carson, AB2RA, licensed since 1959, Extra Class, ARRL member for over 40 years