

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MAIL BRANCH

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IN THE MATTER OF

AMENDMENT OF PART 97 OF THE)
COMMISSION'S RULES TO RELAX)
RESTRICTIONS ON THE SCOPE OF)
PERMISSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS IN)
THE AMATEUR SERVICE)

TO: THE COMMISSION

COMMENTS OF STEVE HOLBERT, KB4FZK

IN RECENT YEARS, THE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO AS A PART OF PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS HAS CAUSED SOME QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED AS TO WHAT IS THE PROPER USE OF HAM RADIO DURING THESE ACTIVITIES. CERTAINLY THERE ARE THE F.C.C. RULES THAT HAVE ALWAYS GOVERNED THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE TO ACT AS A GUIDE POST. THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT THE DEFINITIONS OF THE RULES HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO.

UNDER PART 97 NO BUSINESS MAY BE CONDUCTED VIA HAM RADIO WITH THE POINT BEING TAKEN SO FAR AS TO INCLUDE THE PLACING OF LODGING AND SHELTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEWS REPORTERS COVERING A SLED DOG RACE OF MANY DAYS DURATION IN THE NORTHERN MOST PARTS OF ALASKA. IT IS AGREED THAT THE REPORTERS WERE THERE AS PART OF THEIR WORK BUT SURELY IT MAY ALSO BE SAID THAT THE REMOTENESS OF THE AREA WOULD MAKE IT VERY HARD TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS BY TELEPHONE OR FAX LINE. AS LONG AS THE OPERATOR(S) INVOLVED RECIEVE NO MONEY AS COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES BUSINESS HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTED. IT IS ALSO AGREED THAT COMMERCIAL INTEREST MAY PROFIT IN THIS INSTANCE. THE NEEDS AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC, THE SAFETY OF ALL THE PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THESE EVENTS AND THE GOOD WORK OF THESE EVENTS SHOULD GREATLY OVERSHADOW ANY COINCIDENTAL GAIN TO A BUSINESS VENTURE. THE IDEA OF BEST SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF HAM RADIO IN PUBLIC EVENTS.

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COMMENTS OF STEVE HOLBERT KB4FZK TO FCC RE: PR-136

THE IDEA OF BEST SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WOULD GIVE OPERATORS THE NEEDED FLEXIBILITY TO MEET CHANGING SITUATIONS. RADIO AMATEURS HAVE BUILT A REPUTATION AS BEING SOME PRETTY LEVEL-HEADED AND ABLE INDIVIDUALS. AFTER BEING IN CHARGE OF AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORT TO 25-30 EVENTS PER YEAR, FOR THIS YEAR AND SOME YEARS PAST, MY EXPERIENCE MAKES ME SAY THAT FAITH IN THE JUDGEMENT OF OUR HAMS IS WELL JUSTIFIED AND IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE WILL REGRET IN THE FUTURE.

WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE HAM RADIO AS A TREMENDOUS NATURAL RESOURCE. IT'S THERE IN TIME OF TRUE NEED SUCH AS HURRICANE ANDREW AND ALSO WHEN THE MS BIKE TOUR ASKS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE ON A TWO-DAY 150 MILES BIKE RIDE. LET US NOT BIND THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE BY RULES THAT WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO GIVE ITS BEST.

WHO COULD SAY WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT, HELPING TO RELIEVE SUFFERING DURING A HURRICANE OR THE MONEY BROUGHT IN BY A BIKE TOUR THAT ALLOWED RESEARCHERS TO AT LAST FIND A CURE TO MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



STEVE HOLBERT KB4FZK

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SEPTEMBER 29, 1992