



# K7EAR



## March 2010

**EAARS open repeaters. PL is 141.3 unless noted otherwise**

**Helio** 146.860 and 440.700 EAARS Network, 146.900, 447.825 w/ closed remote PL 100.0 or 141.3. Packet 145.010 **MT. Lemmon** 147.160 EAARS Network **Pinal Peak** 145.41 EAARS Network **Guthrie Peak** 147.28 EAARS Network **South Mountain, Alpine** 145.27 EAARS Network **Jacks Peak, NM** 145.21 EAARS Network  
**GMRS Repeater on Helio** 462.625 PL 123.0  
**Website** [HTTP://WWW.EAARS.COM](http://WWW.EAARS.COM)

### Next Meeting

March 16th at Search and Rescue in Safford. Arrive at 6:30, Meeting at 7 PM

### New Nets

We have a new net on the link. The MERC Net is on the second Saturday of every month at 8:45 AM this is an emergency communications group. Everybody is welcome to participate.

### Saguaro Traffic Net

We have a request for a new NTS net every evening for the purpose of handling formal traffic. It will be discussed at the next meeting and I believe we will have a representative of the group present. If you have an opinion one way or the other, please plan to attend or contact one of the officers to let them know. The net would probably last 15 to 30 minutes on average and be at a designated time in the 4:30 to 7 :30 PM time window. It would NOT interfere with any of our current nets

### Repeater Status

Alpine is still waiting for the snow to melt so the guys can get there, everything else seems to be working

from ARRL Web

### FCC Seeks Comments for Blanket Waiver to Allow Amateur Radio in Hospital Emergency Drills

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association ([AHA](http://www.aha.org)) filed a request with the FCC

for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "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." On March 3, the FCC issued a *Public Notice* -- [WP Docket 10-54](#)-- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer."

Given the public interest in facilitating government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau have provided a [process for requesting a waiver of Section 97.113\(a\)\(3\)](#) to permit named Amateur Radio operators to participate in specified government-sponsored drills by transmitting messages on behalf of identified employers. The waiver must be requested prior to the drill, and employees may not transmit amateur communications on their employer's behalf unless the waiver request has been granted by the FCC.

According to AHA, waiver relief should be available for these non-government-sponsored exercises "because it is in the public interest to ensure that hospital communications operate effectively during emergencies." The FCC noted that in its blanket waiver request, the AHA also stated that requiring separate waiver requests would be administratively burdensome on hospitals and the Commission. "AHA thus requests a blanket waiver for hospitals seeking Joint Commission accreditation, until such time as the Commission adopts a final order in response to a forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will seek comment on potential changes to Section 97.113(a)(3)," the FCC said.

"AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation from the Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) must prepare an emergency operations plan setting forth how the hospital will communicate during emergencies, and establish back-up communications links (which, among other means of communications, may include amateur radio stations) to communicate essential information if primary communications systems fail," the FCC pointed out in its *Public Notice*. "AHA states that hospitals seeking accreditation also are required to test their emergency operations plans twice annually."

As such, the FCC has opened up the matter for public comment. Not only are comments in favor of or against the issue of amateur operators -- who are hospital employees -- to participate in emergency drills conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes that are not government-sponsored welcomed, the Commission is also seeking comments addressing "whether, if blanket relief were to be granted, there would be some benefit from requiring hospitals to provide notice to the Commission concerning emergency drills they perform, and what such notice should entail."

Comments are due by Friday, April 2; reply comments are due no later than Monday, April 19.

All filings should reference the docket number of this proceeding, WP Docket No 10-54. In the Public Notice, the FCC noted that this proceeding has been designated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules: "Parties making oral *ex parte* presentations in this proceeding are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must contain the presentation's substance and not merely list the subjects discussed. More than a one- or two-sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required." Instructions on how to paper file or file electronically are listed in the *Public Notice*.

## **Surfin': Using the Internet as a Public Service Radio Scanner**

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU  
Contributing Editor

March 05, 2010

This week, Surfin' discovers yet another use for the Internet in the RF world.

Monitoring the public service radio channels in town can be as exciting as watching [Rust-Oleum](#) dry on my tower. There is not a lot of radio action in the burbs, so I listen to the action in the neighboring communities. But that has become a frustrating endeavor, since most of the big city public service communications are scanner-proof, using systems such as trunking and encoded digital transmissions to foil my vintage scanner.

To thwart scanner-proofing, my old ARRL Headquarters pal, John Nelson, K0IO, suggested listening to live public service radio feeds over the Internet. John recommended [RadioReference.com](#) that among other things, provides live audio feeds of public service radio action from hither and yon (and maybe your hometown, too).

John points out that "what is interesting is there are recordings of radio transmissions from QRP hand-held transceivers used by public service personnel on the ground that you normally cannot hear with a scanner."

By the way, RadioReference.com also has an extensive online database of public service radio frequency assignments in the U.S.

And for more radio action than you can imagine, John suggests the live audio feeds of the New York City Fire Department that you can access [here](#)

From Amateur Radio Newslite

**RADIO BUSINESS: GRE TO ASSUME ALINCO SALES AND SERVICE**  
GRE, Inc, best known as an original electronics manufacturer and Alinco, Inc. have announced a new marketing agreement. One under which G-R-E America, Inc. will distribute, offer customer support, and provide warranty and non-warranty repair for radios and amplification

equipment under the Alinco brand for all of North America. Under the agreement, GRE, Inc. will be the exclusive distributor of Alinco products in Canada, USA, and Mexico and will handle all warranty service and parts orders. GRE will also provide out-of warranty service as will other currently authorized Alinco service centers. (GRE)

## **CHANGING TECHNOLOGY: SONY TO CLOSE ALABAMA MAGNETIC TAPE PLANT**

Call it a true sign of the times. This with word that Sony Corporation plans to close its tape-manufacturing plant in Dothan, Alabama. This as the need for magnetic tape products dwindles to a trickle world- wide. As recently as five years ago most recording of video and audio was done to tape. But as magnetic disc drives, flash memory and electro- optical recording technology made rapid advances, the need for magnetic tape products quickly declined. Now it has finally reached a low where the demand for magnetic tape products like those produced at the Sony Dolthan, Alabama, plant has reached the point where keeping it open is no longer economical. According to Sony, operations at the plant will be phased out starting in April with the closure planned to be completed by September. The facility was opened in 1977. Termination of its operation will lead to the loss of 300 jobs. (Birmingham News, RW, others)

## **RADIO COOPERATION; ROS FREQUENCIES MOVED ON 20 METERS**

ROS is changing channel. Jos, Alberto Nieto Ros, the originator of the new amateur radio data mode ROS, has agreed to move the suggested 20 meter frequencies for this mode to 14.0972MHz and 14.102MHz. This following a mounting number of complaints that the mode was accidentally causing massive world-wide interference to the international beacon frequency of 14.100 MHz. The original frequencies recommended for the mode had been 14.098MHz and 14.1011MHz. This sandwiched the decades old propagation advisory system between the original frequencies for ROS and making it impossible to hear the beacon propagation broadcasts. You can find out more about ROS at <http://rosmodem.wordpress.com>. More about the International Beacon Project at [www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html). (Southgate)

## **NEIGHBOR SUES NEIGHBOR OVER ELECTROMAGNETIC ALLERGY**

And finally this week the story of a Santa Fe, New Mexico, man who is suing his neighbor because he claims that her cellular telephone, her WiFi and even her lamp dimmers are making him ill. Once again, here is Amateur Radio Newslite's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, who takes a look at this rather strange case: -- The Santa Fe Reporter and Huffington Post newspapers says that a New Mexico resident who alleges he suffers from electromagnetic allergies is has filed a tort action against neighbor because she refuses to turn off her home electronic equipment. According to the news stories, Arthur Firstenberg of Santa Fe, has been sleeping at friends' homes or in his car to avoid what he claims are the electromagnetic waves created by his neighbor's cell phone, wireless network, computer, compact fluorescent light bulbs and lamp dimmer switches. Firstenberg claims that the low-level electromagnetic radiation emitted by cell phones and other modern gadgets makes him, and thers sensitive to radio waves suffer terribly. He believes that the side-effects of exposure, include nausea, vertigo, ringing in the ears, severe headaches and body aches. He also credits crippling joint pains, insomnia, impaired vision, impaired muscular control and other ailments to electromagnetic sources. The suit claims that

when Raphaela Monribot moved in next door, she refused to keep her phone, computer and wireless network turned off when not in use. When asked if she could use a landline instead of her iPhone, Firstenberg claims the neighbor flatly refused. Firstenberg suit demands that a judge to stop his neighbor from using her iPhone, her wireless internet and her laptop charger, saying the radiation has forced him from his home. He also wants \$530,000 in damages, including \$100,000 for pain and suffering. The lawsuit was filed January 4th in First Judicial District Court in Santa Fe. Firstenberg's attorney is Lindsay Lovejoy, Jr, who is a graduate of Harvard and Yale, as well as a former Assitant New Mexico Assistant Attorney General who has argued cases alongside now US Senator Tom Udall. With such a high power attorney, its doubtful that this case will disappear anytime soon.

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**Email Addresses**

Email all Officers at once  
 Newsletter Editor

**Club Address**

EAARS  
 P.O. Box 398  
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**Nets**

**EAARS Net;** Sunday Night 7 PM general check ins  
**Smart Net;** Monday evening 7:30 to 8:30 Technical discussion  
**Weather Net** Daily 5:30 AM collect local weather information  
**MERC Net** Second Saturday at 8:45 AM Emergency communications group  
 To get your own email at EAARS.com contact Larry, N5BG

**EAARSOFFICERS at EAARS.COM**

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