



# The RASON Monitor



The Radio Amateur Society of Norwich Monthly Newsletter

August 2002

## GIFT TO THE CLUB FROM ROLAND COTE, N1CQV

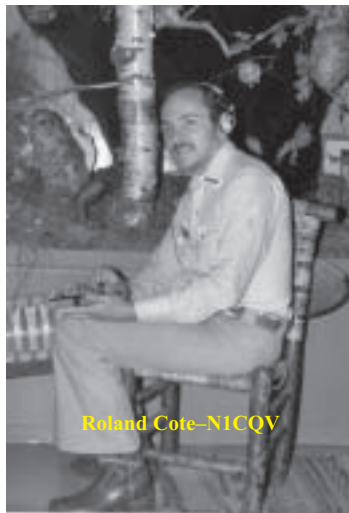
On behalf of the club, I would like to express my gratitude to Al Cote, Roland's cousin, who is handling the affairs of Roland's estate. Roland owned two HF vertical antennas, and Al made those antennas available to the club. On Saturday, July 20, Steve (WA4VWV) and I made a trip to Roland's house to meet with Al and take down one of the antennas that was still attached to the house. This antenna, a Cushcraft R7 vertical, is in fine shape and will likely be used by the club at its upcoming Lighthouse event. The antenna currently resides at Steve's place, where I understand it is working fine.

A second antenna, a Hustler 4BTV, was rescued from a second-hand shop in Taftville. This trap vertical is short (18 ft) and low-profile (a capacity had has 6 radials that are about 1 ft long), so it is a perfect low-profile, no guys required, low-effort antenna. It takes about 15 minutes to set up, and most of that is for pounding in the ground pipe. I put it up in my yard when I got home, and it seems to be working fine as well. This antenna will be available to any club member, and for any club event. Let me know if you have a need for it.

Al also gave me this photo of Roland. It is from at least a few years back, and maybe someone in the club knows where or for what event this moment was recorded. I have the original if anyone would like it for their memory book.

Thanks again Al. The thoughts of RASON club members are with you and your family, and we wish you happy memories of Roland.

Matt Marx, KB1FKL



## Theodore Jones Jr.—N1KEJ SK

Theodore Robert Jones Jr., 44, died on Aug. 1, 2002, at his home in Waterford.

He was born on Nov. 5, 1957, in New London, the son of Theodore Robert and Winifred Wilcox Jones.

He married the former Pamela Sargent in Groton on Sept. 14, 1985.

Mr. Jones was employed at Foxwoods Casino and was formerly employed as a carpenter/pipe fitter at Electric Boat.

He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm.

He was a ham radio operator with the Red Cross Disaster Service, and was formerly a volunteer fireman at the Groton Fire Department.

He had a great sense of humor and will be greatly missed.

In addition to his wife, he is also survived by his brother, Edward Smith of Norwich; his sister, Mary Smith and Carol Jones, both of Norwich; and his stepsisters, Angeline and Roberta.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Groton Submarine Memorial, Bridge Street, Groton. Burial will be private.

There are no calling hours.

The Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, New London, is handling arrangements.

Published 08/02/2002

*[Ted was also a member of SCRAMS and a Control Operator for the 146.97 repeater during the mid to late 90's. W1EDJ]*

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ARLB043 ARRL receives homeland security training grant

The ARRL will receive a \$181,900 homeland security grant from the US government to train Amateur Radio operators in emergency communication. The League was among several dozen non-profit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs. The grant, from the Corporation for National and Community Service special volunteer program, will provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training to 5200 volunteers nationwide, starting in 2003.

“ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and is the national leader in emergency communications by volunteers who operate their own equipment on their time at no cost to any government, organization, or corporation,” said the announcement July 18 from Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. The ARRL plans to revise and update the emergency communications curriculum to incorporate additional elements of emergency preparedness and homeland security.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was extremely pleased by the news. “This adds legitimacy to the public service work Amateur Radio has been doing for years,” he said.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, applied for the funding in May. “I think this is an extraordinarily exciting day for Amateur Radio that the role of Amateur Radio in homeland security is recognized at the highest levels of government,” Hobart said upon learning of the grant.

Citing Amateur Radio’s response in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Hobart said the federal grant “will help continue our work in providing public service and to protect lives, homes, businesses and our frequencies, as we have for decades.”

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was pleased that the League would be able to extend its Amateur Radio Emergency Communications program to thousands of amateurs who might otherwise not be able to afford the program. “We hope all who are interested will get on board,” he said.

The grant announcement said that “expanding the opportunities for Americans to participate in meaningful volunteer service” is at the heart of President George Bush’s USA Freedom Corps, of which the Corporation for National and Community Service is a part.

“We are deeply grateful to Tom Ridge and to the Corporation for National and Community Service for providing Amateur Radio with a unique opportunity to serve our country,” Hobart said.

In June, the ARRL and United Technologies Corporation announced a partnership to provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 250 Connecticut amateurs.

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## RASON Repeaters

146.730, PL=156.7  
 449.725, PL=156.7  
 (linked 1900—2200L)

## Other Repeaters

### 2m

Groton, 146.670, PL=156.7  
 Ledyard, 145.390, PL=156.7  
 Salem, 146.060, PL=156.7  
 SubBase, 146.865, PL=156.7  
 Waterford, 146.970, PL=156.7  
 Westerly, 147.240, PL=100.0

### 1.25m

Gales Ferry, 224.540  
 Groton, 223.960, PL=156.7  
 Ledyard, 224.380, PL=103.5  
 Montville, 224.820, PL=110.9  
 New London, 224.260, PL=156.7  
 Salem, 224.140, PL=103.5

### 70cm

Groton, 448.975, PL=156.7  
 Salem, 449.975, PL=156.7

## Packet Nodes

1200 Baud—145.030  
 9600 Baud—441.000

## Local Area Nets

Eastern CT Traffic Net (Nightly),  
 2100L, 146.730  
 Horizontal Engineers (Nightly),  
 1900L, 146.970  
 S.E. CT ARES Net (Mon), 2000L,  
 146.670  
 T.I.P.S. Net (Tue), 1930L, 146.730  
 New London Co. Weather Net  
 (Wed), 2000L, 146.060  
 (1st Wed), 2000L, 146.970  
 RASON VHF Net (Thur), 2030L,  
 146.730  
 RASON 10m Phone Net (Thur),  
 2000L, 28.440 +/-  
 Skywarn Nets, *on demand*,  
 146.970 (or 146.730)

## Lighthouse Special Event Station Update

- The event is set, Sept. 6-8, 2002. Chris will look into a rain date as a backup. We have authorization to use the light.

- The RASON website now has a link to the event web page (*thanks Mike*).

- We plan to operate three transmitters, using vertical antennas.

- The lighthouse is completely empty. No water, no furniture, no nothing. There is a porta potti (definitely) and a regular toilet (with no incoming water, we'll have to pour our own). We need to bring all of our supplies and take away all of our trash.

- The lighthouse DOES have electricity and light.

- Tours of the lighthouse are available Tues, Thurs, Sat, and Sun at 4pm from Project O. See the light at the RASON site, and every club member should take a visit, SOON!

- Transportation is the next big thing to sort out (*see below*).

- If you got this message through the reflector and want to be on the Lighthouse Mailing List, send me an email. Please include your home phone number.

- There is a lighthouse planning breakfast every Saturday, 8am, at *Somewhere in Thyme* restaurant in Groton. The time and location may change, so listen on '73.

At this week's breakfast, we talked mainly about having an "antenna party" and about transportation. Here are the highlights:

- On Saturday, Aug, 10th, after breakfast, we will head to Bob's house for an antenna set up and radio trial run. We should have the band pass filters in hand by that day, and we'll see if we can operate three radios simultaneously with non-directional antennas ~30 ft apart with no trouble. Chris will bring his Hex Beam antenna, Matt will bring the club's Hustler 4BTV, Steve will bring the R7, and Bob has two verticals we can set up. This is our ONLY PLANNED DRY RUN, where we can determine the ultimate equipment list for the event. Everyone is welcome to come. Bring your favorite radio, portable power supply, and vertical antenna. There is no rain date set for that event, so watch this space and the '73 repeater.

- We had some initial hope that Sea Pony would provide transportation at a reasonable cost for this event. They seem to be getting cold feet, so we're pulling out all stops to find reliable transportation. We are looking for a captain and boat who is COAST GUARD LICENSED, and INSURED. Matt will contact a co-worker of his wife's who runs a marine salvage business. Chris will contact Sea Pony, again, and the Coast Guard, the CG Academy, and the CG auxiliary. Steve will contact Project O to clarify the rules/guidance on private boat docking/tethering to the light. Chris will contact the insurance company to see if we can insure Steve (who is coast guard licensed) to operate the boat of a friend of his - it is a retired lobster boat, of good size.

- If anyone knows of a source for transportation that meets our requirements, let us know!

Matt—KB1FKL

## Volunteer Examiners of Southeastern Connecticut (VEOSEC)

CO-CHAIRMEN

Mike Martell-N1HFX, (860) 546-9498

Roy Hilt-K1JNR, (860) 848-3021

## Announcing 2002 VEOSEC Amateur Radio License Examinations

AUGUST 17, 2002  
NOVEMBER 16, 2002

All 2002 exam sessions will be held at the American Red Cross building on 150 Eugene O'Neil Drive in New London, Connecticut. All elements from Technician to Extra will be administered at these sessions.

Go online at [www.rason.org](http://www.rason.org) for further details.

### Upcoming Events:

August 17	VE Exam Session
August 21	RASON Meeting at Norwichtown Mall
August 23-25	ARRL New England Division Convention; Boxboro MA; <a href="http://www.boxboro.org">www.boxboro.org</a>
September 6-8	Ledge Light Special Event Station, details to be confirmed
September 18	RASON Meeting at Norwichtown Mall (Annual Membership Renewal and Officer Elections)
October 13	Nutmeg Hamfest; <a href="http://www.qsl.net/nutmeghamfest/">www.qsl.net/nutmeghamfest/</a>
October 16	RASON Meeting at Norwichtown Mall
November 16	VE Exam Session
<i>TBD 2003</i>	Special Event Station at Dodd Stadium

### CC&R Bill Gains Additional Cosponsors

The bill now in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions & restrictions in erecting antennas has gained additional cosponsors. Freshman Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states & municipalities. Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR) & Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) signed on as original cosponsors of HR 4720.

Since its introduction, the bill also has attracted several additional cosponsors. These include Representatives J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ), Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), Patsy Mink (D-HI), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA), John Duncan Jr (R-TN), Dennis Moore (D-KS), Charles Stenholm (D-TX) & David Price (D-NC).

Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page, [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/) for information on how to contact your representative. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress to copy ARRL on their correspondence—via e-mail to [ccr-bill@arrl.org](mailto:ccr-bill@arrl.org) or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

**Foxhunter's Corner:**

There was no  
Foxhunt in July. Stay  
tuned for details of  
the next foxhunt.

Listen to the repeaters for  
announcements ...



## The following is the break down of how we did this past field day at Pachaug State Forest in Voluntown:

80 Meters	33 CW, 62 Phone
40 Meters	189 CW, 15 Phone
20 Meters	209 CW, 4 Digital, 87 Phone
15 Meters	150 Phone
10 Meters	87 Phone
6 Meters	90 Phone
2 Meters	2 Phone

After multipliers have been applied, the  
total QSO points are 2,276.

Bonus points (subject to ARRL  
verification) are 880.

**Total points for the  
RASON field day are  
3,156.**

The completed RASON Field Day Entry  
was mailed to the ARRL on July 12th.

On behalf of RASON, special thanks to  
everyone who participated or assisted  
in any way.

[Stay tuned for details of a special Field  
Day edition of the RASON Monitor. It will  
feature stories and photos from this years  
event. -N1MIE]

### ARLB042 ARRL comments on FCC spectrum policy

The ARRL has told the FCC that marketplace forces should not determine Amateur Radio spectrum allocations and that interference management is a technical, not an economic, issue. Those opinions and others came this week in response to a call in early June from the FCC Spectrum Policy Task Force for comments on various issues related to FCC spectrum policy.

“The value to the public of a vital, growing Amateur Radio Service, while perhaps only indirectly measurable in market terms, cannot translate to a marketplace ability to pay for spectrum, no matter what the mechanism,” the League asserted. “The non-pecuniary character of Amateur Radio makes it uniquely unsuitable for market-oriented allocation processes.” Such a policy, the ARRL said, would “preclude Amateur Radio communications.”

The ARRL compared Amateur Radio spectrum to a public park or right-of-way. “Given the wide availability of Amateur Radio to the general public and its value as an educational and public service resource, the concept fits well,” the League said.

The ARRL said that “economic balancing” among parties is not the proper mechanism to resolve interference issues. The League said that many interference issues are dealt with using technical solutions that accommodate both parties. An economic model presumes a preference for one service over another, the ARRL asserted.

The ARRL again took advantage of the comment opportunity to reiterate its views on the deployment of unlicensed devices under Part 15 rules. Petitioners seeking authorization for new devices or technology that impacts licensed users should bear the burden of demonstrating the current state of use of the band by its own technical calculations or measurements in certain types of environments, the ARRL said. Noting its own participation in a noise study that will contribute to a better understanding about ambient noise, the ARRL said the FCC should require proponents of new devices or technology to provide “studies of individual and aggregate interference potential and effect on ambient noise.”

The League also restated its view that unlicensed devices cannot be authorized unless the FCC determines that the devices “do not have a significant interference potential to licensed services.”

Petitioners also should provide technical sharing studies every time they propose a new allocation or file a petition for a new unlicensed service, the ARRL said. The League’s comments reiterated the goal of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, now in Congress as HR 817 and S 549. The measure would provide equivalent replacement spectrum for the Amateur Service just as it typically does for users displaced as a result of spectrum auctions.

The full text of the ARRL’s comments in this proceeding is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-135/index.html>.

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## ARLB044 The ARRL Board of Directors convenes July 19-21 in Windsor, Connecticut

The ARRL Board of Directors convened July 19-21 in Windsor, Connecticut, for its mid-year meeting. Among the issues up for consideration is whether to drop "Section News" and contest line scores from QST and move them to the ARRL Web site. The Board delayed a decision on the matter at its January meeting, saying it wanted members to be aware of the reasons behind the proposal and to evaluate alternative ideas.

Also up for discussion are preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, including an update on efforts to secure a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation at 40 meters.

Addressing Board members, guests and ARRL staff members July 18 prior to the formal Board session, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said that while enforcement will be "maintaining the course," he's hoping by year's end to mount "a more aggressive stance" against 10-meter incursions by unlicensed individuals. He said that using 10-meters was among the best defenses against intruders. Hollingsworth also met with ARRL staff members July 19 to discuss specific areas of concern and cooperation.

Board members also will consider nominees for several ARRL-sponsored awards.

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## ARLB046 "Section News," Line Scores Moving from QST to Web

Starting next January, "Section News" and contest line score results will appear on the ARRL Web site rather than in QST. Meeting July 19-20 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors voted 9-6 to approve a resolution formally relocating "Section News" to the ARRL Web site. "Section News" has appeared in the League's official journal at least since 1919. The "Section News" Web sites—already in place—will provide the officials of each ARRL section "the capability of an up-to-date information resource that can be tailored to the needs of their section," the resolution said.

The space freed up by relocating "Section News" will allow more in-depth coverage of general news, public service activities and "how-to" articles aimed at involving more amateurs in emergency preparedness. Members unable to use the Web can request their section's reports in hard-copy format.

The Board resolution noted that the past six months had given members the opportunity to understand the reasons for relocating "Section News," to discuss alternatives and to better understand and see the advantages of the expanded content available on the Web site.

Voting for the change were Directors Dick Isely, W9GIG (Central); Jay Bellows, K0QB (Dakota); Frank Fallon, N2FF (Hudson); Wade Walstrom, W0EJ (Midwest); Tom Frenaye, K1KI (New England); Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (Roanoke); Walt Stinson, W0CP (Rocky Mountain); Art Goddard, W6XD (Southwestern); and Coy Day, N5OK (West Gulf).

Directors Bernie Fuller, N3EFN (Atlantic); Rick Roderick, K5UR (Delta); George Race, WB8BGY (Great Lakes); Greg Milnes, W7OZ (Northwestern); Jim Maxwell, W6CF (Pacific); and Frank Butler, W4RH (Southeastern), voted against the change.

In a separate resolution approved by voice vote, the Board agreed that the ARRL Web site now provides a better medium to report the results of ARRL-sponsored contests, and line scores no longer will appear in QST. The change does not affect ARRL Field Day results, which will continue to be published in the magazine.

A Web site established earlier this year now includes, among other features, a searchable database of contest line scores for members and the ability to easily analyze individual and club scores. There's also an on-line Soapbox to post comments and photos immediately after a contest, as well as an expanded narrative for each event. The ARRL also now offers members the free Contest Rate Sheet newsletter, which focuses specifically on contesting.

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Be sure to visit  
the RASON website  
often for all the latest  
news and information.

[www.rason.org](http://www.rason.org)

## Back Scatter

by Kevin Harkins—KA6PDG

Who? What? When? Where?

Some basics about emergency communications.

As amateurs, we have the privilege of serving our community in a wide variety of scenarios. But having a two way radio and the license to operate it suggests that we also have an obligation to be prepared for the unexpected. Here are a few simple pointers that can be easily rehearsed on long drives or idle time at home.

1. Keep your equipment in good operating condition. Having a charged battery on your Ht is the first step.

2. Know where you are at all times. If you don't know the exact address where you are, be aware of land marks that might be helpful should you need to summon help for yourself or someone else. An example might be, "I'm approximately one mile north of the Blue Pine Highway on Rogers Road across from a red barn", or, "I am on a dirt road, approximately 300 yards off of Route 994 close to some railroad tracks." Ask yourself as your driving through West Hartford looking for a Wall mart or the next time your traveling an unfamiliar interstate, "Okay, where am I?"

3. When getting on the air and asking for assistance in receiving help, be clear and concise. I need someone to make a call to the Spartan City Fire Department", or, "I'm on I-20 and I need someone to report a small traffic accident." Use easy to understand words and phrases. Don't add a lot of verbiage that is not required to get the important message across. Saying, Hey, if somebody has a minute and is near their telephone, I was just on my way to Wall mart and up here on I-20 a little ford in this other guy and his kids in a pickup truck seem like they might have had a little scrape—literally—and maybe it would be an okay idea if somebody told the local constabulary about it", will take up unnecessary time and make your intent unclear and your message confusing. This is particularly true if your signal is weak or noisy.

4. While not always possible, a ham should try to get in the habit of having something to write information down with at all times. If you start shoving a pad of paper and a pensile in your pocket or

purse before you leave the house each day, you'll be surprised how quickly it becomes routine and you'll start doing it without thinking.

5. If you're asked to assist another ham in summoning help, write down everything that's said, so that you don't have to take precious seconds or minutes getting repeats. Yes, seconds often do count.

6. If you're making a call for help over your radio, assess your location and power constraints and make every effort to provide a clear signal for the copying station. In the case of an HT, try to find a location that provides a good signal and is safe for you to be, and stay there while making your call and passing the vital information. They don't call them "handy scratchies" for nothing. Even moving the rubber duck antenna two or three inches can mean the difference between communicating and not. This is a good practice anytime you're on the air. Like the pad and paper, it will soon become a habit you'll be glad you cultivated.

7. Clubs like RASON maintain an auto patch on their repeaters. Club members should know how to use the auto patch's routine and emergency functions. That way, if you're a club member and someone needs to summon help, you can have the amateur requesting help speak directly with the dispatch center or other location from which assistance can be coordinated. This cuts out the middle man, increases the likely hood that information passed will be accurate, and saves time. If you are a relatively new member and haven't practiced using the auto patch, you should do so. There is nothing wrong with making a patch to your home, a friend or another ham's phone just to practice. Otherwise, pushing all those buttons can be rather daunting under pressure. Obviously, we discourage making practice calls to 911.

8. When calling in an emergency request for help, briefly let the dispatcher know the nature of the communication. If you're making a phone call for another ham, say something like, "I'm a ham operator and I have a report of a \_\_\_\_\_ on Rogers Road. Be concise. This provides a quick idea of what type of help might be needed and approximately where. It also let's that person know who you are without even giving your name. Like police officers and other emergency personal, dispatchers like to know, "up front", "what's up?" Again, and it can't

*Continued on page 8*

be said enough, speak clearly so as to be understood, provide only the necessary information to get the response procedures in motion, and write down or memo rise the important facts about the situation being reported. If the person taking your call needs to know your name, call sign, or other peripheral data about the call, it will be requested after the vital information has been passed. If you are speaking with anyone on an auto patch, you should always let them know that you are on the radio. In the case of a 911 dispatcher for example, this lets them know that it's not a full duplex communication. I like to say, "I am a ham operator on a radio phone patch, do you copy?" Most dispatchers know what ham radio is. But for the non ham, I think "radio patch" is a clearer description than, "auto patch". It is also appropriate to make sure they're hearing you alright, rather than go into a lengthy message, only to un key and hear, "hello, there's something wrong, all I hear is static". Yes, once again... speak slowly and clearly, but be brief.

9. It's always a little awkward when you're in the middle of nowhere and the dispatcher asks for a call back number. Patiently explain that you are on a radio and a telephone call back is not possible, and, if you can, offer to remain on the scene of the incident until responding personal arrive. If it seems appropriate and if there's time, politely ask the dispatcher to "stand by one", and ask if there's a station monitoring that would be willing to stand by on frequency and would provide their phone number for a call back. However this works out, be polite. While the dispatcher may have heard of ham radio in a training class, they may not be familiar with all the ramifications of your operating condition.

10. Generally, it is not a good idea to communicate with an emergency dispatcher using radio codes, unless you are properly and thoroughly trained as an emergency responder in the given jurisdiction. Don't ask that officers be sent to a 10-12 or that a latter truck and two engines are needed at a signal 72. The dispatcher is required to manage the way in which the call is put out to units in the field. Unless you are a fireman, police officer, or hold a similar position in the town or county where the situation is occurring, this will only increase the chances of confusion and miscommunication.

73 de [Kevin—KA6PDG](#)

### **ARLB049 NCVEC endorses trial of amateur testing via videoconferencing**

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. Meeting July 26 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the NCVEC voted 6-3 with two abstentions to back a one-year trial run to be conducted by the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Jim Wiley, KL7CC, of the Anchorage VEC told his VEC colleagues that it's very expensive to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to the thousands of Alaska residents who live in remote areas. The vote followed discussion on whether having a VE team remotely monitor a test session while an unlicensed individual proctored the exams on site would comply with FCC Part 97 rules. Section 97.509(c) calls for three VEs to be "present and observing" the examinees.

Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, pointed out that the VEC and the VEs are responsible for the proper conduct of the exams. He said that no rule changes appeared necessary because VECs already have authority to determine the manner in which their VE teams conduct examination sessions.

Cross emphasized no VECs would be required to coordinate exam sessions using a testing method they were not comfortable with. "The conference was willing to allow the Anchorage VEC to conduct a trial in Alaska of the program it has developed after it describes the program in further detail," he said.

Wiley said he believes ham radio tests can be administered using videoconferencing technology without compromising exam integrity while maintaining "the same level of confidence in the testing process" that now exists. He agreed to provide progress reports to the NCVEC on the videoconferencing trial.

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