

# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

April 1, 2011

## FCC Abolishes Ham Radio

No biggie, say most hams. “I haven’t been on the air for dern near 20 year,” quipped one old-timer.

*(Washington, D.C. NIFJ)* In a long-expected move the FCC has abolished ham radio effective immediately. “No one ever uses it any more,” says FCC chief Genachowsky. “And even if they do, it’s just to order pizzas and stuff like that. And in the rare event that some natural disaster occurs, the for profit sector is much better equipped to handle and charge folks they rescue for their service. Why, ham radio operators are not even *allowed* to charge money for operating! This is not the American way, and frankly I am amazed that this was ever made into law.”

Radio amateurs will be allowed to turn in their equipment without penalty. “We are leaning over backwards to accommodate the [now] outlaw hams. Most equipment will be burned or melted down to recover the vast amount of copper, steel, and aluminum, with some gold and silver to boot. This comes as a particularly handy time for the cell phone and tablet industries, as they need all the material salvaged to make personal gadgets so much in demand. In fact, there is a sort of poetic justice in this, as it is the development of the personal gadget that has made ham radio obsolete.”

### Today’s Solar Weather

*(By Jim MullEn)* As solar activity continues to spiral upward in Cycle 24 a huge CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) looks about to erupt. Unlike past CMEs this one (predicted to occur approximately on April 1st) will eject on the opposite side of the sun, away from the earth. The radio consequences of this event will be undetectable but offer a unique opportunity for active hams..

We’re accustomed to CMEs striking the earth with corresponding disruption of radio signals and sometimes even damage to satellites and large wire arrays like power and

high-voltage lines. This CME, dubbed CME/NAE (CME/Not At Earth) may be an opportunity for amateurs radio operators to beam signals into space with a boost from Old Sol, the sun itself.

Utilizing a little known and seldom seen type of propagation called HFSE (High Frequency Sun Enhanced) it may be possible for hams to point their antenna directly at the sun during the CME/NAE event and actually have their radio waves sucked into the sun and out the other side heading straight out into space. Although Einstein’s Theory would indicate the impossibility of those signals exceeding the speed of light scientists at NASA and JPL think the sun itself could accelerate those signals beyond the theoretical limit. The math is way too complex for this discussion but it would appear the scientists may be on to something.

In an effort to gather data and prove or disprove the phenomenon the scientific community is asking amateurs around the world to point their antennas toward the sun this coming Friday and call CQOS (CQ Outer Space). There won’t be any answers coming back [*Ed. note: Are you sure?*] so transmitting without listening is OK (just like in contests and working split DX). Simply key up and transmit CQOS as long as you can, your efforts may help boost the US into 54th place in the world scientific community. Owning a voice keyer or using CW with a memory keyer is strongly recommended.

To help interpret the data NASA has asked SETI to re-task their deep space listening stations and allow access to the SETI distributed computing network. Even with this huge increase in processor power NASA feels they won’t be able to reach any conclusions for quite some time. Follow their facebook and Twitter pages to see the results.

Here’s an average ham’s chance at a piece of history. Keep an eye on your favorite solar prediction site and if a CME/NAE is announced try your hand at HFSE. You won’t get any QSLs but your transmission just might be the one to invalidate the Theory of Relativity! How cool is that?

# SOTA Jerks Members Conquer Mt. Everest

(Base Camp, Nepal, April 1, 2011. NIFJ) A team from the US has activated Mt. Everest, or Mount Chomolungma as it is sometimes known, in a new first for the celebrated ham club from Western Massachusetts, a breathless spokesman announced today. The three day effort to reach the summit was announced the night before the team, composed of Jim "Rat Boy" Mullen, Matt "No, not THAT Matt Wilhelm" Wilhelm, Marty "Bo" Bowen, and Frandy "The Iceman" Johnson set out. "We never plan that far ahead", said Bowen, the club's official ragchewer. "In fact, we didn't confirm our plans until an hour before we left."

Plans were so sketchy, in fact, that the group forgot to take food, but fortunately they found a McDonalds on the way up. "And their fries are great," quipped Matt. "Fries first!" Mullen said that the feat is a new high for the club, but grumbled, "It seems ridiculous that Mt. Everest is only worth 10 points." At 8848 meters it easily tops the 150 meter requirement for inclusion in the list compiled by Summits on the Air, a British organization of summit chasers and activators whose members obviously don't have anything better to do. Actually, Jim can take heart in that the Jerks qualified for the 3 point SOTA winter bonus, so Chomolungma is actually worth 13 points.

Operating as 9N/NE1SJ, each of the Jerks made the required 4 QSOs to get activation points. Jim, Matt, and Frandy each made some 2 dozen contacts, while Marty just made the cutoff with 4. But he got a lot more personal information from the hams he talked to! It was touch and go for a while at the beginning, as there was no Verizon service available so it didn't look like they were going to be able to spot themselves, but Matt's iPhone came through, since Mt. Everest is one of the few places in the world with great AT&T service.

The group of avid hams and mountain climbers were reluctant to leave. "The 40 meter monobander had a high VSWR, but the other stacked beams worked well. The temperature was up to -40 and the wind down to 80 kph, and we wanted to keep operating until we each made dxcc," said Wilhelm. "We had plenty of fries. But, unfortunately, I had to get back to Feeding Hills Friday night to sell raffle tickets for the Honda generator."

Johnson recalled that they could not see any mountains that seemed higher than the peak of Mt. Everest. So what is next? "As usual, we are going to relax at a brewpub, probably the Brewery in Northampton, if we can get there before they close." And, Johnson added, "We decided to leave the antennas in place at the peak, in case Chuck and Kristen decide to go up in a couple of weeks. Sorry, Chuck, no VHF antennas."

# -MFJ announces Break-through Technology

(Somewhere, MS. NIFJ) -MFJ has released data on its new line of 976 tuners. (No, that's not Model 976. That's 976 different tuners.) Scientists at -MFJ have finally perfected Cold Fusion. This exciting development will make possible -MFJ's revolutionary new **Cold Fusion Soldering**. No longer will their workers be sickened by the smell of vaporizing rosin (or is it resin?) and burning flesh. Actually, -MFJ has been using the new technology for some time now. If you receive a unit with a **Cold Fusion Solder** cold solder joint, the unit has to be shipped back to Somewhere.

## Personals

**SWOM** Definitely getting old, but there's fire in the furnace still. Interested in long-term relationship to share my super station. Knowledge of CW a must. If you have a K3 will send airfare. If you have a Yaesu rig, will send bus fare. KX6BBB@arrl.nut

**KINKY** coax drives me crazy. If it drives you crazy too, maybe we have a future together. Let's get together on 75 meters and see if we can both get rewired! QRV. 88, KX-6LID@arrl.nut

**MFJ QRP**er seeks like-minded XYL for low-power 48 hour activation. Understanding spouse a plus. KX6DDD@arrl.nut

**SWM seeks SWF** for digital encounter. Do you QRP and WSPR? Let's dive underneath the noise and PSK31 together. Not really into S&M but what's a little Hellschreiber between consenting adults? RTTY users please don't respond, I stopped diddling years ago. AIHO@arrl.nut

## Classified Ads

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu FT 100000. Latest model with all options. Includes band scope display, second RX and all optional filters. I thought this was the radio I wanted but after surveying the 81 knobs and diving deep into the menu system this isn't the rig for me. I figure I'd understand how to use it just in time for the Apocalypse of 2012. Original box, manual, all packing and unfilled out warranty card. Transceiver extra. \$10,000 or trade for self-contained survival center. CBerNut@keepontruckin.zip

**WANTED:** -100% duty cycle linear. I'm a dedicated RTTY operator looking for a quality amplifier that can 'take the heat'! With my aggressive operating style something with a 150% duty cycle might even be a better choice. When replying please state the make/model/condition and if I can visit your shack to check it out. KN0BBS@arrl.zip