

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

April 2018

FCC Seizes Equipment from Pirate Broadcasters in Boston

(ARRL 03/30/2018) The FCC reports that it seized transmission equipment from two pirate radio stations in Boston on March 26. According to court documents, the seizures involved an illegal broadcaster that identified as “Big City” on various FM channels from Dorchester, Massachusetts (with a studio in Roxbury) and pirate “B87.7 FM,” which operated on 87.7 FM from Dorchester. Both unlicensed stations had been issued multiple warnings but continued to operate. Pursuant to federal forfeiture statutes, authorities seized equipment operated by each radio station. The forfeiture actions came in the wake of complaints to the FCC — including one from a licensed broadcaster — about interference, the FCC said.

“When pirate radio stations refuse to cease operations, despite multiple warnings, action must be taken,” US Attorney Andrew E. Lelling said. “It is a public safety hazard for illegal radio stations to broadcast, potentially interfering with critical radio communications. We will work in conjunction with the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau to identify violators of federal communications law.”

Over past year, the FCC has significantly ramped up its enforcement activity against unlicensed broadcasters, netting at least two Amateur Radio licensees alleged to be involved in pirate broadcasting.

Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold said the FCC has been “pursuing multiple legal routes to stop pirate broadcasters,” and that the seizure action in Boston is just one of them. The Communications Act of 1934 prohibits the operation of radio broadcasting equipment above certain low-intensity thresholds (under FCC Part 15) without an FCC license. The Act authorizes the seizure and forfeiture of any electronic or radio frequency equipment used to broadcast without an FCC license.

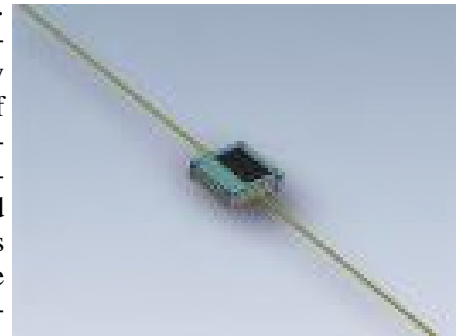
The US Marshals Service and Boston Police Department provided assistance with the seizure operations. — FCC News Release

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seizes-equipment-from-pirate-broadcasters-in-boston>

Launch of “SpaceBEEs” Unauthorized, FCC Tells Calif. Tech Developer

(ARRL 03/13/2018) On the same launch as an Amateur Radio satellite in January from India, some tiny 0.25 U CubSats called SpaceBEEs — not to be confused with the fantasy insects in the “Futurama” TV cartoon — also went into space when they apparently should not have.

Last December, in a letter to their developer, Swarm Technologies Inc. of Los Altos, California, Anthony Serafini, the Chief of the FCC’s Experimental Licensing Branch, advised that the FCC was unable to grant the company’s application for an Experimental authorization in association with deployment and operation of “four spacecraft smaller than 10 cm in one of their three dimensions.” In dismissing the application without prejudice, the FCC said the spacecraft were below the size threshold “at which detection by the Space Surveillance Network (SSN) can be considered routine.” The FCC said the proposed addition of KU-band radar reflectors would overcome the issue only with respect to



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Meeting Calendar

8am, March 31, 2018

8am, April 28, 2018

8am, May 26, 2018

at Mom's Café

**2018
PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- AGØL.....Steve Loyd [E]
- AIØNChuck Engberg* [E]
- K3CRFDave Smith [E]
- K5LBS.....Jerry Gault [E]
- KA0IJY Keith Keene [E]
- KBØFSIPat McCollum [T]
- KBØOGO Roger Behrns* [E]
- KBØZZT..... George Bellairs [T]
- KCØDTK..... Joan Bellairs [T]
- KCØHYD.....John Titsworth [G]
- KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]
- KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]
- KEØBXBKim Allen [T]
- KEØXQ..... Bill McCollum [E]
- KGØKR Beth Engberg* [E]
- KIØPYKevin Faris [E]
- N5SEZ Ray McNally[E]
- NØLZHJohn Harrington[T]
- WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien [G]
- WØZYDave McLaughlin[E]
- WØZYD Debbie McLaughlin[G]
- W3DCQ.....Bill Pulsifer [G]

*Charter Members #New Ham

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

Members paid for 2018 are in bold, others Gray.

Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.

Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM



P.A.R.C. Officers

President
KBØOGORoger Behrns
rb55930@windstream.net

Vice President
KCØHYDJohn Titsworth

Secretary
WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien

Treasurer
KIØPY Kevin Faris

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Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
 443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
 147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site
www.kb0smx.com
 Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

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**MINUTES of
the
MEETING**

The February 24, 2018 meeting was held at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth. The meeting was called to order at 8:21 am by President Roger Behrns.

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO) and Linda, Kevin (KIØPY), Ray (N5SEZ), Derek (WØDBW) and Lisa, and Keith (KA0IJY).

The Minutes of the January meeting were approved on a motion by Derek and second by Kevin.

The treasurer reported receiving dues of \$150 and \$100 in donations and no expenses which leaves \$260 in the repeater fund and \$970.35 in the general fund for a balance of \$1230.35. Keith moved and Derek seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Fred had requested that the club support 1/2 plaque for the Nebraska QSO party as last year. Kevin moved and Keith seconded that we underwrite a whole plaque this year. The motion passed.

Kevin moved and Derek seconded that we hold Field Day in Murray again this year. Passed.

The ballots were counted and the slate of officers were elected. Roger—President, John—Vice President, Derek—Secretary, Kevin—Treasurer.

There was some discussion about internet at Murray.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Keith and second by Kevin at 8:36.

PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City	State	Zip	
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham		● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer.		Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General	
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?		Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.			

**Field Day 2018
is June 23-24**

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Swarm (Continued from Page 1)

the small portion of the SSN that utilizes the KU band.

“In the absence of tracking at the same level as available for objects of 10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm, and in the event of a conjunction with an operational spacecraft, the ability of operational spacecraft to reliably assess the need for and plan effective collision avoidance maneuvers will be reduced or eliminated,” the FCC said.

Last week, the FCC e-mailed Swarm Technologies that its application for an additional experimental authorization had been set aside and was “in a pending status for further review.”

“The International Bureau requested that the grant be set aside in order to permit assessment of the impact of the applicant’s apparent unauthorized launch and operation of four satellites, and related statements and representations, on its qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC informed Swarm Technologies.

Swarm told the FCC in an appendix to its experimental radio authorization application that it was seeking to demonstrate “two-way communications satellites to serve as a cost-effective low-data rate Internet of Things (IoT) network connectivity solution for remote and mobile sensors.”

<http://www.arrl.org/news/launch-of-spacebees-unauthorized-fcc-tells-california-technology-developer>

Chinese Lunar-Orbit Amateur Radio Payload Could Launch this Spring

(ARRL 03/14/2018) China’s twin-launch Chang’e 4 mission to the far side of the moon will place a pair of microsatellites in lunar orbit this spring “to test low-frequency radio astronomy and space-based interferometry.” The two satellites, unofficially called DSLWP-A1 and DSLWP-A2 (DSLWP = Discovering the Sky at Longest Wavelengths Pathfinder), could launch this spring. The pair represent the first phase of the Chang’e 4 mission, which involves placing a relay satellite in a halo orbit to facilitate communication with the Chang’e 4 lander and rover, which will be sent to the far side of the moon in December. Because the moon’s far side never faces Earth, the satellite is needed to serve as an Earth-moon relay. The Chang’e 4 mission will be the first-ever attempt at a soft-landing on the far side of the moon.

The two spacecraft also will carry Amateur Radio and educational payloads, but not a transponder. Developed by students at the Harbin Institute of Technology, the Amateur Radio payload on DSLWP-A1 will provide a telecommand uplink and a telemetry and digital image downlink. Radio amateurs will be able to transmit commands that allow them to send commands to take and download an image.

The satellites will piggyback on the Chang’e 4 relay package and will deploy themselves into a 200 × 9,000 kilometer lunar orbits. The 50 × 50 × 40 centimeter spacecrafts each weigh about 45 kilograms and are three-axis stabilized. Two linear polarization antennas are mounted along and normal to the flight direction. The satellites will use the moon to shield them from radio emissions from Earth.

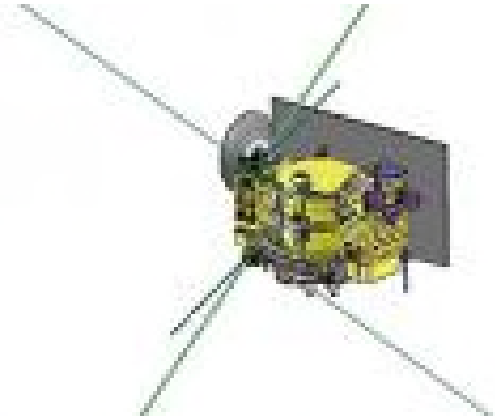
The Harbin Institute of Technology team has proposed downlinks for A1 on 435.425 MHz and 436.425 MHz.

Downlinks for A2 would be 435.400 MHz and 436.400 MHz using 10K0F1DCN or 10K0F1DEN (10-kHz wide FM single-channel data) 250 bps GMSK with concatenated codes or JT65B.

Equipped with low-frequency antennas and receivers, the astronomy objectives of DSLWP-A1 and -A2 will be to observe the sky at the lower end of the electromagnetic spectrum — 1 MHz to 30 MHz — with the aim of learning about energetic phenomena from celestial sources.

The launch is anticipated for May or June on a CZ-4C vehicle, putting the satellites’ deployment about 6 months ahead of the launch of the Chang’e 4 lander and rover.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/chinese-lunar-orbit-amateur-radio-payload-could-launch-this-spring-1>



Spring Cleanup 2018

Bellevue Flea Market
April 7, 2018 9am-1pm
 Bellevue Masonic Lodge Dining Hall
 1908 Franklin St
www.bellevuearc.org for more info

Nebraska QSO Party

Chapter 25 of the QCWA will again host the 2018 Nebraska QSO Party on the weekend of April 21/22, 2018.

The QSO Party will begin at 1300z (0800 CDT) on Saturday the 21st.

Check out the following website for the rules and more information: <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>