



NEWSLINE

President Leary Speaks.....

When getting set to write this letter for the newsletter and website I had just finished shoveling 27 inches of snow off my 3-season porch and garage roofs.

I looked at the first two paragraphs of my last letter and began to wonder what this winter was going to bring for the end of 2007 in Concord, NH. It looks like we will best the December snowfall record set in 1876 at 43+ inches. I also know that our radio systems have been getting a real workout.



Again, a reminder that the deadline for changing over to narrow band is January 1, 2013 and it's just around the corner for those dealing with normal budget cycles. It will require changes to your FCC licenses.

In addition to our regular frequency coordination, the FCCA also does microwave frequency coordination. If you need changes or new frequencies please give us a call. This is just part of our full service effort to provide for your needs.

Our 59th Annual Meeting dates will be October 4-8, 2008. The location will be announced at *(Continued on page 2)*

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Meet the National Frequency Coordinator

Michael Hutton walked into the Gettysburg Office and opportunity was waiting for him.

The National Frequency Coordinator, **Jim Lundsted** had just tendered his resignation with the FCCA because he was now the new Missouri State Chief Interoperability Officer. Jim was leaving us with some very large shoes to fill. The regional coordinators and national office staff stepped up, divvied up the workload, and the customers were not affected, but this was only short term. A new permanent NFC must be hired soon. With our workload, the sooner the better.

Well it's said, that young men and women prepare themselves for their future and Michael Hutton did just that. Michael after college studies, started learning the rules of the FCC and linked with Ralph Haller of Fox Ridge Communications Inc. as a mentor to get some hands-on and real world experience in the multi-varied world of RF Engineering. When Michael started with FRCI he probably had no idea he'd be responsible for overseeing license coordination's that would affect Public Safety Communications in North America. Looking at his background, his skills and knowledge of the present rules of the FCC, the Board of Directors offered him a position as the New National Frequency Coordinator and he has shown he is the man for the job.

Special points of interest:

- FCCA Annual Conference Oct. 3-7, 2008 Location – TBA
- 5 years before mandatory 12.5 KHz "narrow-banding"
- Staff Directory (new)

President Leary Speaks from page one

the end of January. But for you who do future planning, our 60th Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando, FL on October 3-7, 2009. In the future conferences we will be using major hubs to make travel easier and less costly for our members and vendors. For our vendors, please do not hesitate to call Roy Mott who will again be heading the registration and coordination for vendors for our 59th and 60th meetings. To our members and visitors, please take the time and review the list of our vendors who have supported us over the years, especially during the past few years when budgets have been tight and kept our membership from attending previous meetings.

Again, we look for ways to remain relevant to our member's needs and will be working

closely with our parent organizations, the National Association of State Foresters and the Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies to make this happen.

2008 looks to be an interesting and challenging year and we should see some very interesting development in the 700 MHz arena – stay tuned.

Paul

P.S. The FCCA Frequency Coordinators are here to help – so please contact them and give us a chance to do your radio frequency coordination which now includes microwave. We know you will be most pleased with the service and experience of our team.



Do you have a plan -
and a budget - to
address narrow-
banding?

Narrow-banding is less than 5 years away If you did not know it...its tomorrow...now

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that **all** Part 90 Business, Industrial, and Government **VHF** and **UHF** private radio system licensees migrate from what has been known as "**wide-band**" (25 KHz) to "**narrow-band**" (12.5 KHz) radio systems by **December 31, 2012**. That is only FIVE (5) "short" years from December 31, 2007

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-292A1.pdf for more details

Do you have a plan - and a budget - to address this next step which would entail the replacement of any remaining 25 KHz radios still being used, the re-programming of all **radios** to "narrow-band" operation, the procurement and installation of any "narrow-band" repeaters (or other **infrastructure** if needed), and, the modification of your radio station license to the "narrow-band" migration **process and** become fully FCC compliant? Other considerations are how will your pagers, any data equipment, ancillary receivers work with 12.5 KHz? Will you need to change these radio units also? What budget constraints will you endure? Will your Firefighters/EMS, Rescue, Police, Public Works still be on-the-air or will you have to shut down your system? Only if you plan now to change your system before the deadline can you prevent a loss of Public Safety Communications availability to your community. **The Coordinators of the FCCA** stand ready to assist you in licensing your systems to meet this new paradigm. Call for information and assistance today.

**Did you know that the FCCA can assist with Microwave Licensing?
Call John L. Thiemer at (717) 609-1155
Call John with your questions and assist with your system needs today!**

Annual Conference Overview

Attendees of the Conference in Orlando October 2007 were welcomed by Florida State Forester, **Michael Long** (Past President FCCA) at Monday's opening breakfast. He expressed his support for FCCA and expressed that Frequency Coordination and the work of the individual members are needed to protect the radio systems we depend on each day.

Dave Epperly, State Forester of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources spoke on continuing the work of the FCCA and encouraged us to be aggressive in getting our message out to our members and to also develop a "white paper" on the services, coordination and representation that the FCCA provides to the membership. Dave has agreed to be the At-Large Member of the Board of Directors. So Dave's great ideas will benefit us all now and in the future.

Ira Jolly, Fire Supervisor of Florida DOF, was our keynote speaker and he enlightened the group on the large fires they've had over the past few years and the challenges and successes they have experienced with their communication systems. Ira along with **Andy Murray** of Florida DOF showed some of the planning for their Communications System and demo'd a portable tower/shelter unit.

Our members in attendance were also able to hear updates from a Government /Regulatory Panel of moderated by **Russell Fox**, **FCCA Outside Counsel**, of Mintz, Leven, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, with **Ralph Haller**, Executive Director FCCA, **Jeff Cohen**, Senior Legal Counsel of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and **Richard Orsulak**, Deputy Chief, NTIA Div. of Emergency Planning and Public Safety on the panel. **Marilyn Ward** Executive Director of NPSTC made a presentation and had mini-CD's of the Channel Naming Report available along with their Annual Report.

Several Vendors were on hand to present and display their newest products and services and the entire group enjoyed a air boat ride and the technical displays at Kennedy Space Center. The Banquet was the highlight of the conference on Wednesday night.

Arkansas Wireless Information Network By Mickey Holland Region 2 Chairperson

We're on the web
<http://www.fcca-usa.org>

In early 2006 the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005" became law, which calls for the Over-The-Air Television Stations to cease their Analog Broadcasts by February 17, 2009. After this cut-off date several things are to happen.

One is that analog TV broadcasts will cease, the other is that a portion of the 700 MHz band will be allotted to other purposes. The portion of the 700 MHz band that will be vacated by Broadcast Television Stations are to be allotted to Public Safety (along with a private industry partner) to build a Nationwide Public Safety Network. The legal obstacles of this marriage seem to be numerous and will have to be ironed out by the lawyers.

Arkansas's Wireless Information Network (AWIN) is already being impacted by this partnership. AWIN is a state-wide digital 700/800MHz system providing voice/data communications to state and local agencies though out the state. Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Arkansas State Police and other State and County Agencies depend solely on the AWIN Network for communications. The AWIN project is built to be a fully interoperable radio system based on Project 25 Standards. The project is administered by the Arkansas Dept of Information Services and has been built by upgrading and enhancing the State Police Radio Network.

This endeavor has proven to be very costly with a huge investment in infrastructure and new frequencies. One challenge that remains unsolved is that several Public Safety Entities in Arkansas have gone to this system, but have not returned their abandoned frequencies to the FCC. In conclusion we must remember that the key to emergency response is prior planning and not just the radio system.

.....but I've been wrong before.

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EXCELLENCE IN
PUBLIC SAFETY
RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS

A Proud History of Excellence in Service

The FCCA is a national organization that came into being during a meeting of State Foresters and their radio technicians in Washington, D.C. in 1944. For over four decades, we coordinated frequencies within the Forestry – Conservation spectrum. Today, over 50 years later, we continue to coordinate ALL public safety frequencies, including those in the 700/800 MHz and Microwave bands. We provide a full range of radio communications services for forestry and conservation agencies, police, fire EMS and local government.

We encourage our members to become ambassadors for the best use of the radio frequency spectrum. Through active participation, the FCCA will continue to represent public safety professionals to effect positive change!

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