



# H C A R C R A G C H E W



## In This Issue

- Ω [Page 2](#)  
Blog from KB6NU
- Ω [Page 3](#)  
Hamfest Calendar  
DXpedition
- Ω [Page 4](#)  
Notes From The President
- Ω [Page 6](#)  
Coordinator's Corner

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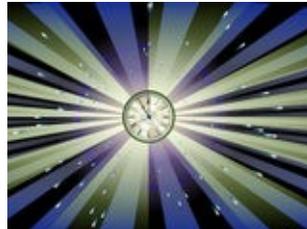
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**FEBRUARY 2008**

**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2**

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

<i>Local Repeaters: 147.060 + 100 Hz    444.600 + 114.8 Hz</i>
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## Effort Underway to Abolish Leap Second

Needless to say that "time" (and the measurement of it) is very important to everyone. Time originally was measured using the sun with a mean solar day being 24 hours. But that was not highly accurate due to variations in the earth's rotation. That changed in 1955 when an atomic clock was developed that measured the vibration of an atom of cesium, leading to the adoption of International Atomic Time.

Over decades, that resulted in tiny differences between precise Atomic Time and astronomically determined Greenwich Mean (Universal) Time. Since 1972 it has been the practice to periodically re-synchronize them, by inserting a leap second. The Earth's rotation rate is unpredictable more than six months in advance, so these leap seconds are added either at the end of June, or December.

Leap seconds can be a big deal, affecting everything from communication, navigation and air traffic control systems to the computers that link global financial markets. The last leap second was added in 2005.

There's an international effort underway to consider getting rid of leap seconds and replacing them with a leap hour, or simply let the time variation accumulate to 3600 seconds (60 minutes.) In about 600 years atomic time will be ahead of solar time by half an hour, and in about 1000 years the difference will be a full hour.

An ITU study group is now debating the pros and cons of a United States proposal for a leap hour that would be needed once every century or so. The recommendation will be voted on by ITU member states during April 2008. If 70% agree, the next World Radio Conference (WRC-11) scheduled for 2011 will approve the recommendation and the leap second will be eliminated in 2013. *Source W5YI*

## Know Your FCC Rulemaking Process

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Around Christmastime, a furor arose over a petition to change the rules regarding the use of digital modes. The petition number is RM-11392. You can find it on the FCC website by going to [http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch\\_v2.cgi](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi) and entering the petition number in the  Proceeding  text box. The petition will be the highest numbered document returned.

While the petition is interesting in and of itself, what's more interesting is how some hams got all excited about this petition. Many thought that rules changes were imminent, and they urged everyone to rush right over to the FCC website and comment. While it's a good thing for hams to be vigilant about proposed rule changes, this petition was nowhere near being turned into a rule.

On the Web page, "FCC Rulemaking Process"

(<http://www.fcc.gov/rules.html>), the FCC describes the four steps that occur before a petition is translated into rules changes:

1. Notice of Inquiry (NOI). During this phase, they gather comments on the petition.

2. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). If they determine that a petition has merit, they move to this stage. These are the rules changes that the FCC itself proposes to make, based on the petition and the comments received.

3. Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM). Changes may be made to the NPRM after receiving comments on the NPRM.

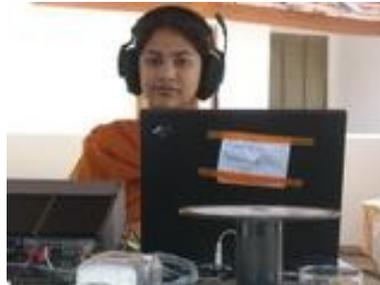
4. Report & Order (R&O). The R&O is the document containing the rules changes or an explanation of why no rules changes are being made at this time. At the time when everyone was getting excited about this, there was no NPRM in the list of documents relating to RM-11392. The petition was filed on 3/27/07, released for comments on 8/28/07, and the first comment wasn't entered until 11/20/07. Only two other comments were entered until all the recent publicity. This particular petition is still a long way from becoming a Part 97 rule, and if I had to guess, I'd say that it will never even get to the NPRM stage. Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that it isn't important to read and comment on petitions. But before you get your knickers in a twist over a particular petition or proposal, you need to know where it is in the process. This process can be excruciatingly slow sometimes, but slow is not always a bad thing. By not rushing petitions through the rulemaking process, the FCC ensures that it gets comments from all concerned and that all those who are interested in an issue can take their time to draft a really cogent comment.

When he's not scanning the FCC website or eHam.net for the latest ham radio controversy, KB6NU works CW and PSK31 on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). You can reach him by e-mail at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**HAMFEST CALENDAR**

<p>Feb 9 2008</p> <p>Cherryland Amateur Radio Club  <a href="http://www.carc.tc">http://www.carc.tc</a>  <b>Talk In: 146.86</b></p> <p>Traverse City, MI                  Immaculate Conception Elementary School                  720 2nd St</p>	<p><b>VE NEWS</b></p> <p>Technician Classes are ongoing at the Hillsdale High School.</p>	<p>Feb 17 2008</p> <p>37th Annual Swap 'N Shop                  Livonia Amateur Radio Club  <a href="http://www.LivoniaARC.com">http://www.LivoniaARC.com</a>  <b>Talk-In: 145.35</b></p> <p>Livonia MI, Civic Park Seniors Center 15218 Farmington Rd</p>
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**DXpedition**



(Chennai, India - January 26, 2008) - reported that Sadineni Yamini (22), the only woman of a 15-member international team of ham operators, will be on an uninhabited island for two weeks. The TI9K Dxpedition - which begins February 6 and lasts until February 14 - is to the picturesque Isla del Coco (Cocos Island), off Costa Rica. All band 160m-6m CW/SSB/RTTY operation is planned from Coco ...also some EME work on 2m and 70cm.

"Talking to The Hindu here before leaving on Friday en route Amsterdam, Miami (USA) and San Jose (Costa Rica), Yamini described the upcoming visit as an 'adventure and a technical experiment' during which she and the others will live in a boat on the high seas of the Pacific coast. The Cocos Island is one of the national parks of Costa Rica and was declared a world heritage site. Its deep waters are home to hammerhead sharks, rays and dolphins and other marine fauna. It is also famous for scuba diving.

The young Indian ham enthusiast has been sponsored by the Austrian Amateur Radio Society and the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR). Yamini, whose call sign is VU2YAM, said the team after sailing for about 40 hours from San Jose and reaching the island would set up five to six amateur radio stations."

Source W5YI

**HCARC**  
**HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Next Meeting - MARCH 20th - 7 P.M.

Topic TBA

NWS Skywarn Training February 26th to take place of February meeting

**NOTES FROM  
THE PRESIDENT**

**A L L H A M S W E L C O M E !**

Nothing at This Time

**W E E K L Y 2 M E T E R N E T H E L D E A C H  
M O N D A Y , 7 P . M . O N 1 4 7 . 0 6 0  
H I L L S D A L E R E P E A T E R , 1 0 0 H Z P L**

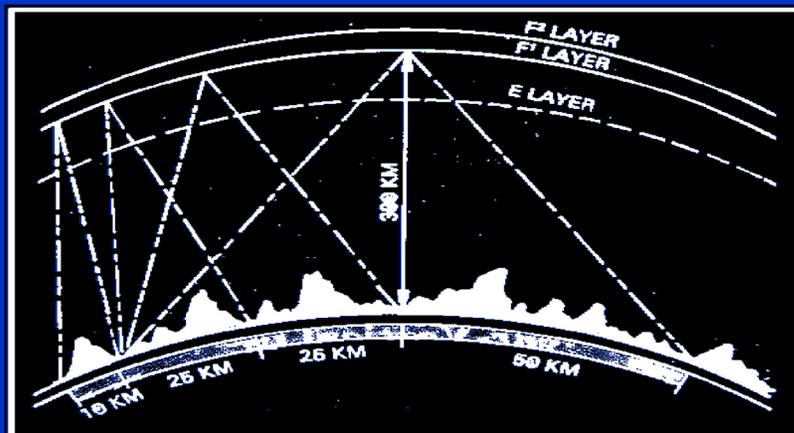
**2 N D M O N D A Y N E T D E S I G N A T E D  
A S A N E M E R G E N C Y T E S T N E T**

Meeting Every Third Thursday  
Room 130  
Hillsdale High School

NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) was the Highlight of the January Meeting. There are some excellent powerpoint presentations on this subject on the ARRL website.

# **NVIS** **Near Vertical Incident Skywave**

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ





# Coordinator's Corner



I have recently meet with our friendly Emergency Manager/911 Administrator Doug Sanford (N8WFB) to discuss future plans and his needs from our group. One thing that Doug and I discussed was when we have Skywarn activation and the EOC is in operation, I will man the 2M radio at the EOC. This is providing I am available and there is no immediate threat to my home QTH. I felt this would mutually benefit Doug and myself in serving his needs. We'll see what happens and evaluate as we go along.

- \* We reviewed the results of the SET from last October..
- \* Discussed progress on the District 1 D-Star project which is still progressing.
- \* And, discussion on setting up and testing Packet at the EOC.

So, for the rest of 2008, as a group, we will continue to focus on continued training in digital communications in support of served agencies.

Hillsdale County EC/RO

Dan KC8RYF