



Newsletter



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September, 2002

Unlicensed CB Jammer Sentenced

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 29, 2002--Florida Citizens Band enthusiast William "Rabbit Ears" Flippo will spend the next 15 months in federal prison and have to pay a \$25,000 fine for jamming Amateur Radio communications and transmitting without a license. Flippo was convicted in federal court earlier this year on eight misdemeanor counts. The sentence is believed to be a record for convictions of this type.



Federal District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley imposed the sentence August 29 on Flippo, of Jupiter. He had been found guilty June 19 of four counts of operating without a license and four counts of deliberate and malicious interference. Flippo the guilty verdict and underwent a psychiatric evaluation prior to sentencing. It's not clear if he will get credit for time already served. The judge also said he wants a full financial disclosure from Flippo, who may face other legal actions unrelated to his radio operation convictions.

At the sentencing, Flippo reportedly wept, said he'd turned over a new leaf and claimed he was sole support for his wife and two daughters. None of his family members was in the courtroom for the sentencing, however.

The judge was not persuaded, telling Flippo, 60, that he was old enough to have considered the consequences of his actions. Hurley also alleged numerous incidents of perjury during the course of Flippo's testimony during his June trial, which ran six-and-one-

Following his conviction, William Flippo--in chains and leg irons--as he was returned to custody in West Palm Beach, Florida, June 19. [Bob Calvert, K4NBC, Photo]

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Amateur Radio Exams

Amateur Radio exams will be given at the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC (Beside WXII-TV), Saturday, October 5 at 9:00 AM by the W4VEC VEC Group. For more information see the W4VEC VEC website at: www.w4vec.com or contact Rick Batte', N4MBI at n4mbi@ols.net or 336-924-1881. Be sure to bring two forms of ID, one being a photo ID, your SSN, original license, photo copy of your present amateur license, and any CSC's. Also you need to bring your FRN which is required by the FCC. This can be obtained from the CORES database, or you can refer to the letter that you received or will receive from the FCC.

Shelby Hamfest

Another Shelby Hamfest has come and gone. This year I didn't get to take any photos as my digital camera was on the fritz and I didn't take a film camera. The photo below is from the Shelby Hamfest's web site. They used to send brochures every year with photos of the previous year. I wish they still did that. I saved this brochure for years because it had my Elmer, Tag's picture on it. I'm guess the year was about 1970-something.

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A collection of old photos from the Shelby Hamfest. In the lower right corner is a picture of Tag Bowers, then WA4CXZ, now K4TAG. Tag was one of my first 'Elmers' and helped me get started in ham radio. If it wasn't for Tag you wouldn't have to suffer with me as a ham today.

Club Meeting, Monday, September 9, 2002

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 610 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to 'hob-nob' with your fellow hams. The door prize last month was a pair of clear plastic QSL card holders and was won by Rev. Fred Horton, NA4P. There will be another door prize this month. Sometimes there will be good door prizes, sometimes there will be great door prizes. And occasional you'll throw them back.

Would you like to become a member of FARC? It's easy! Dues are \$24/year (\$12/year for over 65 & students) prorated to end in December, i.e. in April dues would be \$16 (\$8 for over 65 and students). Feel free to drop into any meeting, we'd love to have you. Second Monday of every month at the Red Cross, 610 Coliseum Dr. Or email w4nc@triad.rr.com for more details.

Unlicensed CB Jammer Sentenced

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half days. The jury took about a half hour to determine that he was guilty on all counts.

According to trial testimony, Flippo primarily had targeted members of the Jupiter-Tequesta Repeater Group for jamming and regularly interfered with amateur operations, especially on 10 and 2 meters, over an approximately three-year period. Following up on the amateurs' complaints, personnel from the FCC's Tampa District Office visited the Jupiter area at least twice in 1999 and reported tracking the offending signals to Flippo's residence.

Flippo had faced a maximum of eight years in prison--one year on each count--and up to \$80,000 in fines. Available opinions were mixed on whether the sentence Hurley imposed was appropriate. Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, who assisted the FCC in gathering evidence and, at one point, had his car rammed by Flippo's vehicle, said he felt Flippo should have received at least three years.

"I thought it was a slap on the wrist," said Petzolt, the 1999 ARRL International Humanitarian Award winner who also testified at the trial. John Criteser Jr, KC4JLY, agreed. "I think he should have gotten more--at least five years," Criteser said outside the courthouse. Other

Continued next column

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 610 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes inaccurately and wrongly called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at www.w4nc.com. Club email is to w4nc@triad.rr.com.

Officers for 2002 are:

President: John Kippe, N0KTY,
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To join our list server send a blank email to
w4nc-subscribe@yahoo.com.

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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

amateurs who attended the sentencing session, including Jupiter-Tequesta club member Bert Moreschi, AG4BV, were satisfied with the penalty, however.

Flippo requested that he be incarcerated at Florida's Egland Air Force Base, but the decision on where he'll spend his sentence is up to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Flippo's federal trial was twice postponed last year after he argued successfully that serious health problems would prevent him from participating. He was unsuccessful, however, when he tried the same tactic during a hearing earlier this year to determine if he was capable of standing trial.

Last year, Flippo was convicted in state court of criminal mischief--also a misdemeanor--after ramming Petzolt's vehicle. He was sentenced to a year's probation and ordered him to dispose of any radio equipment in his possession. A ban on possessing radio gear also had a condition of his federal bond, which Hurley subsequently revoked during the trial.

Federal authorities arrested Flippo in July 2000. The criminal charges of which he now stands convicted covered violations allegedly committed between June 1999 and April of 2000. The defendant already faces a \$20,000 fine levied in 1999 for unlicensed operation, willful and malicious interference to Amateur Radio communications, and failure to let the FCC inspect his radio equipment.

Hurley ordered Flippo immediately back into custody to start serving his sentence. Flippo reportedly was led into and out of the courtroom in shackles and leg irons.

Quoted directly from www.arrl.org

W4NC web site is back up!

At least it's back up as www.w4nc.COM. We did find that the Club had paid for the w4nc.org renewal but a form wasn't signed, which we didn't receive in time. At this point we consider it all past history. Probably the scoundrels who snatched our web address will later come back and offer it to us for \$100. I don't think we should pay them anything. There is talk of legislation to stop this sort of thing. Eventually w4nc.org will be available again.

Anyway, let's forget past history. Henry, W2DZO, has the web site back up and it looks great. An all new look! Thanks Henry! There will be some more additions soon, including some new pictures.



PIANO TUNING

Paul V. Jordan
KG4LDB

381 Westoak Trail
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
336-768-6961
pj735@bellsouth.net

The Newsletter Hamfest:

I have a nice Icom 751A I would like to sell. With the Icom PS55 matching power supply and HM36 hand mic. \$400.00 cash takes it !!!! Would make a great second rig or good for 1st rig. Otherwise it's going on eBay! Thanks, Robert 336-995-2450

Wally Bernath has 1975-present QST's available, all in excellent shape. Call 725-0176

Henry Heidtmann, III, W2DZO, is looking for a trumpet for Henry IV, should anyone have one stashed away. 336-761-8223

Lew Elias, W4DBT, has tons of stuff for sale! Partial list - Novelty Radios, headphones, running time meter, 24 hour clock, hot wire amp-meter 0-4 Amps by GR, binding posts, dozens of electrolytic caps, aircraft Bendix compass, lots of mica capacitors, pots, multi-turn pots, lots of other stuff! There's enough here to run his own hamfest! 336-924-2162

Victor, KE4EXQ, starving boy-genius at NC State, is looking for a bicycle. His was stolen; they cut the cable. Nothing fancy, maybe the uglier the better, so it won't be stolen again. Call Don 413-3838.

New Standard Power Connector

The Anderson Power Pole connectors are here. They will be available at the Club meeting Monday night. There are enough connectors for everyone who ordered them and a good number left over. But don't wait too long to get yours. FARC will probably not keep more than those for the Club's own equipment on hand. We will keep a few spare pins and contacts for those who need them.

For more information on the connector, see this web page on the Wake ARES site:

<http://www.wakeares.org/powerpole>

It looks like this connector will actually become a national standard, something that has been attempted before but never actually made it. For those who are interested West Mountain Radio is selling DC power distribution panels using the Anderson connector. (This is not an endorsement, just an observation.) Picture below. I saw one at Shelby and they look nice. At first they might sound pricey, but it's more reasonable when you consider that they are very well designed and well built with quality parts; not like a certain other ham manufacturer. And they contain a number of niceties beyond just power distribution such as fuses and over/under voltage detection. I would like to see three of the small ones installed at the Club shack. You can see them at

www.westmountainradio.com



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FCC Exam Report

The next Test Session at Winston-Salem will be on October 5th. For more information see the W4VEC VEC website at: www.w4vec.com or contact Rick Batte', N4MBI at n4mbi@ols.net or 336-924-1881. Be sure to bring two forms of ID, one being a photo ID, your SSN, original license, photo copy of your present amateur license, and any CSCE's. Also you need to bring your FRN which is required by the FCC. This can be obtained from the CORES database, or you can refer to the letter that you received or will receive from the FCC.

The current plan is to go back to monthly testing, every month, on the first Saturday morning at the Red Cross. So, although it has been announced here that there will not be a test in November, the planning for one is in the works. Check the web site or next month's newsletter for confirmation.

73, Rick, N4MBI

Ham Radio Humor

Three young teenage hams were bragging about their CW DX the night before. First one says "I stayed up 'till midnight and I got England." Second one says "I stayed up 'till 1 AM and I got Poland." Third young ham says "I stayed up 'till 3 AM and I got Hell."

Late Breaking News!!!!

Henry Heidtmann III is no longer N4VHK! He has been granted his Granddad's Call W2DZO. Congratulations. This will take some getting used to!



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Hamfests

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28-29 Sep 2002 * Roanoke Division Convention

<http://www.vahamfest.com>

Phone: 757-479-1597

Email: lynnmilla@aol.com

Maysville, NC

13 Oct 2002 + Maysville Hamfest Association

Phone: 252-727-4750

Email: kb4mye@coastalplanes.com

Kinston, NC

23 Mar 2003 x Down East Hamfest Association

Phone: 252-524-5724

Virginia Beach Hamfest

If you are planning on going to the Virginia Beach Hamfest be certain to check their web site for last minute updates:

<http://www.vahamfest.com>

Editor's Corner

What this has to do with ham radio, your guess is as good as mine. Your guess is probably better since it took four beers to get me in the mood to actually write this month. I couldn't help but notice that one ham family is going to be suffering soon. My family went through the same suffering so I understand. Sort of. You see, I was the cause of it. First let me say that my musical ability can be summarized with the statement that I know all the words to *Woolly Bully*. Both of them. And not much else.

Once upon a time I wanted to play the trumpet, an instrument with all the subtlety of an above-ground nuclear detonation. At a high school basketball game I saw one of my heroes, Gene Johnson, play the trumpet with the pep band. He wasn't in high school. Gene was a minor, local celebrity. He was the rock DJ at the local AM radio station (where I spent a good portion of my time playing the job of pest). But his trumpet playing was exceptional. I wanted to be able to do that!

So I signed up for band. Soon, after hours, even weeks, of torture for my family, I could play. That is, if the sound of a cat being roasted alive slowly could be called playing. Very early on my family 'invited' me to do my practicing outside. Far outside. In Winter. Along with my outdoor playing I received 'accolades' from my neighbors. Occasionally they said they could even recognize what I was playing. I'm sure they were just humoring me.

Sadly I also suffered from a serious disease - severe rhythm impairment. Much worse than even Republican convention delegates. But that wasn't much of a problem until the band played together. You see the rest of the junior high band suffered from the same ailment to a greater or lesser degree.

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We didn't do too well playing in sync; it was an accomplishment when we all stopped playing at the same time.

I stuck with it and eventually, in high school, I moved up through the ranks and played first chair in all the bands. Not that I was so good mind you. Some stars can be bright only when the rest of the sky is dark. Then *HE* came. Dale. His family moved to town because his dad had been transferred. And Dale had been playing since he was about 8 years old. And he had talent. And rhythm. So he got all the first and descant parts which he played not just easily but with *flair*. Which left me second fiddle, so to speak. After all, you can only have so many thermo-nuclear devices going off at one time. I still hate him. Now if you don't mind I'm going to practice some . . . "*Woolly Bully, Woolly Bully, Woolly Bully*"

For information to make it into the Newsletter, I need it a few days before the end of the month. Sometimes I can squeeze it in on the last day, *depending on when the 2nd Monday falls*. Email me at wb4kqn@triad.rr.com with any submissions. Just plain text is all that's required, most formatting will be redone to match the Newsletter's form anyway. Pictures can be most any form, but jpg's are probably best. Pictures need to be of the highest resolution possible.

73, Don, WB4KQN

Shelby Hamfest

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The page 1 photo was taken at Brackett Cedar Park, where the Hamfest was held prior to moving to the fairgrounds. In those days your ticket included all the BBQ, fried chicken, slaw, French fries and tea you could hold - all prepared on the grounds. Unfortunately the Hamfest outgrew the park.

This year I found a nice National NTX-5 MKII at Shelby for a good price and brought it home. Just seeing the radio warmed the 'filaments' of my heart. This was the same radio that Tag used when I first became his "Elmee". Being a pre-teenager I couldn't then imagine anyone having the money to buy such a nice rig and the matching National NC-2000 amplifier. Plus the tower and antennas he had. An 1964 National ad shows the rig alone at the outrageous price of \$685; I suppose that was without the matching power supply. Or the optional calibrator.

There is a magic about using a tube rig that the new solid-state stuff just doesn't have. The new stuff just sits there so quiet and smug working perfectly with so many bells and whistles. Tube gear requires some 'gumption' to use. Plus it generates a nice warm glow that sets the room in just the right mood for the magic of working DX. I'm happy to report the rig works great (except on 10 meters). My first contact was Belgium on 80 meters SSB (using W2DZO's antennas). Now if I can just find a matching VX-501 VFO, I'll be 10 pounds of ham in a 5 pound bag!

73, Don, WS4NC



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