

June 15



WILD GOOSE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1975

ITEM. The Board of Directors of the WGA held their 16th meeting on 6 May at the U.S. Coast Guard Hqtrs in Wash DC. It was reported that 1 August has been set for the publication date of the Radio Navigation Journal and 13 out of 15 advertisers had made their commitments. A slate of 11 nominees, which you will receive the names of in your ballot, was approved to fill five vacancies. Convention chairman, Bill Reveille, has established the Hunt Valley Inn and Golf Course (outside of Baltimore) as the meeting place. The meeting will be held back-to-back with the 10N LORAN C meeting as follows:

Tuesday, 14 October, 10N Banquet
 Wednesday, 15 October, 10N, WGA Golf Tournament
 Thursday, 16 October, WGA Technical Sessions, Banquet, Ladies Tour.
 Friday, 17 October, WGA panel discussion

There is the possibility of a combined 10N/WGA cocktail party for Wednesday evening. Further details to be announced later.

Other matters discussed were the LORAN C specification, which is moving along nicely; and expansion of WGA charter, which was shelved until the panel discussion at the convention.

ITEM. Elections - Of the 11 nominations mentioned above, five are with organizations which relate closely to or are users of LORAN. The Board of Directors feel that user representation will strengthen our organization. We urge you, the members, to consider these nominations carefully and vote in accordance with judgment to provide the WGA a solid foundation of a broad range of interest in the Board of Directors.

ITEM. LORAN A Improvements. The Coast Guard is in the process of improving and automating the operation of LORAN A transmitting stations. LORAN Station Marshall Point (3H5) at Port Clyde, ME, is the station at which the prototype installation was made. The installation includes "Colac" timers which have set a new standard in timing stability and a Status Alarm Unit which automatically senses faults, switches to standby equipment, and calls the repairman. Eventually, the station will operate with the repair technician stationed 20 miles down the road at the search and rescue station at Rockland.

Similar changes are underway at LORAN Station Bacaro, Nantucket, Sandy Hook, and Halteras (1H4, 1H5, 3H4, 3H5). Within a year, all continental U.S. and some other stations will be equipped as is Marshall Point. Although there may be some time during the next year when signals will be off-air for these changes, we have been assured that afterward there will be a marked improvement in the reliability of the LORAN A signals.

ITEM. First Coast Guard District - U.S. Coast Guard advises that Cogard LORAN A Stations Cape Christian, Canada; Capt Atholl, Greenland; and Lorsta Nipisat, Greenland will permanently cease all LORAN transmissions on LORAN A rates 256 and 257 at 2400Z on 30 June 75. Additionally, the radio beacons at Cape Christian and Capt Atholl will be permanently secured at that time.

ITEM. Synopsis from Commerce Business Daily, 7 Apr 75. Megapulse, Inc., under Coast Guard contract, built an engineering model of a solid state transmitter capable of radiating 400KW peak pulse power from a 625 foot top loaded monopole. They recently received a USCG contract for a pre-production model on a ~~450K~~ competitive basis with the option for 3 additional transmitters. The Coast Guard, in the interests of broadening competition for these 3 transmitters, is willing to test and evaluate 400KW (minimum) solid state LORAN C transmitter technologies other than Megapulse. This was not a request for proposals, but anyone wanting more information contact Commandant (G-FCP-4/71), U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, D.C. 20590.

ITEM. Bill Roland tells me that the WGA will distribute one copy of the CG LORAN C Users Handbook to each member when we mail out the ballots.

MEMBERSHIP/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME _____

\$10.00 - New Member

COMPANY _____

Change of Address

AFFILIATION _____

MAIL TO:

CMDR W.F. Roland

36 Ober Street

Beverly, MA 01915

MAILING ADDRESS _____

ITEM. World Administrative Radio Conference of the ITU will convene in 1979. Your president, Jim Van Etten, recently signed a letter prepared by fellow honker Leo Fehlner, to Admiral Siler, USCG Commandant. In this letter, Jim offered the services of the WGA to assist in efforts to clear the LORAN band of 90-110 KHZ from non-radio navigation interference. Non-U.S. members of the WGA are urged to use whatever influence you may have to strengthen your country's position on this matter.

ITEM. Phil Parsons reports that ship grounding incident reported in the last Newsletter happened at Mouse Island, Newfoundland, in 1948. It so happens that manila hemp suspension lines absorbed the fog and shrank and the antenna came down. Thanks, Phil.

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ITEM. LCDR Bill Schorr visited Boston recently and was heard to advocate equal rights for women quite strongly. He strongly recommended that women be given a commanding position in LORAN as well as on shipboard. I support his position. I think of nothing so fascinating as to look up on the bridge and see those Hi-perbolic lines unless it is ground waves on Carolina Beach. Ooops - that's Navy talk.

ITEM. In a News Release dated April 2, 1975, the Environmental Protection Agency is asking for data and information from scientists, electrical power companies and others on the health and environmental effects associated with the operation of extremely high voltage power lines. In this release it states that, "it has been estimated that perhaps 10,000 miles of lines rated at 765 kV or higher may be built in the next fifteen years. "----
"The next generation of transmission systems may operate at voltages of 1000 kV or more. System voltages up to 2000 kV are reportedly feasible, and a full scale prototype of a 1500 kV transformer is being tested in Sweden."

"The EPA is particularly concerned about the measurement and analytical methods for quantifying electric and magnetic fields; measurement and analysis of induced voltages and currents; electric discharge phenomena; and health effects."

There are now many land uses for LORAN-C and perhaps some members might wish to address the EPA's request in terms of grid distortion and radiated noise from these proposed transmission lines.

Interested persons may submit written comments on these concerns to the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Radiation Programs (AW-558), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460 before June 30, 1975.

For a copy of the News Release please contact John Beukers, 30 Orville Drive, Bohemia, Long Island, New York.

ITEM. Willi Vogeler of Telcom (Vienna, Virginia) presented a paper on LORAN-C vehicle location to the Carnahan Conference on Crime Countermeasures in Lexington, Kentucky, on 9 May 1975. The audience consisted of FBI, sheriffs, city police, and law enforcement administrators. Additionally, universities strong in criminology were represented. In addition to the paper, real-world demonstrations were conducted in a station wagon. The response to the paper by the law enforcement community was excellent. Telcom's LORAN-C receiver/processor was operated on the road trips between Virginia and Kentucky and repeatability was excellent.

ITEM. CMDR B. Mohin, USCG, reports that CG has made a trial installation of calculator aided LORAN controller CALOC at Bermuda for control of Cape Fear - Nantucket and Cape Fear - Jupiter LORAN synchronization. The CALOC algorithm, developed by CMDR Don Feldman, EE Center, Wildwood, NJ, held the mean at Bermuda to w/i 2-3 nanoseconds of the control value over a period of a day; the max error during this same 24-hour period was 30 nanoseconds.

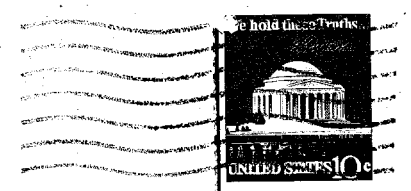
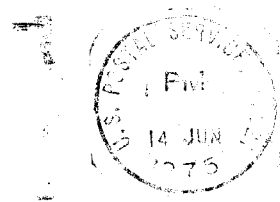
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ITEM. Jim Van Etten recently paid a visit to U.K. and Norway to interest those countries in expanding LORAN for their own national interests.

ITEM. Call for Papers - Papers which are User-oriented, stress operational performance, describe practical applications, treat system accuracies in typical applications and those that portray unique or dramatic applications are being sought. Abstracts are to be sent to Norm Dickerson, 388 Steven Way, Severna Park, MD 21146 by 15 July. Authors will be notified by 1 August to prepare manuscripts for publication.

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Editor

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2ND CLASS MATTER