The Pickle Barrel Review

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTON MOUNTAIN DIGITAL RADIO ASSOCIATION

January 2026

Introduction

Greetings to one and all, and once again welcome to the Pickle Barrel Review! As in the previous issues, you'll find this issue filled with the latest happenings not only of the W7NEO system, and the NE-OREGON room, but System Fusion, Allstar, along with GMRS. All that said, as always, we invite others to contribute with articles, or if your club or organization is having an event such as a tailgate, swap meet, VE testing, or whatever, you can list it here as well. The only thing we ask is that your contribution be nonpolitical (unless it's a government action that directly affects Ham, or GMRS Radio), respectful of others (no personal attacks), and relatively family friendly. We realize your pretty darn proud of it, but we really don't want to hear about your new tattoo, let alone just where exactly it's located on your body. And just to be clear, we apologize, but unfortunately your brother-in-law's bachelor party still doesn't qualify as an upcoming event. So, all that said, feel free to reach in the barrel, grab yourself a pickle, pull up a chair and have ah sit for a spell as we discuss the latest happenings in Fusion, Allstar, GMRS, and Personal Radio Communications in general. And for the record, you can rest assured that

every line of the PBR is a 100% AI free zone, and will remain so (As proof just look at all the mistakes!).

A word from our sponsor

North Eastern Oregon Photography:

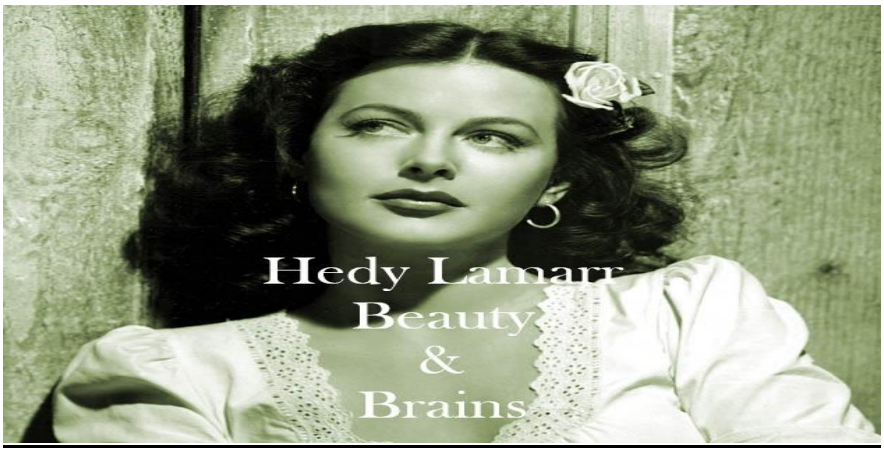
With the New Year now well underway, the folks down at North Eastern Oregon Photography would like to remind you that spring is fast approaching, and with that comes memories of youth that will forever be etched in our minds. So why not let them help you with the preservation of those memories by capturing each and every precious moment in pictures.

The folks down at North Eastern Photography are experienced and ready to serve your photographic needs with even the most challenging of photogenic undertakings.

Are you worried that your little guy might stand out alittle in his sixth-grade graduation picture? Well set those worries aside, the folks down at NE Oregon Photography can remove even the most stubborn of five o'clock shadow, so your boy will be standing proud with the rest of his classmates, in spite of the difference in height. And what about that magical night at the high school prom? Well not to worry, because once again we've got you covered. Through the magic of digital photography, you'll both be smiling big for the camera with a nearly full set of teeth!

So, this year when all those special memories begin to unfold, give the folks down at North Eastern Oregon Photography a call to ensure that years later when you're reflecting back while thumbing through your photo album that the past is just as you remember it…. more or less.

Radio History



Hedy Lamarr, was born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler into a wealthy, cultured, Jewish family, in Vienna, Austria-Hungary on November 9th, 1914. Her parents were Gertrud (née Lichtwitz), a pianist from Budapest, and Emil Kiesler, a successful bank director from a Jewish family in Lemberg (now Lviv, Ukraine). However, her mother eventually converted to Catholicism, and raised Hedy as a Christian, a detail Hedy kept private for most of her life.

Hedy as a child.

As a child, Hedy showed an interest in acting, and was fascinated by theater and film. At the age of 12, she won a beauty contest in Vienna. She also began to learn about technological inventions with her father, who would take her out on walks, explaining how various devices functioned.

Hedy had no formal scientific or higher education to speak of, but instead was home schooled from age 10 until age 14. Becoming a self-taught genius with a brilliant mind, receiving a privileged upbringing in Vienna with private tutoring in piano, ballet, and languages. Along with that, her father stressed the math and sciences up until she started high school. So, prior to entering high school, she was well skilled in mathematics, physics, and biology. If that wasn't enough, she was also fluent in four different languages which included her native language of German, along with English, Italian, and Hungarian.

At the age of sixteen she enrolled in the renowned Max Reinhardt's acting school in Berlin, Germany. She soon set herself apart by gaining recognition through her ability to memorize an entire production script from a single reading.

In early 1933, at age 18, Hedy was given the lead in Gustav Machatý's film *Ecstasy*. She was cast as the neglected young wife of an indifferent older man. The film became both celebrated, and notorious for showing Lamarr's face in the throes of orgasm, as well as close-ups, and brief scenes of nudity, which, for the time period, was scandalous. Hedy claimed she was "duped" by both the director and the producer, accusing them of using high-power telephoto lenses during the filming, although the director contested her claims. The film was banned throughout most of Europe; however, it was rumored that both Adolph Hitler, and Benito Mussolini had personal copies of the film in their private collections. In fact, Mussolini was said to have been adamant about not selling his copy for any price. Clearly Hedy had made quite an impression with the fascist leader.

Later on in 1933, at age 18 Hedy married her first husband, Friedrich Mandl. Mandl was a wealthy, and controlling Austrian arms manufacturer with ties to Nazi, and Fascist circles, and a major player in European arms.

Hedy and then husband Mandl.

Hedy felt like a prisoner in the marriage, and was forced to host somewhat dubious guests of the time, including both Nazi, and fascist associates, such as Benito Mussolini, and Adolph Hitler. During her marriage to Mandl she was also forbidden from acting. So, in 1937 she escaped from Mandl by disguising herself as a maid, and escaping to Paris. She then traveled to London, where she eventually made her way to Hollywood.

During their marriage, Mandl greatly underestimated Hedy's level of intelligence, and her ability to retain what she had read. She had a keen interest in military technology of the time, learning a great deal from Mandl and his associates. Once she was in the United States, she was able to use her knowledge of various weapons systems from her time with Mandl in order to aid in the Allied war effort.

After arriving in London in 1937, she met Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, who was scouting for talent in Europe at the time. She initially turned down the offer he made her of $125 a week.

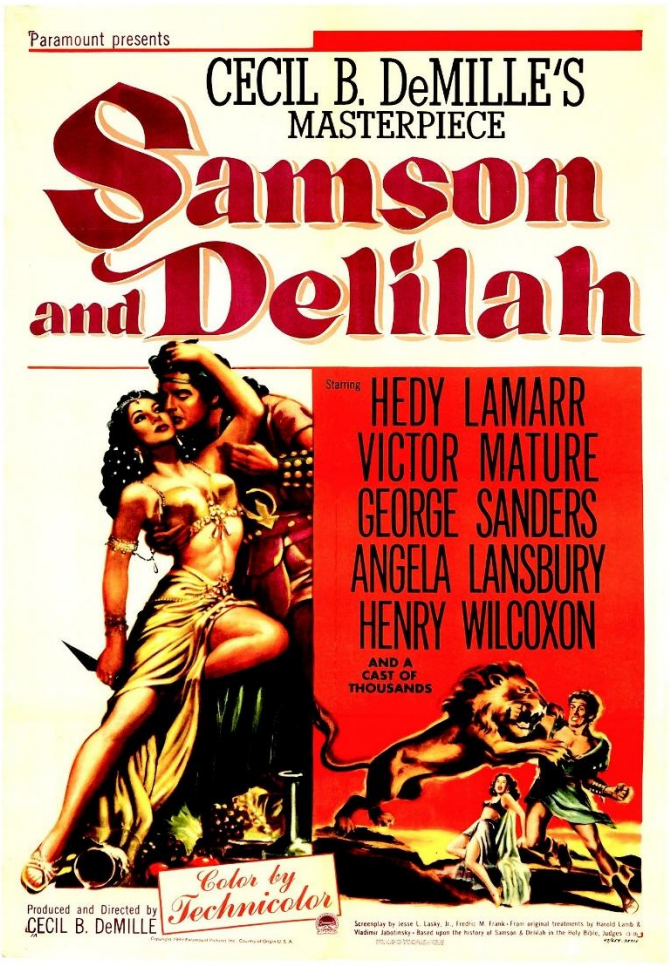
Hedy Lamarr (L), and Louis b Mayer (R)

Shortly after their meeting, she booked herself onto the French luxury liner SS Normandie bound for New York, specifically to intercept Mayer, who was also

aboard. Her clever maneuvering paid off, as she was able to meet with Mayer during the transit. Mayer was so impressed with Hedy that it led to her famous Hollywood $500-a-week contract. Mayer persuaded her to change her name to Hedy Lamarr in order to distance herself from her real identity, and "The *Ecstasy* lady" reputation associated with it. Choosing the surname in homage to the beautiful silent film star Barbara La Marr, on the suggestion of his wife, who admired La Marr. He brought Hedy to Hollywood in 1938, and began promoting her as; “The world's most beautiful woman."

French luxury liner SS Normandie. Where Hedy met with Louis B. Mayer and signed her famous $500 a week contract.

Up until WWII Hedy starred in many of MGM’s movies of the time. In most all of the films she was invariably typecast as the archetypal glamorous seductress of exotic origin.

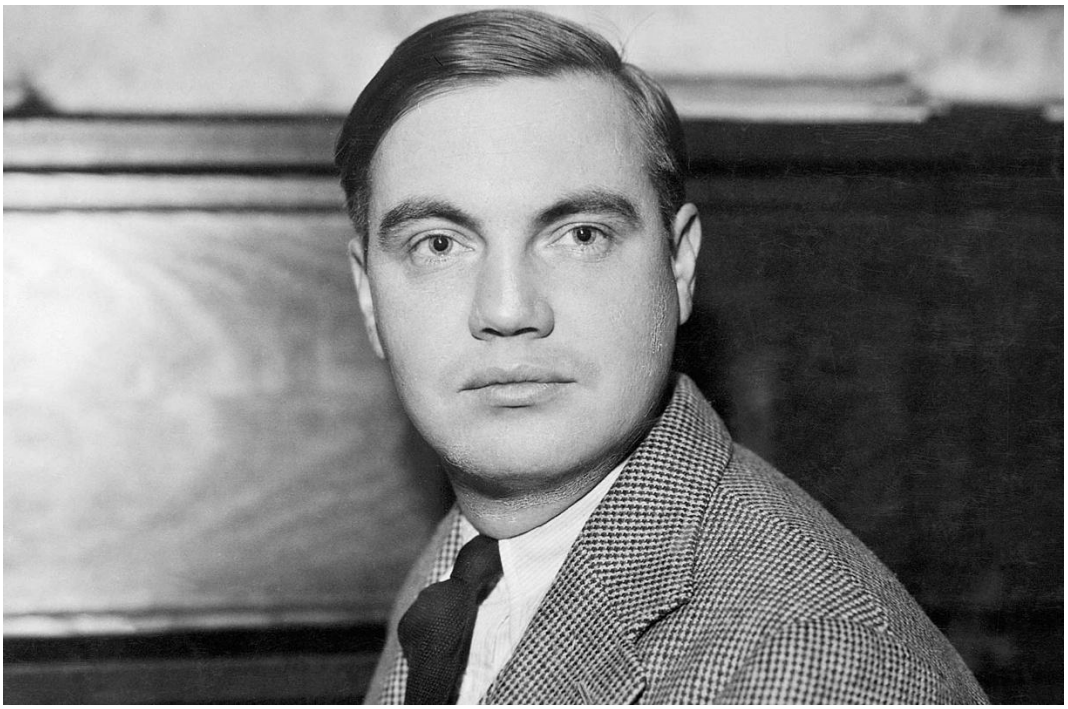


One of many more well known films starring Hedy Lamarr, entitled "Samson and Delilah," (1948).

It was during this time, that she also dated Howard Hughs, the famous aircraft engineer and philanthropist. Hughs goal during that time was to design the fastest aircraft of its day. Hedy helped him by mathematically analyzing wind drag coefficient, even going so far as redesigning the traditional "box wings" of the period into swept wing designs in order to better reduce wind drag. Hugh's immediately saw the value of Hedy's work, assigning a team of engineers to her, instructing them to do "whatever she asked."

Howard Hughes in the cockpit of the H-1 Racer, NX258Y, 19 January 1937.

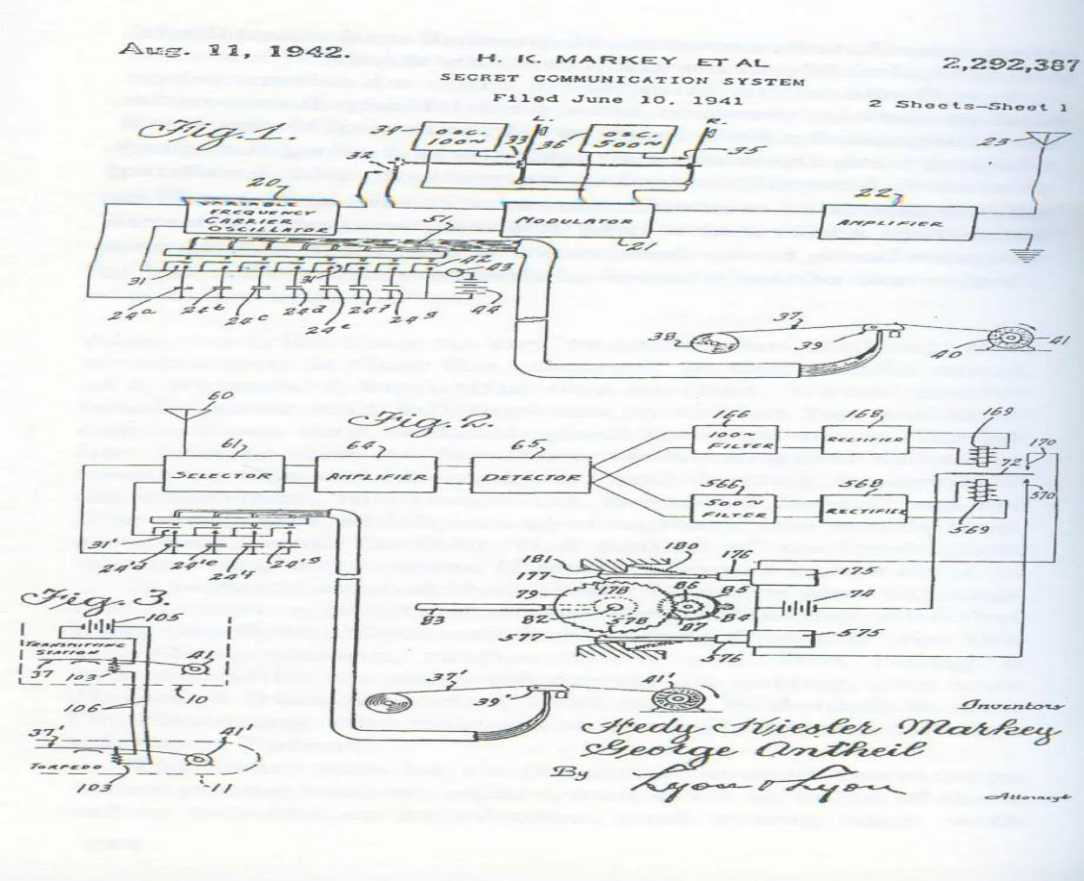
When WWII broke out, Hedy wanted to do her part in order to help with the war effort. In a chance encounter at a dinner party, Hedy happen to meet composer, and pianist Goerge Antheil. The two of them began working on developing an idea originally conceived by Guglielmo Marconi, in 1899. However, Hedy's idea took Marconi's concept a step further. The idea was to use a method of transmitting radio signals called frequency hopping in order to guide allied torpedoes. Their idea originally drew from the concept of several player pianos playing the same tune at the same time from slightly altered rolls. Hedy's idea was to add the ability of transceivers to vary both the frequency, and the amplitude in a single transmission. The result being that this would make the control signal impossible to jam by both encrypting, and decrypting the radio signal simultaneously. In order to test this concept, and choose the frequencies to be bounced, Hedy, and George used a grand piano. The resulting torpedo was designated MK-24, and was referred to as "Fido."



Pianist, and composer Goerge Antheil, together Hedy and Goerge developed the concept of Frequency Hopping.

On August 11th, 1942 Hedy hired the legal firm of Lyon & Lyon to draft the application for the patent under her legal name Hedy Kiesler Markey. This was granted as U.S. patent number 2,292,387. Unfortunately, when Hedy and Antheil offered their invention to the US Navy, it was declined. The Navy didn't take their invention seriously, commenting that they couldn't accommodate a "player piano" on a torpedo. Lamarr and Antheil, after having been shunned by the Navy, both decided to pursued their invention no further. However, eventually, the concept of frequency hopping, and spread spectrum became the basis for modern Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS. This, along with various military secure communications which are still in use to this very day. All this served to make her a key figure among many of radio's foundational technologies, despite the initial lack of recognition.

Hedy wanted to join the National Inventors Council, but was reportedly told by the NIC that she could better help the war effort by using her celebrity status to sell war bonds. So, Hedy went on the road selling war bonds.



Hedy Lamarr and Goerge Antheil's original Frequency Hopping invention.

During her tour, she would routinely call upon a sailor planted in the crowd to come up on stage. She would then tell the crowd of onlookers that she would give the sailor a kiss only after the crowd would purchase war bonds. Hedy was able to raise just over 25 million dollars in war bond sales as a result.

Hedy Lamarr selling War Bonds during WWII

After leaving MGM in 1945, Hedy formed a production company of her own. Unfortunately, the production company wasn't much of a success, with most of their productions going over budget. As a result, she eventually returned to MGM.

Over the course of Hedy Lamarr's life, she was married a total of six times. During that time, she had three children; which included an adopted son, James Markey Loder, with her second husband Gene Markey, and two biological children with her third husband John Loder: daughter Denise Loder and son Anthony Loder. Hedy didn't become a naturalized US citizen until age 38 on April 10, 1953.

In the late 1950s, along with former husband W. Howard Lee, Hedy designed, and developed the Villa LaMarr ski resort in Aspen, Colorado.

The 1970s gradually became a decade of increasing seclusion for Hedy. She was offered several scripts, television commercials, and stage projects, but none piqued her interest. In her later years, Hedy lived in Altamonte Springs, Florida, before moving to Casselberry, Florida, in the final months of her life. With her eyesight gradually failing, and following a botched plastic surgery, she communicated with family and friends almost exclusively by telephone. However, after moving to Casselberry, two friends who lived nearby would visit her at home to check on her a few times a week.

Hedy Lamarr in her later years after numerous plastic surgeries.

On January 19, 2000, Hedy Lamarr was found dead at her home in Casselberry at the age of 85; the cause of death was listed as heart disease. Her son Anthony Loder spread part of her ashes in Austria's Vienna Woods in accordance with her last wishes. In 2014, a memorial to Hedy was unveiled in Vienna's Central Cemetery. The remainder of her ashes were buried there.

Memorial honoring Hedy Lamarr in Vienna's Central Cemetery.

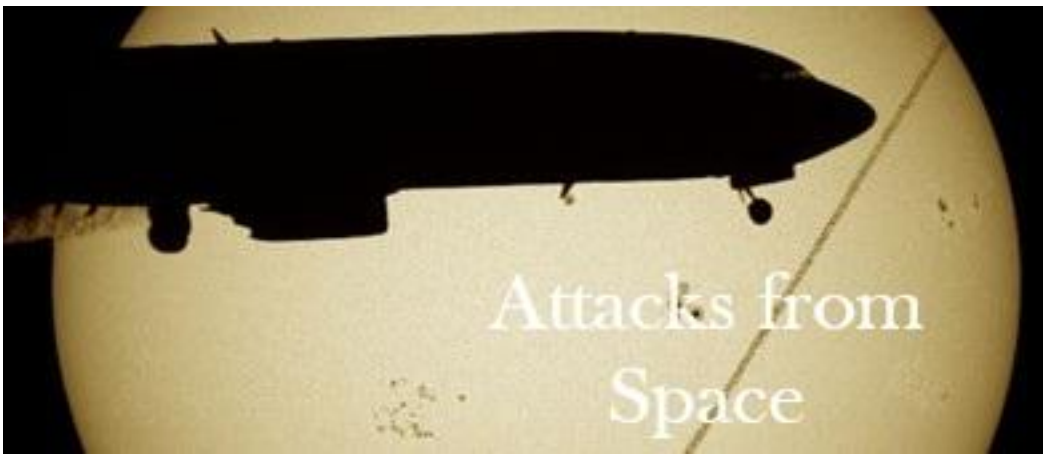
In 2014, Hedy was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for her having introduced frequency-hopping, spread spectrum technology.

Hedy Lamarr was once quoted as having said; “My beauty is my curse.” But in the years that followed Hedy’s death, she received recognition for her many achievements in both theater and science. But perhaps Hedy Lamarr’s most notable achievement she is celebrated for is having empowered women by shattering stereotypes as both a Hollywood beauty, and a brilliant inventor. With the pioneering of frequency-hopping technology foundational to Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS, Hedy proved women's immense capabilities in science and technology. In doing so, it served as an inspiration for breaking barriers in male-dominated fields. Her story highlights that intelligence and creativity

know no bounds, further encouraging women to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and recognize their hidden potential for landmark contributions in the years that followed.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Solar phenomenon

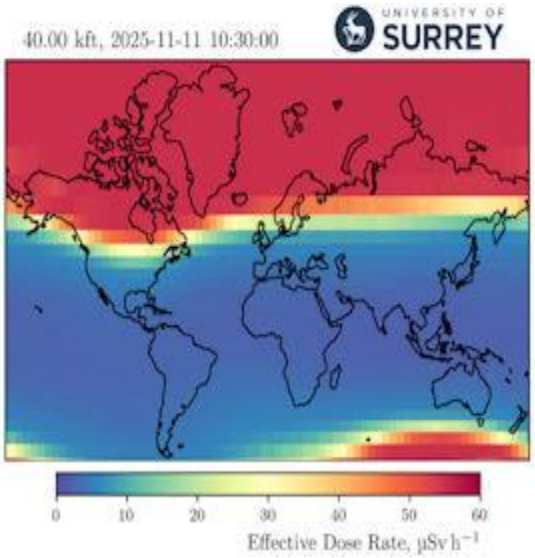


Back in November of 2025, Thanksgiving travelers were surprised when Airbus suddenly grounded more than six thousand A320-family jets for an urgent software rollback. The cause of the delay? Fears of solar radiation. Engineers had discovered that the A320 flight-control computers were unexpectedly vulnerable to cosmic rays and solar storms.

The problem came to light on Oct. 30th, when a JetBlue Airways A320 flying from Cancun to New Jersey suddenly dropped in altitude, injuring seven passengers. When investigators dug into the flight-control data, they found that the aircraft's updated software was vulnerable to "single-event upsets." Bit-flips which occur when a high-energy particle randomly changes a 1 to a 0 (or vice versa), corrupting altitude, and/or other critical data.

It was discovered that the new software hadn't been properly hardened against this sort of glitch. So, on Nov. 28th, regulators ordered a massive emergency rollback (and hardware protection where needed) before the jets could be permitted to return to service. Predictably, this left hundreds of holiday travelers stranded as a result.

Although some mainstream news outlets suggested the JetBlue mishap was triggered by solar radiation, at the time there was no solar-radiation storm that took place on Oct. 30th. Instead, the upset was likely caused by a stray galactic cosmic ray - the same class of particle that the sun produces in large quantities during intense storms.

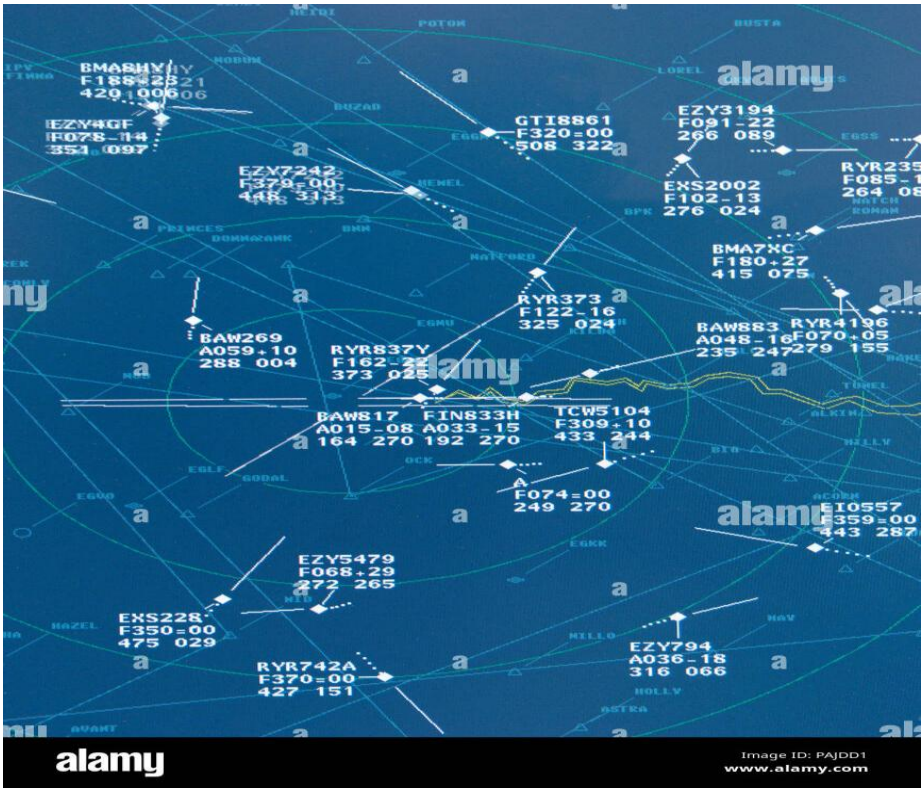


"Avionics are bathed in cosmic rays continuously," says Clive Dyer, a radiation expert at the UK's Surrey Space Centre. "This can result in anomalies even when no solar storm is happening."

Coincidentally, less than two weeks after the JetBlue incident, there was a significant solar-radiation event. On Nov. 11th, an X-class solar flare triggered the strongest ground-level event (GLE) in nearly 20 years. Energetic particles flooded Earth's atmosphere, doubling radiation levels at aviation altitudes (shown in the map above).

Dyer and colleagues analyzed the storm and found that bit-flips in computer memory could have occurred at a rate of ~60 errors per hour, per gigabyte. Dyer noted that no flight anomalies were reported, commenting; “But, I can only believe that the Nov. 11th event focused minds on this problem."

On Feb. 23, 1956, the largest GLE of the Space Age boosted aviation radiation levels more than 100×. Tree rings and ice cores show that "Miyake Events" (GLEs thousands of times more intense) have struck Earth on numerous occasions in the past few millennia. Modern society simply hasn’t experienced one yet. But as is the case with other solar events, it may just be a matter of time. So regular upgrading of flight software might just be a pretty good idea.



Typical Air Traffic Control RADAR (STARS) screen.

A new study published on the website *Space Weather* suggests that flying during an extreme geomagnetic storm may not be all that great of an idea. During the historic storms of May 10-13, 2024, disturbances in Earth's ionosphere played havoc with European aircraft tracking systems. In the analyzing of more than 700 million ADS-B messages from over 18,000 aircraft, researchers found a clear increase in data gaps and sudden position "jumps." With some planes briefly appearing hundreds of kilometers from their true locations. That said, you might just want to check out the space weather predictions before your next overseas flight.

Read the original research here

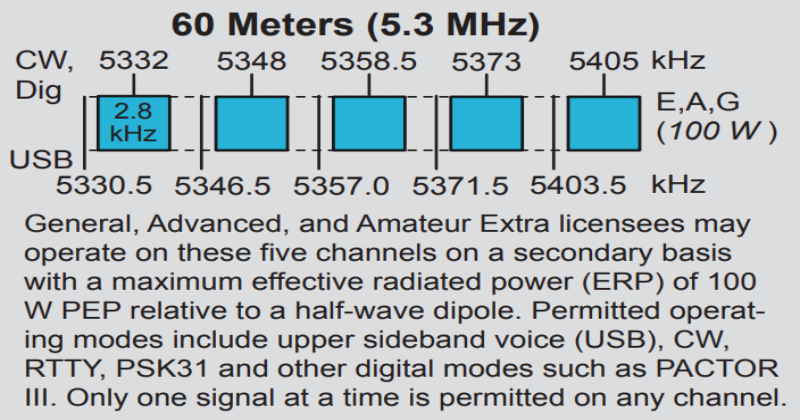
Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Legal Corner

With the new year, of course, comes change. In this case it's a change to the band which we as Amateur Radio Operators share with other various government entities.

The band I'm referring to is the sixty meter band, which was first introduced to Amateur Radio operators in 2002. The 60 meter, or 5 MHz band was originally only available in a few countries: United States, United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, and Iceland. While serving in the Air Force Reserves in the 1990's, we utilized 5 MHz quite often for our HF nets, and HF communications in general.

Over the years, an increasing number of countries' telecommunications authorities have permitted amateur radio operations to operate within the 5 MHz band. Allocations range from discrete channels to an entire frequency band. But up until now, radio amateurs in the U.S. have had limited access to just five discrete channels, and only on a secondary basis.



60-meter band operating allocations in the US.

The following is an explanation of changes the FCC enacted to both the sixty meter band (5MHz), and the 70 centimeter band (420-450 MHz) to be implemented in 2026. I recently received this from Tyson Brooks (W7BL) in La Grande Oregon. Tyson is their local Emergency Coordinator, and does a pretty good job of laying it all out:

Overview of Ham Radio Changes in FCC 25-60

The FCC's Report and Order (FCC 25-60), released on December 9, 2025, implements several updates to amateur radio (ham radio) rules under 47 CFR Part 97, primarily to align with decisions from the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15). These changes focus on two bands: the 5351.5-5366.5 kHz band (commonly called the 60-meter band by hams) and the 420-450 MHz band (70 cm band). No underlying laws (e.g., the Communications Act) are altered; these are regulatory adjustments to frequency allocations, power limits, operating guidelines, and coordination requirements.

The changes emphasize secondary status for amateur operations (meaning hams must not cause interference to primary users like federal fixed and mobile services and must accept any interference received). They also aim to balance expanded access with protection for incumbents. The rules became effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register (likely early January 2026), but you should check the FCC's website for the exact date.

I'll break this down by band, drawing directly from the document's discussion (paragraphs 32-47 in Section III.B). I've included key quotes and rationale from the FCC for context. Recent online reactions (from December 10, 2025) confirm excitement in the ham community about the 60m expansion, with groups like ARRL and QRPer.com highlighting the new contiguous segment.

1. Changes to the 5351.5-5366.5 kHz (60-Meter) Band

This is the main ham radio update, allocating a new contiguous 15 kHz segment on a secondary basis while retaining (and slightly adjusting) access to discrete channels outside it. The FCC received overwhelming support from commenters (over 3,000 filings in the docket, many from hams via ARRL's

advocacy), who emphasized the band's unique propagation for medium-distance communication, emergency ops, and filling gaps between 80m (3-4 MHz) and 40m (7 MHz) bands.

Key Changes:

New Contiguous Allocation:

The 5351.5-5366.5 kHz band is now allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis for non-Federal use. This implements WRC-15's global harmonization, where most countries adopted this segment with a 15W EIRP limit.

Why Retain Discrete Channels?:

Hams argued the 60m band's propagation is "immensely valuable in facilitating public service initiatives" and "ensures reliable signal propagation... during temporal and solar cycle fluctuations." (Paras. 35-36). The FCC agreed, noting it "might be useful for completing disaster communications links at times when the 3 and 7 MHz bands were not available due to ionospheric conditions." (Para. 37).

Retained Discrete Channels:

Four existing channels outside the new band are kept on a secondary basis: centered at 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz (each with 2.8 kHz bandwidth).

Change from Current Rules:

The previous fifth channel (centered at 5358.5 kHz) is now subsumed into the contiguous band and no longer treated as discrete. This aligns with WRC-15 and avoids overlap.

No Emergency-Only Restriction:

The FCC rejected limiting these to disasters/drills (e.g., MARS, SHARES, ARES, RACES), as it would "deprive the amateur community of an important means

of communication." (Para. 37). Everyday use is allowed, but secondary status applies.

Power Limits:

New Band (5351.5-5366.5 kHz): Limited to 15W EIRP (or 9.15W ERP) to match WRC-15 and NTIA recommendations. This is a reduction from the 100W PEP on discrete channels.

Rationale:

Protects primary federal users (e.g., military, disaster relief). "Operating on a secondary basis, the amateur community must protect Federal operations in this band, and we do not believe that the increased potential for harmful interference at [100W] has been fully considered." (Para. 43). Long-range propagation allows efficient low-power comms.

Measurement:

ERP is used for consistency with Part 97, though equivalent to EIRP. No antenna limits, as the radiated power cap suffices.
Discrete Channels: Retained at 100W PEP (peak envelope power), as current use hasn't caused interference.
Note: Many hams wanted 100W across the board (matching Canada), but the FCC deferred potential increases to ARRL's ongoing petition (RM-11785). (Para. 45).

Station Class and Eligibility:

Limited to General Class or higher licensees (includes Advanced and Extra). Technician Class is excluded.
Rationale: Requires "higher level understanding of power limitations, radiocommunications technology, operating practices, and applicable regulations." (Para. 42). Applies to both the new band and discrete channels.

Technical and Operating Guidelines:

No Channelization/Sub-Bands:

The new band is contiguous; no forced channels or sub-bands to allow flexibility. (Para. 38-40).

Emission Bandwidth:

≤2.8 kHz for all emissions (carried over from current rules via 47 CFR §97.303(h)). This preserves access in the narrow allocation.
Permitted Modes: All modes allowed (e.g., phone/voice, CW, RTTY, digital like FT8/JS8Call), as long as bandwidth-compliant. No restrictions on CW or phone despite some suggestions.

Coordination/Interference:

Hams must avoid interfering with primaries. "Amateur operators shall ensure that emission bandwidth not exceed 2.8 kilohertz." (Para. 40).

Impacts and Community Feedback:

This expands access (new 15 kHz segment) but with power trade-offs. ARRL's 2017 petition pushed for this, and comments (e.g., from hams like Steve Kjonaas) highlighted emergency value. Recent posts note modes like phone/CW/RTTY/digital are now viable in the new segment. No reported interference issues from prior 60m use justified the retention.

2. Changes to the 420-450 MHz (70 cm) Band.

This is a minor administrative update to footnote US270, based on NTIA's request. No new allocations or power changes; it's about coordination in restricted areas.

Key Change: Updated coordination and contact info for areas where amateur power is limited to 50W PEP (to protect military ops). The FCC revised US270 and cross-references in §97.313(f).

Process:

Power >50W requires case-by-case mutual agreement between the local FCC Regional Director and military coordinator.

Rationale:

"The Commission's next proposal, based on a request from the NTIA, was to update the coordination and contact information in footnote US270... We received no comment on this proposal and implement the NTIA recommendation, which will clarify compliance with our rules." (Para. 46-47).
Broader Implications for Hams

Benefits:

Expanded 60m access supports NVIS (near-vertical incidence skywave) for regional/emergency comms, especially in disasters (e.g., hurricanes, solar flares affecting other bands).

Trade-Offs:

Lower power in the new segment may limit range in poor conditions, but digital modes (e.g., FT8) thrive at low power. ARRL may push for increases via their petition.

No Other Ham Changes:
The doc declines broader requests (e.g., deep space research rules) and deletes obsolete footnotes unrelated to hams.

Community Reactions:

As of today (Dec 10), hams are buzzing—QRPer calls it "breaking news" with new modes enabled; forums note alignment with WRC-15 but lament no 100W in the contiguous band. ARRL urged these in comments and will likely guide implementation.

Core idea:

FCC adopts the WRC-15 5351.5-5366.5 kHz allocation and keeps four legacy U.S. 60 meter channels.

Why it matters:
You get a new continuous low power worldwide segment plus existing 100 W ERP channels for real HF work.

Key benefit:

More room for CW and digital without losing the punch of high power NVIS and regional coverage.

Who it is for:

HF operators, ARES/RACES groups, and anyone who leans on 60 meters during rough band conditions.

I could not find an effective start date. That said, I would'nt start operating on this new allocation until the FCC (directly, or through the ARRL) announces it.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Ham Radio Nostalgia

Priscilla Presley, Actress, businesswoman, model, and formerly licensed Ham Radio Operator.

Prescilla Presley, was born Priscilla Ann Wagner, on May 24, 1945, at Brooklyn Naval Hospital in New York City. Priscilla's biological father, James Frederick Wagner, was a U.S. Navy pilot from Cherrytree Township, Pennsylvania. He married Priscilla's mother, Anna Lillian Iversen, later known simply as Ann, on August 10, 1944. Tragically, Wagner died in a plane crash on November 3, 1945, when Priscilla was just six months old.

In 1948, Priscilla's mother, Ann, married U.S. Air Force officer Paul Beaulieu (VA7PVV), a native of Québec, Canada. The couple raised Priscilla, along with half-siblings Donald, Michelle, Jeffrey and twins Thomas and Timothy. Priscilla's surname was legally changed to Beaulieu on April 17, 1950.

Being a military family, Priscilla, along with her siblings, lived the typical life of a military brat, with the family relocating frequently. Priscilla would later recall in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal;* "We moved around a lot, and I didn't stay in one school long enough to make close friends. I was quite shy when I was young, and I dreaded lunchtime at school, since I often ate alone." In 1956, the family settled in Del Valle, Texas, before Beaulieu was reassigned to Wiesbaden, West Germany. It was in Germany on September 13, 1959, Priscilla, then just 14, met Elvis Presley, 24. The meeting occurred while at a party held at his rented villa in Bad Nauheim, West Germany, where he was stationed during his military service. Over the next few years Priscilla, and Elvis would meet on numerous occasions.

Eventually, although the two were content to simply live together, shortly before Christmas 1966, Elvis proposed to Priscilla. Reportedly this was prompted by Colonel Thomas Andrew Parker, who was a Dutch talent manager, concert promoter, and Elvis Presley's manager. Colonel Parker reminded Elvis of RCA's "morals clause" in his record contract. In a 1973 interview with *Ladies' Home Journal*, Priscilla recalled that they were happy to live together, but; "At that time, it wasn't nice for people to [just] live together." Accounts of Elvis's attitude toward marriage vary. His cook, Alberta, and friend Marty Lacker, described him as reluctant and upset about not having a choice, while others claimed he was excited to marry Priscilla. Priscilla soon discovered she was pregnant. Concerned that it might disrupt their newfound intimacy, she considered an abortion, but she and Elvis ultimately decided against it. Their daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, was born on

February 1, 1968 — exactly nine months after their wedding. Now how's that for timing?

Elvis and Priscilla with newborn Lisa Marie, February 1968.

While Elvis was filming; "Live a Little, Love a Little (1968)," Priscilla began private dance lessons, and developed a brief romantic relationship with her instructor, referred to simply as "Mark" in her memoir *Elvis and Me*. She later expressed regret. But despite affairs on both sides, during the early years of their marriage both Priscilla and Elvis were reportedly happy. The couple separated on February 23, 1972, and filed for legal separation on July 26 of that same year. Priscilla sued Elvis for fraud in order to reopen the divorce by default in May 1973. The divorce was finalized on October 9, 1973.

The Presley's in October 1973 after their divorce was finalized.

After having divorced Elvis in 1973, Priscilla pursued numerous business ventures before finally entering into an acting career. These included, a clothing boutique, fragrance, and even bed liners. Although Priscilla did do some "modeling," it wasn't what could be called a traditional career but instead part of her evolution into becoming a fashion icon and businesswoman having modeled for her own boutique business. She was known for her unique style, often appearing in magazines while endorsing well known fashion brands of the time, prior to launching her own fashion boutique.

One of Priscilla's better known acting roles in the Naked Gun series opposite Leslie Nelson.

Although Priscilla had plenty of opportunity to get into acting while she was married to Elvis, she turned many of them down. Sighting that she would honor Elvis's wishes that she not have a career. Elvis was known to have quoted the old (and archaic) quote; "A woman's place is in the home looking after her man." It was because of that, that Priscilla neither pursued fashion modelling nor did she sign any exclusive contracts, instead choosing to comply with her husband's wishes.

After Elvis's death in 1977, his father Vernon was one of the executors of his estate, which was held in trust for his daughter Lisa Marie. However, Vernon named Priscilla to be his successor upon his death. She assumed the role following Vernon's 1979 death. With Graceland struggling financially, and behind in taxes, initially it wasn't looking very positive. She hired a CEO, Jack Soden, to turn Graceland into a tourist attraction. Graceland was opened to the public on June 7, 1982. Just 38 days after opening Graceland's gates, the estate made back all $500,000 dollars it had originally invested. Eventually, under Priscilla's guidance, the enterprise's fortunes soared, and eventually the trust grew to be worth over $100 million.

Priscilla first listened to ham radio as a child on her step father's radio but was formally introduced, and "hooked" by her friend, Emily Byrd (W5DYA) in the early 1960s. She became a licensed ham radio operator (call sign N6YOS) in the late 1970s, inspired by her friend, Emily, with whom she re-connected with after Elvis's passing in 1977. She was very active, and remained licensed for many years. She used Ham Radio as not only a hobby, but she found it as an easy way to connect with people globally. This was especially true during the difficult times after Elvis's death, as well as providing a fulfilling hobby separate from her career.

A young Precilla Presley (N6YOS) making contacts on Ham Radio.

Priscilla Beaulieu Presley expressed her feelings about ham radio and that her career demands prevented her from continuing in a hobby that she said "was

really addictive!" Unfortunately, she eventually allowed her ham ticket to expire in 2000. Priscilla was listed in the 1990 call book as both KC6IWA, and N6YOS, under her maiden name. She was known to use the name "Lou Lou Beaulieu" while operating on the airways in order to protect her anonymity.

Since 2003, Priscilla has been the Ambassador of the Dream Foundation, a Santa Barbara-based wish-granting organization for terminally ill adults and their families.

In 2013, Priscilla spoke out against a 2013 agricultural gag law that would have criminalized unauthorized filming or recording on farms. In a letter to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, she spoke of her, and Elvis's love of horses and expressed concerns that the bill would hinder animal cruelty investigations, and reduce protections for horses and other farm animals.

Throughout her life, Priscilla Presley has proved time and time again just what a strong, and resourceful Lady she really is. By facing her life's challenges head on, and meeting the moment she provided an example to younger women of the possibilities of just what being a strong, and independent woman can achieve when she puts her mind to it.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Repeater Updates

Lynn Wilson (K7LW), and Antonio Reyes getting ready to start digging the hole for the Weston Mt repeater site tower.

Well, I hope everyone had a safe, and fun New Years's Eve, and have made numerous personal commitments that we know no one will ever adhere to. But as far as our little repeater system goes, we've got some new members to our group bringing with them some fresh ideas for improvement of the W7NEO system. So, stand-by for great things on the horizon!

The two MESHTastic repeaters that were ordered "months" ago, have finally arrived. However, thanks to the current tariff war taking place, the shipping cost was almost as much as the repeaters themselves. So that has given pause for rethinking of our formally aggressive approach to building a local MESHTastic network. However, not to worry, we still have enough equipment to install three repeaters, with a fourth on top of a sixty-foot tower located in Athena Oregon. We're still looking at meeting with other local groups in order to coordinate the configuration of a more effective, and useful network.

So, enjoy that cup of cider as the snow is blowing sideways outside your window, and rest assured we here at the W7NEO group are working to provide the best system possible for everyone.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

VE Testing

There is no VE testing going on that we're aware of, but if you check the Links section of our website, there may be information on some of our friend's websites as to where you might find a test session going on near you.
But in the meantime, if you do have a regular test session taking place, feel free to let us know, and we'll post it here in the next issue of the Pickle Barrel Review.

The End

Well, that's about it for this "New Year's" edition of the Pickle Barrel Review, I hope you enjoyed it. In the meantime, we'll continue to work hard to keep each and every issue of this upcoming year as informative, fun, and interesting as the previous years.

So, until next time, we here at the WMDRA (W7NEO) hope everyone has a great 2026, and it brings you all prosperity, and good health.

As always, in the meantime, feel free to reach in the barrel and grab another pickle. There's plenty to go around, along with plenty more great conversation, and maybe even a touch of rhetoric here and there!

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Weston Mountain Digital Radio Association,
W7NEO

"They who seek to establish systems of government based on the regimentation of all human beings by a handful of individual rulers...call this a new order. It is not new and it is not order."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt