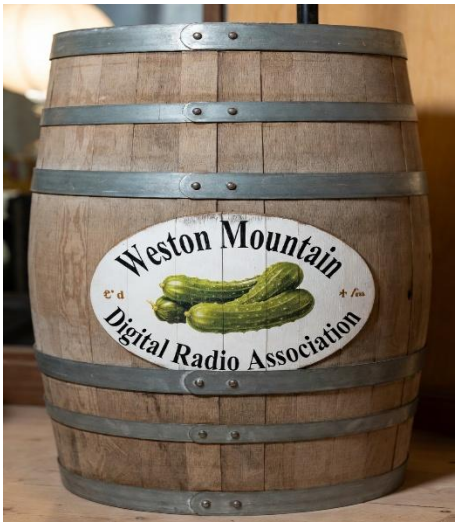
The Pickle Barrel Review



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTON MOUNTAIN DIGITAL RADIO ASSOCIATION

June 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, from not only our system, but our partners here in the Pacific Northwest as well. 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

Harolds Handy Man Service:

Have you been looking at that old toilet of yours thinking that maybe that puddle around the bottom isn't exactly all due to your bad aim. Is your mailbox looking as though it may have been drinking, and instead of high noon it's actually leaning more like 1030 ~ 1100 o'clock? Or has your fence lost enough boards that you're getting just alittle more of view of the widow lady next door than you really asked for. Well now that the weather has been getting better perhaps it's time to think about fixing all those things around the place that are need of repair. The good news is that you've got a local professional at the ready to help with all your home repair needs that's just a phone call away with Harolds Handy Man service.

Harold has been fixing things around the house for years, and has been in the Handy Man business almost as long! If you're in doubt, just take a look at Harolds own place and you'll see numerous examples of his handy work.

This year Harold has re-stocked his supplies, and is now able to offer his valued customers a variety of colors and sizes of duct tape to choose from in order to dress up any home repair project you might have.

Harold points out that if you can't get him on his personal phone, just leave a message at the coffee shop and he'll eventually get it, and get back to you.

So, remember, the next time you have something around the place that needs fixing give Harold a call and leave the repairs to the local professional.

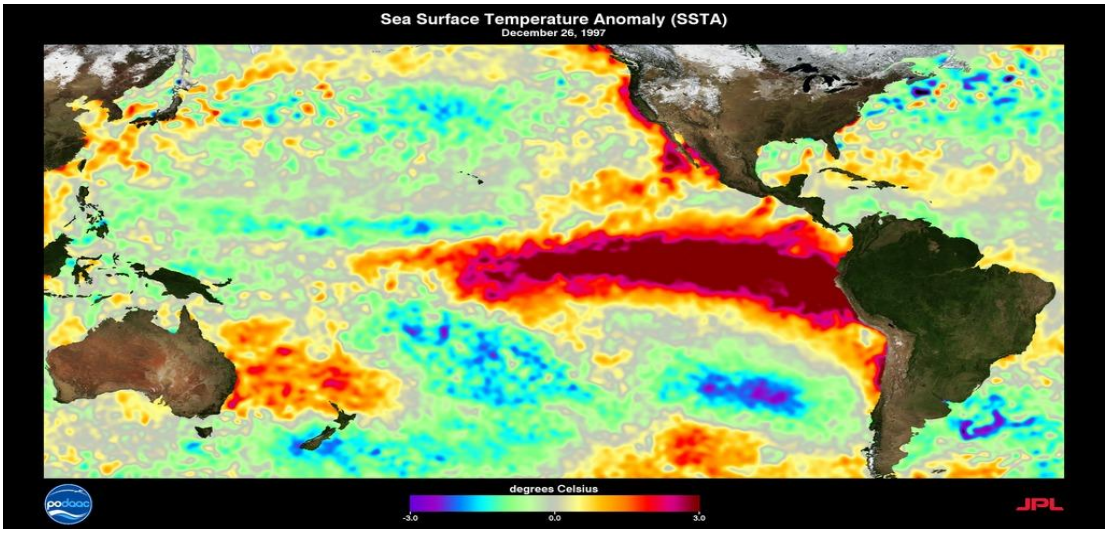
This year is predicted to be a record year for El Niño. Combine this with rising temperatures due to global climate change, and we could very well be looking at even more record-breaking temperatures than previous summers. Ironically El Niño, in Spanish, translates to “Little Boy.” In looking at the predicted effects of this one, along with the previous El Niño occurring in 2016, if the current predictions ring true, this is going to turn out to be anything but the innocents of a “Little Boy.” In fact, 2026’s El Niño is already being referred to by climatologists as a “Super El Niño.”

It’s been long since known that one of the things that has a significant effect on global weather is the formation of either an El Niño, or an El Niña. This begs the question; “What exactly is an El Niño anyway?” Well, I’m glad you asked, the text book definition is;

The El Niño/Southern Oscillation has a major influence on climate patterns in various parts of the world. This naturally occurring phenomenon involves fluctuating ocean temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, coupled with changes in the atmosphere.

Surprisingly enough, 3 years ago an astrophysicist specializing in solar phenomenon not only predicted the arrival of this year's El Niño, but his prediction turned out to be spot on. So just how did he make such an accurate prediction that long ago? Well, you may or may not be surprised by the answer. So, let's get right into it, shall we.

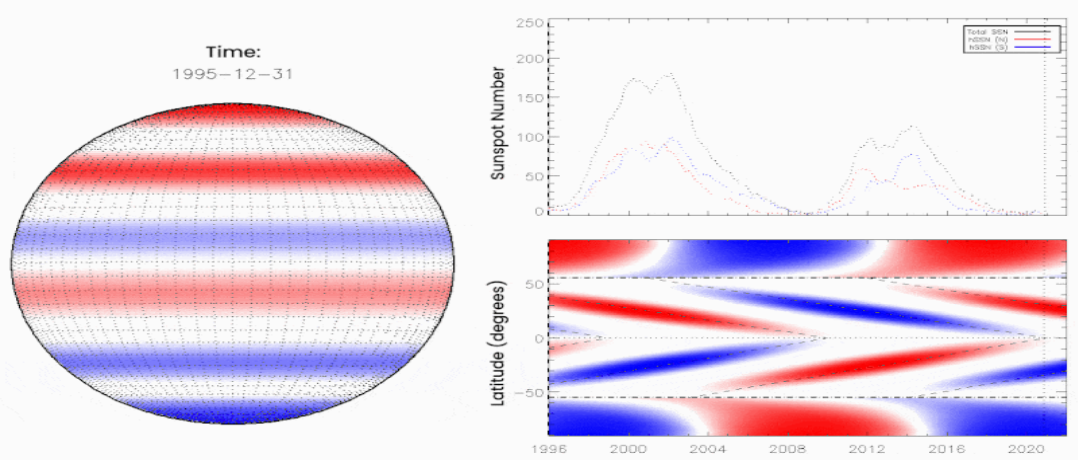
Although there have been numerous theories as to the possible influences leading up to the formation of an El Niño, it's still uncertain as to just what exactly causes the event. However, thanks to the research of a couple of astrophysicists we may now have a little better idea of not only what events signal the beginning leading up to an El Niño, but the follow-on solar cycle as well, and the relationship between the two.



A super El Niño like this one in 1997 is now forming in the Pacific Ocean.

In a 2023 paper, authored by Dr Robert Leamon, an astrophysicist with NASA, and the University of Maryland, Leamon made a striking prediction. He predicted that the next El Niño would arrive in 2026. He based his prediction on a solar event called "The Terminator." No, I'm not referring to an evil android played by Arnold Schwarzenegger sent here from the future to wreak havoc on present day earth. I'm

actually referring to a magnetic event on the sun that ends one solar cycle and touches off the next. This idea was first championed by Dr Robert Leamon, along with his colleague Dr Scott McIntosh, both of the University of Maryland. The two solar scientists theorized that vast bands of magnetism are constantly drifting across the surface of the sun. When these oppositely-charged bands collide at the sun's equator, they annihilate, or "terminate" each other. Not to worry, there's no resulting massive explosion; this is magnetism, as opposed to anti-matter. Nonetheless, this Termination event occurring when the bands collide with one another is a very big deal. It can effectively kickstart the beginning of the next solar cycle.



Oppositely charged magnetic bands (red and blue) traverse toward the sun's equator where they annihilate one another, kickstarting the next solar cycle.

Although there is some disagreement within the scientific community as to just how intense, or meek the next solar cycle will be, based on their research, Leamon is confident that solar cycle 25 will be a severe one. Both Leamon and McIntosh are basing this on historical data gathered since Sunspot Cycle 4 began with a Terminator in 1786, and ended with a Terminator in 1801, an unprecedented 15 years later. The following cycle, 5, turned out to be incredibly weak with a peak amplitude of just 82 sunspots, and lasting approximately 12.3 years. This period eventually came to be known as the "Dalton Minimum**,"** which lasted from 1790 to 1830. The Dalton Minimum was a prolonged period of suppressed solar activity, named after the English meteorologist John Dalton (I'm sure he appreciated that). It consisted of significantly lower sunspot numbers, along with decreased solar irradiance -Irradiance is a measurement defined by the intensity of light or

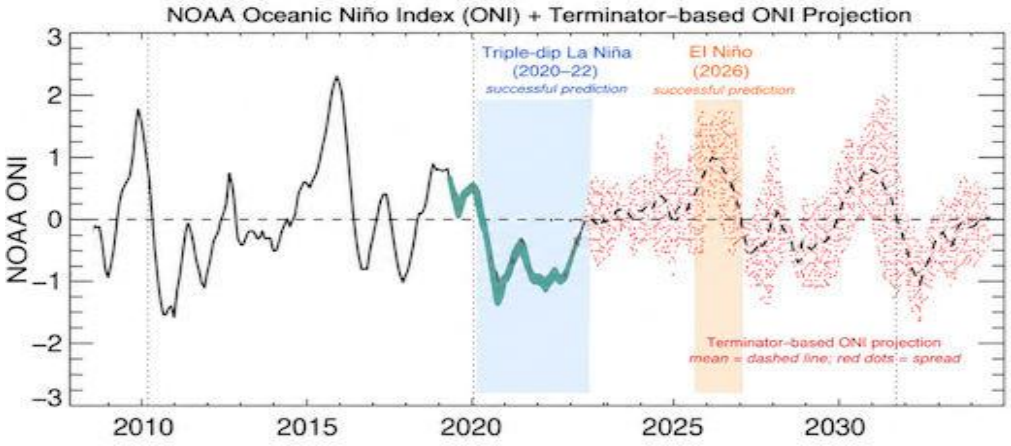
electromagnetic radiation falling on a specific location, typically expressed in Watts per square meter (W/m^2).

The eruption of Mt Tambora, located on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia, on the evening of April 5, 1815,

This period of time is also frequently associated with subtle global cooling, and the dramatic climate impacts of the Mount Tambora eruption which took place on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia. Mount Tambora first began to erupt approximately two hundred and eleven years ago, on the evening of April 5, 1815, continuing until April 10 when it exploded. The explosion was so intense that it was heard as far as 1,600 miles away. At 800 miles away on the island of Java, Sir Stamford Raffles, a British colonial official, miss took it for cannon fire. Over the next three years Tambora continued to erupt, with the most severe of the eruptions occurring within the first six months. Never the less, the ash from the eruption column dispersed around the world, lowering global temperatures in an event sometimes referring to the year 1816 as; “The Year Without a Summer.” Although this was considered to be a relatively brief period of significant climate change, it did manage to trigger numerous events of extreme weather which was intern blamed for countless harvest failures in many areas around the world.

Averaging the past five solar cycles into a "standard cycle" and projecting it forward, Leamon found that El Niño’s follow roughly five years after the occurrence of a Terminator. The most recent Termination event happened in December 2021, putting the next El Niño squarely in 2026. Although Leamon’s prediction model doesn’t really predict the actual strength of this El Niño, the timing is spot-on.

Leamon and his colleague McIntosh had previously shown that every Terminator since the 1960s coincided with a flip from El Niño to La Niña. Their work correctly predicted the onset of a triple-dip La Niña in 2020, and revealed an unexpected connection between the sun and the ENSO, or “El Niño-Southern Oscillation.”



Adapted from Leamon’s 2023 chart, this chart highlights two apparently successful predictions based on the Terminator.

As of yet, no one knows quite how the sun exerts control over the ENSO. Most researchers favor "top-down" models. In other words, solar activity that tends to alter the top of Earth's atmosphere, making changes that percolate down to affect the weather we experience near the Earth's surface. However, as of yet the actual mechanism of this process is unknown.

One of the early theories Leamon and McIntosh considered was that cosmic rays were somehow responsible. It’s already known that galactic cosmic rays vary with each solar cycle, and that they intern influence the ionization of Earth's atmosphere. But later on, in 2023 Leamon himself weighed in against the cosmic ray’s theory, noting that the timing didn't work out. Currently Leamon is favoring more of a correlation with geomagnetic activity instead. But as of yet, there still hasn’t been anything concrete to explain just what it is that actually causes the formation of an El Niño.

This whole search for a solid connection isn’t anything new, quite the contrary. The search for a Sun-El Niño connection is as old as El Niño itself. An English

physicist and statistician by the name of Sir Gilbert Walker, who discovered the "Southern Oscillation" in the early 1900s, tried and failed to find a link to sunspots. Throughout the 20th century, other researchers have likewise struggled to make the connection, and failed. However, the Terminator is a new concept being articulated by McIntosh and Leamon in a series of papers beginning as far back as 10 years ago. So far, their theory seems to be doing a pretty good job of predicting solar cycles, so there still maybe hope that it may be successful with ENSO as well. It will still take more than 1 or 2 successful predictions to build confidence in this model, so I wouldn't run off to Kalshi just yet to place a bet. But it is a good start.

Disaster Preparedness

So now that we have an idea of just what to expect this summer, this brings about the question of whether or not there have been any indications as to what we might expect for this coming winter? Well, last winter was a bit on the crazy side with all the flooding, massive tornadoes in the Midwest, along with intense storm conditions throughout the rest of the world.

Scientific progress on the understanding and modelling of this phenomenon has improved prediction skills to within a range of one to nine months in advance. This gives countries around the globe just a little more of a heads up, and the opportunity to prepare for associated hazards such as heavy rains, floods, and drought.

More specifically, organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) track the potential formation of both the El Niño and El Niña's in order to try and get a leg up on just what to expect for winter and summer weather patterns. For example, here in the United States predictions are for strong El Niño events to generally amplify the southern jet stream. What this means is that the Southern U.S., including Southern California, are expected to see wetter, stormier conditions. Whereas we here in the Pacific Northwest, and Northern Plains typically experience warmer and drier winters.

However, on more of a global scale, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is anticipating a significant disruption to seasonal temperature and rainfall

trends. Think about stories you may have watched recently being broadcast on the nightly news highlighting the Eastern Pacific regions such as Indonesia, and the Philippines, and all the heavy rain from climate change resulting in flooding, coupled with rising sea levels that's currently taking place. Now add the effects of an El Niño on top of that. So now that you have that vision in your head, lets switch gears a little bit and think about our own North American east coast along the Carolina's, and Florida where entire islands are beginning to disappear due to rising ocean levels. This is all beginning to hit home now, isn't it.

Flooding in Indonesia's Bali region due to heavy rains.

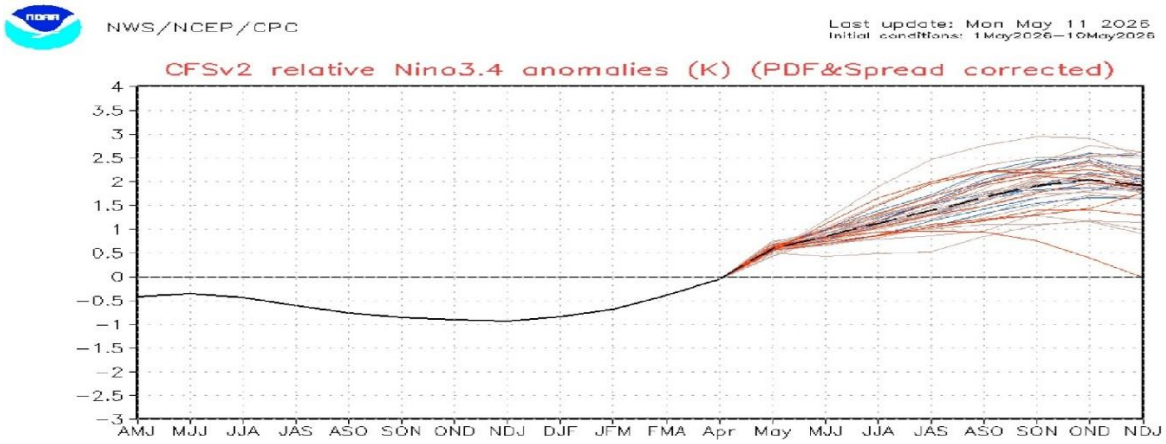
Sea-surface temperatures in the central and tropical Pacific are also rising, marking a distinct shift from the relatively neutral conditions seen earlier in the year. The South Pacific wet and tropical cyclone season (often referred to locally as the monsoon season) typically runs annually from November 1 to April 30. This period routinely brings warmer temperatures, high humidity, and the highest risk of tropical storms and heavy rain to islands like Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Tahiti. In the case of the El Nino, the central Pacific region experiences significantly above-average rainfall, increased cloudiness, and a higher frequency of tropical storms. Whereas the Western Pacific near Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia Suffer from drier-than-average conditions and droughts, severely elevating the risk of heatwaves and wildfires. The SPCZ shift, or the "South Pacific Convergence Zone," is the largest rain belt in the Southern Hemisphere, extending diagonally southeastward from the western tropical Pacific. During strong events, the SPCZ can undergo extreme "equatorward swings." This means the rainband pulls closer to the equator than usual, resulting in uncharacteristic deluges for some islands and severe drought in subtropical nations like Fiji, Tonga, and New Caledonia. So, to

say the least, this may prove to be a rough winter for our friends in the Indo-pacific regions.

Closer to home, the North American Monsoon season officially runs from June 15 to September 30, bringing a seasonal wind shift that pushes moisture into the Southwestern United States. This presents somewhat of a double-edged sword in that while it provides vital rainfall to areas hard hit by drought, it also introduces severe, localized weather hazards like flash floods, intense dust storms, lightning, and extreme heat.

From a hurricane aspect, typically an El Niño suppresses Atlantic hurricane development due to increased wind shear, while at the same time fueling an increase in Pacific hurricane activity due to rising sea temperatures. Taking into account global warming, and the resulting rising sea temperatures already taking place in the Caribbean, which tend to have an accelerating effect on tropical storms as they are forming. With that thought in mind, we still could be in for some intense hurricanes, along with even more violent tornados in the mid-west.

Climatologists are predicting that El Niño is likely to emerge soon, with an 82% chance in the May-July 2026 time frame, and continuing through the Northern Hemisphere winter of 2026-27, with a 96% chance in December 2026-February 2027 of severe winter weather conditions.



The North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) average, including the NCEP CFSv2, favors El Niño to form by June of 2026, and persist through Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27.

As I said earlier, Ocean temperatures in the Pacific have been gradually rising, indicating that an El Nino is already beginning to form. Although estimates of its potential intensity are varied, the certainty of an El Nino intense enough to have a strong influence on global climate appears to be becoming more of a possibility. In preparation for all this, FEMA Region 4 and other branches are working closely with NOAA to prepare for the anticipation of shifting hazards. For example, El Niño disrupts standard rainfall patterns and can produce intense floods in some areas while exacerbating droughts, and wildfires in others. Taking all that into consideration, FEMA is aligning its preparedness plans with NOAA's updated forecast graphics, which now include inland tropical storm watches and warnings. In order to stabilize readiness for potential El Niño impacts, and a busy summer of extreme weather, FEMA is focusing on targeted workforce stabilization. This includes attempting to bring back approximately 200 employees previously terminated as part of our current administration’s efforts at downsizing. This, in order to meet disaster and response demands heading into the peak of the North American storm season. Along with that, FEMA is executing emergency response drills in coordination with the Coast Guard, Red Cross, National Guard, and other agencies.

So, you see, government agencies are taking this seriously, by planning accordingly. We as emergency communicators should be preparing accordingly as well, by making sure our equipment is up to the task by planning ahead for possible power outages, fires, and flash flooding, along with hazardous winter storm conditions.

This year may just prove to be a challenging one, that will task our abilities to serve our communities when it counts the most. I hope for all of our sake we’re able to meet that challenge by being fully prepared.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Legal Corner

Last summer I was in the midst of having a conversation on a local repeater with a good friend of mine when an individual blatantly attempted to jam him and I by keying up over the top of us during our conversation, and calling another station that was apparently part of her group. I immediately called her on it, and quoted the FCC regulation verbatim which she was in the process of violating as a direct result of her actions. I went on to inform her that I had recorded her FCC callsign, and that I was fully prepared to file an official complaint with the FCC should she choose to continue her illegal jamming. Fortunately, that was all it took, and she reluctantly choose to stand-by until my friend and I had completed our conversation.

Fortunately, in this case the situation quickly deescalated, and there was no further need for any additional action to be taken, which was ultimately the preferred solution. But if this still seems as though it shouldn't have happened in the first place, and perhaps was even somewhat on the rude side, you're not alone. To that end, there are in fact serious consequences, and potential legal ramifications for violation of FCC section 47. Part 97.101(d), or in layman's terms; "Deliberate malicious interference." Violation of FCC Rule 47 CFR § 97.101(d), can lead to various enforcement actions by the FCC such as severe civil penalties, and even more serious criminal penalties. Enforcement actions which typically include monetary fines, equipment seizure, cease and desist orders, permanent license revocation, and in exceptionally severe cases, even imprisonment. This is all laid out in the Communications act of 1934, which today is referenced as U.S.C. § 333, and is something that the FCC takes VERY seriously.

So, what exactly is the Communications Act of 1934 (U.S.C. § 333) anyway? To sum it up, this is where it all began, and is the foundational United States federal law that successfully consolidated the regulation of telephone, telegraph, and radio communications. First signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on June 19, 1934, it established the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and remains the cornerstone of U.S. telecommunications and broadcasting policy. In doing so it centralized authority over wireless communications, which had previously been split between various agencies, including the Federal Radio Commission (FRC). It also established that it was indeed the public that owns the electromagnetic spectrum, and required that operators obtain licenses based on the "public interest, convenience, and necessity." It categorized telephone and telegraph companies as "common carriers," forcing them to make their services available to the general public without discrimination.

But for our discussion here, it is the federal statute that expressly prohibits the "*willful or malicious interference"* with any radio communications licensed or authorized by the FCC, as well as those operated by the U.S. Government. So, with that said, let's go over some of the key aspects of Section 333 shall we. In our case, the specific rule we're looking at is FCC 47 CFR § 97.101(d), which is the federal regulation that prohibits any Amateur Radio operator from willfully or maliciously interfering with or causing interference to any other radio communication signal. This includes interference from repeaters operating on the same frequency pair, causing interference to other repeaters on that same pair. Not only does this include other Amateur radio and GMRS operators, but it also includes commercial, and public service radio transmissions as well. This protects all stations authorized under the Communications Act (including cell towers, emergency networks, Wi-Fi, and broadcast radio) as well as U.S. Government radio operations. This even includes cell phone jammers, and is the primary authority the FCC uses to prohibit the manufacture, sale, importation, or use of signal/cell jammers. So, you might just want to cancel that Amazon order before it's too late.

Violating this section can, and will trigger severe enforcement actions. Fines for a first offense can reach up to $11,000 per violation, in addition to the seizure and

forfeiture of the equipment. Keep in mind that these fines accumulate for each day of the offense. So, in other words, like that unpaid credit card bill, fines can easily escalate rapidly for every day the offense continues. Willful violations can also result in federal criminal sanctions and even imprisonment. Now how's that for a deterrent?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) investigates complaints regarding malicious interference through its Spectrum Enforcement Division, along with its field offices. Penalties are typically issued on a case-by-case basis based upon the severity of the offense.

Under federal law (47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 510), if an operator willfully and knowingly violates the Communications Act or Commission rules, federal courts can issue criminal fines up to $500 per day for rule violations, or up to $10,000 per offense for violating the Communications Act itself.

Criminal convictions can also result in imprisonment for up to one year (or up to two years for subsequent offenses). Federal authorities can also confiscate the radios, amplifiers, and even the antennas used to facilitate the illegal interference.

Ideally, interference complaints are solved at the local level. Over the years I've personally delt with numerous interference issues from fellow site tenants around my repeaters. In most all cases they appreciated me taking the time to let them know there was a problem, and in many cases, I was even able to assist in the solving of the interference. In the case of the individual that was deliberately jamming my friend and I's conversation on the repeater, I was able to confront her with the violation and the consequences of her actions, while assuring her that I was fully prepared to file a complaint with the FCC. Fortunately, once having made my intentions clear she decided that it was in her best interest to cease her interference. But in the case where there is no cooperation, or backing off, the steps required to formally file a complaint with the FCC are as follows.

First off, Amateur radio complaints should be as specific as possible, citing dates, times, and frequencies on which alleged violations occurred. If your able to record

the violation as it occurs all the better. Complaints should also include a name and telephone number where the complainant can be reached for further details, if necessary. You can submit your complaints/concerns regarding amateur radio to the Commission's on-line complaint system. The appropriate form for your complaint can be found here at https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov and clicking on the radio icon.

It's hoped that this sort of issue is few and far between, and that we all get along. But then unfortunately that's not always the case, and it helps to know what the rules are, and just where you stand.

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Repeater Updates

Fresh Concrete for the tower base at Cabbage Hill.

Well summer is starting out pretty well so far for repeater upgrades. We were able to help some of our fellow repeater builder friends in Northeastern Washington, by passing along a couple of our Kenwood TKR repeaters that will go to upgrading their systems. Based on the excellent service the TKR machines provided our system over the years, I'm certain they will do the same for the folks up north. These were repeaters that were swapped out of our system when we upgraded to the Kenwood NXR (Nexedge) repeaters. The money from the sale of the TKR repeaters will get rolled back into the system with new ARCOM RC-210 controllers. Unfortunately, unlike the ARCOM controllers, the SCOMM controllers we were using with the TKR machines

isn't compatible with the NXR machines. So if anyone you know is looking for a "new" condition SCOMM-7330 controller tell them to get in contact with one of us here at WMDRA.

And speaking of upgraded repeaters, Yaesu has recently announced a new model of Fusion repeater, the DR3X. Unlike the DR1X, and DR2X, which are both dual band machines, this time around Yaesu changing up the game alittle by marketing two separate VHF, UHF repeaters. Along with that, each new repeater boast significantly more power, with the VHF version output of 85 watts, and UHF version is 65 watts output. Both repeaters are capable of running 100% duty cycle while on full power output, powered by either AC, or DC. Along with some added features for further enhanced of overall repeater operation, these machines represent a marked improvement in Fusion repeaters. Rumor has it that the new DR3X's will be available sometime in the August September time frame. So, you might just see an upgrade to the W7NEO C4FM repeater system coming this fall.

The new Yaesu DR3X repeater on display at this years SEAPAC. (Photo courtesy of Chris Shaker, KJ7BLE)

Last but not least, as the saying goes, we have listened to your requests, and finally installed a new packet radio node at our Cabbage Hill repeater site. So far it seems to working great by providing a path over the Blue Mountains to Union County, as was the target. But judging from reports received thus far, it's not only doing a great job of covering a large chunk of Umatilla County, but the Walla Walla Valley, and even up into the Tri-Cities area, as well as successfully connecting to other systems all over Northeastern Oregon, and Southeastern Washington. The

node is W7NEO-8, and is operating on 145.53 along with the rest of the W7NEO packet system. We still have one more packet node to install, we just haven't decided where to put it just yet. But rest assured that once we get that up and going wherever it's new home ends up being, the node information will be published here on our website for all to see.

That's about it for now, but we're still in the process of planning some more upgrades, and possible additions to the system, so stay tuned!

Lynn Wilson, K7LW

Ham Radio Nostalgia

William j. "Bill" Halligan, W9AC & founder of Hallicrafters Radio.

Hallicrafter Radio's

A Ham buddy of mine recently shared a video depicting the history of the Hallicrafters radio company. Back in the 1960's, and 70's when I started in this wonderful hobby of ours, Hallicrafters radios were fairly common place. In my "boat anchor" collection, I still have a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver in near perfect condition, along with a couple of Hallicrafters speakers, proudly emblazoned with the signature "H" on the face. Ah the memories of late nights tuning around listening to the world…

Hallicrafters was first founded in 1932 by William j. “Bill” Halligan, and over the years became a premier American manufacturer of amateur, shortwave, and military radios. Famously known for producing iconic tube receivers from the 1930s through the 1960s. Their equipment remains highly collectible among vintage radio enthusiasts, and hobbyists to this very day.

Halligan first began his business in 1932 starting out in a small building located at 417 North State Street, in Chicago Illinois selling radio parts. Soon afterwards, in 1933, Halligan began manufacturing superheterodyne short-wave receivers which caught the attention of RCA, who at the time had a patent on the receiver design, and subsequently took him to court for patent violation. However, Halligan was known for not backing down, and instead of conceding, he took advantage of an opportunity to purchase the then bankrupt company of Silver-Marshall Inc. The company had been a prominent American manufacturer of radios and audio equipment, having been founded in Chicago in 1924 by McMurdo Silver, and his cousin John Marshall. Along with a sizable inventory of electronic parts, came an RCA patent license, and with that came the most valuable asset for Hallicrafters. It wasn’t exactly the inventory that he was after, but rather the patent license, which gave him the rights to the superheterodyne radio receiver design. Upon gaining possession of the license this immediately ended the lawsuit.

In 1938 the Halicrafters company introduced the SX-28, which was a big success due to not only to its superior design, but also at a price of less than $50, made it affordable to most radio enthusiasts of the time. Also in 1938, Hallicrafters had expanded their distribution, and as a result was doing business in eighty-nine countries. During that time Hallicrafters had gained a reputation for manufacturing some of the most popular radio sets in the USA. That year, the company also began to produce radio transmitters as a companion to their already popular receivers.

Halicrafter SX-28 receiver first introduced in 1938

With the advent of WWII Halicrafters shifted its production to the war effort, manufacturing hundreds of reliable, sturdy receivers and transmitters. This thrust the company front and center into popularity with most all of the allied forces by further proving their equipment to be not only superior in performance to most radio equipment of the time, but as reliable as it was sturdy. Ultimately with the outbreak of World War II, the company was already well prepared for wartime production, and was responsible for new designs and innovations for use by the U.S. troops; probably the best-known were the HT-4/BC-610 and related equipment used in the military SCR-299 communications package.

Short wave military radio position during WWII.

After the war, in 1945 Halicrafters began to focus on the Amateur Radio hobby in earnest by releasing the S38, along with the full featured SX-99 receiver. Production of Ham radio gear and other items had been suspended until 1945. So this along with a renewed focus consumer electronics, including radio phonographs, AM/FM receivers, clock radios and televisions managed to refocus Hallicrafters back on the civilian market.

However, during the Cold war, the company took an active role in various missile projects which included; Blue Streak (UK), and Atlas (U.S.) missile projects, helping to develop advanced capabilities for many areas of electronic warfare as well as in the missile field itself. This included many different systems including code translator data systems, ground support equipment, electronic countermeasures testing and antenna systems, infrared homing techniques, just to name a few. Additionally, the company also provided tactically deployed maintenance and technical support teams for the various missile systems. To sum it

all up in the words of its advertising sloganry, the company supported “America’s defense umbrella.”

However, in the early 1960’s the Japanese began producing receivers, and other electronic devices at prices the US markets simply couldn’t compete with. Flooding the western market with high quality, and more affordable consumer radio equipment.

Eventually, in 1975 Halicrafters sold out to Northrup Grumman industries, who dropped the Amateur Radio market in favor of more sophisticated military communication and electronic intelligence gathering equipment. Finally, in 1988 Northrup Grumman sold their share of Halicrafters entirely, along with the company name, formally ending an era of radio greatness. At it’s peak during the 1950’s, Hallicrafters produced famous shortwave and amateur radios across multiple Chicago-area factories. Following wartime supply surges, civilian radio production peaked in the 1950s with over 2,500 workers across 500,000 square feet of factory space.

Halligan himself retired to Florida, but remained a part of the Amateur Radio hobby that was still his passion, that marked the beginning of it all. Bill Halligan remained active in the Amateur Radio community as W9AC. He was often heard on the amateur bands gaining an almost legendary status. He died, in the Miami Beach Florida hospital at the age of 93, on 14 July 1992. But the impression he made on not only Amateur Radio, but radio in general will live on in the masterful equipment he brought the hobby.

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

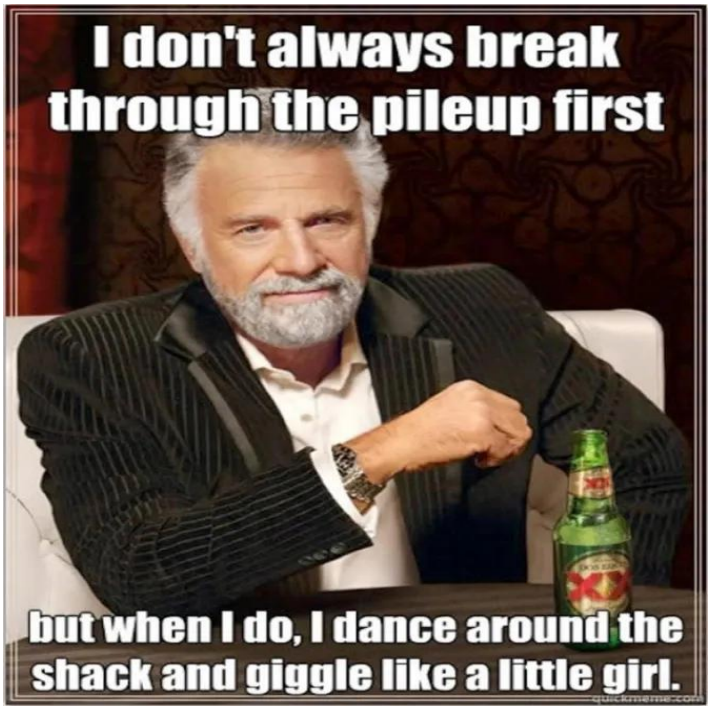
Well, that's about it for this edition of the Pickle Barrel Review, with apologies for the late post. There was allot of last-minute happenings that took place. Nonetheless, I hope you enjoyed it, even though it was a little late in getting out. So, in the meantime, we'll still continue to work hard to keep each and every issue as informative, fun, and at least as interesting as the previous issues.

Thanks goes out to John Vocht (KA7DRE) for this month's Nostalgic Radio suggestion. Thanks John!

So, until next time, we here at the WMDRA (W7NEO) hope everyone is enjoying summer. and getting out working on those antenna projects you've been thinking about all winter.

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!

73!
Weston Mountain Digital Radio Association,
W7NEO



"There never was a good war or a bad peace."

— Benjamin Franklin