

Please allow some background commentary.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator (W7KSJ) and the webmaster of WWW.RTTY.COM, an internet site devoted to radioteletype operation as it was when Amateur Radio Operators were first granted the use of teleprinters.

A very interesting aspect of being a Radioteletype Enthusiast was the ability to copy news, weather, and other services which transmitted information from one point to another via 'RTTY'. The machines could run significant periods of time to the amazement and awe of any who ventured into the vicinity of the machine.

America was the world leader in the variety of radioteletype services and signals which could be found on the high-frequency bands.

The advent of satellites, fiber-optics, the internet, and other faster means of communications were the death-knell of commercial radioteletype transmission on short-wave frequencies. Currently, other than regular bulletin transmissions by the American Radio Relay League in the amateur frequency bands, North-Korean Weather Broadcasts are about the only signals which can be found.

Most modern-day RTTY enthusiasts employ electronic means of message preparation, storage, print and transmission, but there is also a significant number of mechanically-oriented individuals interested in the ability to tune in a teletype signal, demodulate it, and print it on their machines.

Conversations with visitors to WWW.RTTY.COM, as well as interchanges between subscribers to GreenKeys (a mailing list reflector which is found at www.qth.net), indicate that there is an interest by many people in many countries in once-again being able to copy RTTY signals of a commercial or non-amateur radio nature, as was commonly practiced in the early days of amateur radioteletype.

FCC Rules do not permit broadcasting of non-amateur related material on the amateur bands. Any consideration of waivering or changing the rules to allow news or commercial-type transmissions would doubtlessly be met with vehement opposition.

The Short-Wave Broadcasting Rules are such that a project of the nature I wish to undertake would be extremely difficult to fund due to the large transmitter power requirements, and the massive funding required to be in reserve.

The avenues presented by the Experimental Licensing Rules make the project I wish to undertake viable.

I propose to determine whether or not there is indeed any significant interest in the ability to receive and print radioteletype signals of a non-amateur radio nature by whatever means or apparatus the 'Listener' might wish to employ to do so.

Inasmuch as there is no significant facility currently active or available to do so, I would like the authorization to establish such a facility, establish frequencies of operation, schedule the broadcasts, and solicit from the 'Copying Audience' their response and interest in such transmissions.

Some would argue that it is archaic, un-interesting, and a waste of time and resources. But - - is this true???

Others might suggest conducting a number of surveys, and ascertain interest and support in this manner. Surveys, depending on how they are conducted and/or worded, can come up with yes, no, or no response at all.

I believe the only real way to determine whether or not there is any interest in such transmissions on a non-profit or perhaps commercial basis is to actually perform the transmissions over a period of time and solicit response from 'Listeners' or others who encounter this 'Unusual Radio Signal' at such-and-such frequency.

I therefore submit this request for an STA for such purposes, to be followed up by submission of FCC Form 442 within sixty days of this date. Records of transmissions, as well as responses solicited from receptors of such signals shall be kept for determination of interest, and as a basis for further pursuit or abandonment of this project.

Sincerely,

George B. Hutchison