

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Last month the EBN showed you a sample of a form letter (Unlicensed Warning Letter) which the FCC may send to an unlicensed radio or tv station. Although the wording is strong, and suggests a possible fine of \$10,000, and/or a year in jail, it is still a WARNING letter. If the unlicensed station ceases operation after receiving such a letter the chances are good the FCC will simply file the paperwork away. That kind of letter is better than receiving one like the following:

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. PO6 52789 1365 Peachtree St. N.E.
 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED Room 440
 Atlanta, GA 30309

January 31, 1987

Refer to: 123456/87
 AT-87-78DD/87-w-123

Ino Whodunit
 5534 W. 17th St.
 Broadtree, GA 30304

Dear Mr. Whodunit,

This is a Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture. You appear to be in willful and repeated violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the Commission's Rules because you operated a station which was not licensed for operation on the frequencies you used.

DATE	TIME	FREQUENCY
1/1/87	11:30 PM	88.7 MHz
1/2/87	11:15 PM	88.7 MHz

You are, therefore, apparently liable under Section 503 (b) of the Act, which grants the Commission forfeiture authority, to a monetary forfeiture of \$750. You are required to reply to this notice within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter. Use the enclosed Form 793-R. Instructions are on the form.

Sincerely,

I. Foundyou Engineer-in-Charge

Enclosure

Before issuing a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) an FCC inspector must be certain that enough evidence has been gathered about the alleged offender, referred to as the "SUBJECT". A typical checklist, used within the FCC offices, looks something like this:

301 NAL CHECKLIST

Answer all numbered questions. Place an "x" in the appropriate column for each answer. If any circles are empty when you have completed the checklist, send us an FO-951 for advice before issuing the NAL.

1. Is the station in compliance with Part 15 technical requirements? Yes _____ No _____
2. When you searched your office records, did you find a station authorization for the SUBJECT of the DF address?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Does the SUBJECT hold a commercial operator license?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Does the SUBJECT hold a license from Private Radio Bureau?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Is there evidence that the station was transmitting? If yes, how did you gather evidence?
Yes _____ No _____ _____ Close-In DF
 _____ Other (Specify and give details)
6. Have you positively identified the SUBJECT as the operator of the transmitter? If yes, how did you gather the evidence?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Was the unlicensed operation unintentional? (For instance, did the station license expire and no one noticed, or did a service company tell the SUBJECT to go ahead and operate - the license was in order) Yes _____ No _____
8. Was the unlicensed operation willful and/or repeated? (In your own words, describe the degree of willfulness on the reverse side of this sheet.) Yes _____ No _____

The above checklist form reflects the criteria outlined in A.3 Section 301 NAL (shown on page 2 of last month's EBN) which consists of determining (1) The station is unlicensed or is not in compliance with Part 15 Rules; (2) Positive evidence of operation; (3) Identity of the operator; (4) The operation is willful and repeated, and (5) license status of the operator.

Another letter which the FCC may send is probably sent in response to someone's complaint and/or the FCC Field Office doesn't have much to go on yet. It is more likely sent to amateur radio or CB operators than to broadcasters on the AM and FM bands. Its called a "Letter of Inquiry":

CERTIFIED MAIL # - - - - -
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May B. Guilty January 3, 1987
1234 SW East St.
Your Home Town, USA

Dear Mr. Guilty,

We have recently received information alleging that you are operating a radio transmitting device at 1234 SW East St, Your Home Town, USA.

We have not found evidence in our records of a valid station authorization issued to you at that address.

Within 10 days please advise us of the call sign, licensee's name, and address under which this station is being operated. For your reply, use the self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

Engineer-in Charge

CALL LETTERS:
DATE OF ISSUANCE:
LICENSEE'S NAME:
ADDRESS:-----

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE ONE OF THESE LETTERS
The EBN and Editor point out at this time that what follows are possible ways to handle FCC letters, interviews, and inspections of your facility. The EBN and Editor present them for your information only. How you choose to handle your particular affairs is a matter only you can decide.

- (1) The first thing of course is try NOT to receive a letter, be interviewed, or be inspected. If these possibilities bother you, and you think you may be doing something the FCC can come down on you for...then stop doing it!
- (2) The Postal Service CERTIFIED MAIL notification slip always shows the ZIP code of the sender. Remember the ZIP code of your closest FCC field offices, and the Washington, DC offices. If you receive certified mail from one of those ZIP codes simply don't sign for it or accept it. **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ACCEPT NOR SIGN FOR MAIL YOU DO NOT WANT.**

(3) If you accept and sign for an FCC letter you have the following options: a. Follow the instructions in the letter, send whatever information the letter requests, admit that you are doing something wrong, and hope for the best.

b. Lie, tell them they have the wrong person.

c. Sign nothing, admit to nothing, furnish very little or no information. Fill out non-incriminating sections if you wish and send it back.... unsigned.

d. If you feel you **MUST** sign a form or a return letter then consider striking-out (draw a line through the wording) sections that say things like "under oath", "under penalty of perjury". This indicates you are not signing or accepting those particular sections, thereby **NOT SWEARING UNDER OATH**, or **PERJURING** yourself. You may also write "signed involuntarily under protest and threat of statutory penalty" if you feel you have been intimidated by the language of the document.

e. Ignore the letter entirely. Wait for their follow-up letter but don't accept it nor sign for it.

(4) Remember, "You have a right to remain silent, anything you say may, and will, be used against you..." **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT MAY INCRIMINATE YOU...** either in letter form or verbally.

(5) If you receive a visit from the FCC be sure both you and the inspector(s) play by the Rules. The FCC inspector must show valid identification, usually a badge or FCC ID card. He must state why he is there. He should be courteous and must ask permission to enter and to see your equipment.

a. You can cooperate fully and show the inspector whatever he requests. You may admit that you are doing something wrong.

b. If you allow entry and inspection they can confiscate any transmitting equipment that is being used illegally. Audio processing equipment, turntables, mixers, etc. are not illegal. The inspector must give you a written receipt for any equipment which is confiscated.

c. You can refuse entry. You do not have to admit to any wrong doing. You do not have to admit to having **ANY** kind of equipment on the premises. Neither should you deny any accusation nor should you volunteer information. **YOU CAN REMAIN SILENT, LEGALLY!**

d. Be courteous whatever the circumstances. The FCC inspectors are just doing their jobs. It's your choice if you want to help or hinder their efforts, you don't have to get them angry in the process.

Remember the FCC must **PROVE** you have done, or are doing, something against the Communications Act or the FCC Rules. And, the inspectors are asked to interview you to "determine the degree of willfulness .

The "Letter of Inquiry" asks you possibly to incriminate yourself. If you answer the letter you may be admitting you are operating a transmitter without a license. If you accept the certified letter but don't answer it you may be showing a "willfulness" to disregard the FCC Rules. If you lie in your answers you may be perjuring yourself.

The "Unlicensed Warning Letter" doesn't really require an answer. If you accepted it as a certified letter then it is assumed you read it

The "Notice of Apparent Liability" says you are required to reply to the notice within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. This is to be done on FCC Form 793-R. Again, if you answer you will be admitting your guilt, if you don't answer you are indicating your "willfulness". If you decide to go along with their instructions then you might try the following cover letter:

Dear Engineer-in-Charge,
Thank you for bringing this apparent liability to my attention. All operations have ceased and the equipment has been rendered inoperable. Now that I am aware of the consequences I shall refrain from this activity in the future.

Sincerely,

Note that the letter does not say you ARE liable, it says ".. apparent liability.." The above approach, an explanation that the operation has stopped and will not resume, and that you are aware of the consequences, MAY close the investigation. If not, it may help to reduce the amount of the "Monetary Forfeiture".

INCREASING YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BROADCASTING

John Askey has compiled a list of books that can be of help to both the beginning and to the seasoned broadcaster. For more information on addresses where these books can be obtained contact John Askey, R.D. 2, Box 56, Bouertown, PA 19512.

THE COLLEGE RADIO HANDBOOK, Billy G. Brant, TAB Books, 1981, \$14.95
 HOW TO BE A DISC JOCKEY, Don Ramsey, TAB Books, 1981, \$8.95
 THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S HANDBOOK, Bob Paiva, TAB Books, 1983, \$9.95
 MANAGING TODAY'S RADIO STATION, Jay Hoffer, TAB Books, (out of print)
 MODERN RECORDING TECHNIQUES, Runstein & Huber, SAMS & Co., 1986, \$18.95
 HOW TO BUILD A SMALL BUDGET RECORDING STUDIO FROM SCRATCH
 (with 12 tested designs) F. Everest, TAB Books, 1979, \$9.95
 HOW TO OPERATE A CASSETTE TAPE MINISTYR, John Hack, Broadman Press, 1981
 UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL ELECTRONICS, Gene McWhorter, Radio Shack, \$3.95
 UNDERSTANDING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, Cannon, Radio Shack, 1980, \$2.95
 MASS COMMUNICATIONS, Lineberry, H.W. Wilson Co. 1969 (reference)
 THE MULTITRACK PRIMER, Rosmini, TEAC Corp., 1978, \$4.95
 HOME RECORDING FOR MUSICIANS, Anderton, Guitar Player Books, 1978 \$14.95

MORE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- # 3770B: THE BILLBOARD BOOK OF TOP 40 HITS, 1955/PRESENT, \$14.95
- # 3780B: THE BILLBOARD BOOK OF NUMBER ONE HITS, Bronson, \$14.95
- # 1040C: RECORDING STUDIO HANDBOOK, Woram, \$39.95
- # 1652D: BROADCAST EQUIPMENT/SERVICES BUYERS GUIDE, 1280p \$95.00
- # 1460C: THE MICROPHONE HANDBOOK, Eargle, \$31.95
- # 3400B: MAKING MONEY MAKING MUSIC, Dearing, \$12.95
- # 0070A: STUDIO LIFE: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS, \$7.95
(a satiric and whimsical journey through the hidden world of recording)

THE BBC SOUND EFFECTS LIBRARY, 3 Volumes, 50 records \$349.00

The above books, and many others are available from MIX BOOKSHELF, 2608 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. Include extra for shipping.

Telephone orders can be placed at (800) 233-9604 (inside of California call (800) 641-3349). Visa or MasterCard. Ask for their complete Fall 1986 catalog.

From your EBN Editor's experience with recent telephone inquiries, it appears the following books would also be of interest:

- THE RADIO AMATEUR ANTENNA HANDBOOK, Orr and Cowan, \$7.95
- AMATEUR RADIO THEORY COURSE, Martin Schwartz, \$6.95
- THE AMATEUR RADIO VERTICAL ANTENNA HANDBOOK, Capt. Paul Lee, \$9.95
- THE ARRL ANTENNA HANDBOOK, Amateur Radio Relay League, \$8.00
- THE ARRL 1987 HANDBOOK, Amateur Radio Relay League, \$20.00
- ANTENNA DATA REFERENCE MANUAL, Joseph Carr, \$13.95
- WIRE ANTENNAS, Orr & Cowan, \$7.95
- VHF HANDBOOK FOR RADIO AMATEURS, Brier & Orr, \$11.95
- HF ANTENNAS FOR ALL LOCATIONS, Brier & Orr, \$12.00

Some libraries carry these books. They can also be ordered by any good bookstore.

Although we have attempted to cover antenna installation, tuning and matching in past mini-lessons it just doesn't seem to be enough. Perhaps to grasp even a basic understanding of antennas is beyond the scope of the few pages we can devote, but we'll keep trying.

Your editor finds that a great deal of time is being spent on the telephone giving mini-lessons in troubleshooting techniques, antenna theory, phone lines, oscillators, and amplifiers, etc. Although we want to be helpful there is a limit to how much time can be taken away from other duties. We have therefore been forced to make some kind of "policy". From here on telephone requests for technical information other than actual products must be limited to 10 minutes.

Our new computer is now installed. Our COMPUSERVE ID # 71470,311. You can leave electronic mail for us if you like.

In the weeks to come we hope to provide our own computer bulletin board. The bulletin board will probably operate 2 or 3 nights a week for 2 or 3 hours in the late evening - California time. We would like to hear from all those that are interested.

For those that are interested, the new machine specs are:

AT, 6MHz, 8MHz, 10MHz software switched.

640 K RAM + 3 MB RAM card

1.2 MB floppy, 360K floppy

30 MB HD + 20 MB HD

EGA 16/64 color, 14" monitor

Modem

Norton's SI of 9.2

If anyone's interested in our old machine (Leading Edge Model M, 4.77 and 7.2 switched clock, 20 MB HD, CGA color), modem, mouse, daisywheel printer (or any combination thereof), give me a call at 916-534-0417☎

By the way, our answering machine has been fixed. It won't answer on the 2nd ring any more...it waits till the 4th or 5th ring. Some people are still calling and hanging-up before the second ring to avoid the answering machine. I can understand this. The problem is I can't even answer the phone when the machine is off because I can't get to it in just one ring. Please allow at least 3 rings before you hang up....Thanks

LETTERS

Dear EBN,

I have been reading the EBN for almost 2 years and thought maybe it was time I contributed something.

I have been operating on AM 1600 for about 4 years. The system has 4 identical transmitters. Each transmitter gets its audio from lines I and my partner strung up on telephone poles. It is a small town, everyone knows everyone and they don't care if we're careful about stringing wires. Each transmitter works on the same frequency. The DC power and the audio are both on the feed line with a decoupling network so they don't interfere with each other. The transmitters are at the corners of a big square about 1/4 of a mile on a side. This way the signal overlaps from one to another and also fills in the center of the square. The signal also gets out all around the square. The square is in the center of town and gives good coverage to the whole town.

The antenna for each transmitter is only 10 feet long. Transmitter power is 100 milliwatts, so it all works ok and is legal use by Part 15 of the FCC rules. We got the idea out of your "Carrier Current" book written by Mr. Wilson but changed it to work in our town.

Jerry Bergman

FOR SALE, TRADE, BARTER, WANTED, AND BULLETIN BOARD

FOR SALE: Collins Car Recorder,, Tube type for \$70.00 plus shipping, a KLH rack mount dynamic noise filter, \$85.00 plus shipping, A Sparta A-15 5 by 1 mixer with power supply - needs cue amp but works great, \$70.00 delivered and a CBS 411 Stereo Volumax peak limiter, complete with low-noise modifications and recently aligned, \$185.00 delivered. Tapecaster X700 Record Card Deck - call for details. For all of the above contact Bill DeFelice, 621 Bishop Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06610, phone (203) 336-5606.

FOR SALE: 20 feet of triangular tower (2-10 foot sections). Has about 1 foot cross section - you can climb up it. Also 38 feet of 1 5/8" HELIAX cable (real broadcast stuff, 1 5/8" diameter - very low loss, 50 ohm). Contact "ROD" through EBN.

FOR SALE: WESTERN ELECTRIC 443A-1, 1 KW AM transmitter, uses 350A and 357A type tubes, full set included. \$1800.00 plus freight from Paul Christensen, PO Box 916, Oroville, WA 98844 (509) 476-2600

FOR SALE: Over stock of VHF HANDBOOK. Applicable to FM techniques, FM antennas, filters, construction. Regular price \$11.95 plus shipping. Right now they go for \$10.00 including shipping. Contact Ernie Wilson, PO Box 4028, Oroville, CA 95965

FOR SALE: MICRONTA 3 range (10,100,1000 watt) SWR/POWER meter. Uses two separate meters, one for SWR and one for Power. Calibrated range 3 - 30 MHz but can be recalibrated for 88 to 108 range, \$25.00. Also have a CALRAD 65-287 SWR/POWER meter (dual meters) covering 3.5 to 150 MHz and 1 to 100 watts. Cost \$60.00, will ship for \$35.00. See above address..Ernie Wilson

FOR SALE: 2-BAY vertical transmitting antenna for FM band. Just removed from service. Gave excellent coverage. Ready to ship, \$75.00 plus shipping. Call Paul, (402) 551-2124

FOR SALE: Four FM 5 watt stereo transmitters. Power supplies, stereo generators, enclosures, all assembled by Panaxis. Remainder still in kit form. Purchased by college by mistake in July 86. They now want to dispose of the them but remain anonymous. Value of \$585.00 each, make offer to college through Ernie, (916) 534-0417