UNCLE SAM AND SAR COMMUNICATIONS

You may recall when CBs required a license and the Federal Communications Commission was called "Uncle Sam". Well the FCC gave up on the CB but has shown renewed interest in the Public Service Radio Licenses and the people and groups that use them.

- J. Hunter Holloway recounted a recent visit of the FCC to his Mountain Rescue Group. The FCC was concerned about two areas:
 - * Are all of the radios in compliance with the current FCC Regulations at the time of manufacture? (NOT MODIFIED)
 - * What procedures and controls are in place to assure that our personnel use the radios in accordance with FCC Regulations.

For the most part, our radio use falls under emergency situations and continue control and maintenance is needed to ensure that our radios comply in all regards, so that confiscation and fines by the FCC will never occur.

The following is a restatement of the ASRC's Communication Committee's policies, regarding the ASRC license and the operation of our radios:

- 1. Only radios that have been assigned an ASRC Unit number are permitted to be operated under our FCC License. This is required to verify that the equipment is in compliance with current FCC Regulations.
- 2. All radios used on an ASRC approved activity are checked by the assigned Communications Officer for the activity, prior to being placed into service, for compatibility and frequency assignments.
- 3. Any person observed operating a radio in violation of current FCC Regulation should be instructed to stop. Correct the situation and if needed, report the situation to the assigned Communications Officer.
- 4. Only personnel designed by the ASRC Communication Committee are permitted to alter the field programmable radios. Contact your Operations Officer for a list of the individuals in your group.
- 5. Each group is responsible for training in the appropriate use of the ASRC radios, to ensure continued compliance with our FCC License. The Communication Committee is responsible to ensure that qualified trainers are available for this training.

While this may appear to be only common sense, many other groups have found themselves in trouble. I am sure that our existing policies and continued compliance with the FCC Regulations will permit us exercise this most fundamental life saving tool.

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