



THE HAMCALL



Volume 46

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January 2007

The Presidents Corner... By Tim Robinson, KF4MGU



I have donated a Yaesu FT-1802 2M mobile rig to the office of Bowling Green Warren County Emergency Management. I hope the rig will help in establishing interoperable communications between amateurs and public safety agencies. The rig will be installed in the mobile command post that the club has used in the past for field day. The rig has not been installed at the time of this writing but I hope it will be up and running soon. This may help to get our foot in the door to do other emergency work.

73's - Tim

Monthly Program

Mike McClure, KW4MAC
Vice President Elect.

No Submission

[Editor Note: According to Joe Durbin...
"The monthly meeting will be held at
BGMU's main building on Center Street for
our Jan Mtg. I have it from 1830 till 2100
on the 19th."]

Minutes & Sec/Tres Report

By Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX
Secretary/Treasurer

KCARC started off 2006 with a bank balance of \$833.71 and ended 2006 with a bank balance of \$1,024.15. Below is a summary of the yearly income and expenses.

INCOME	
Dues	\$624.50
Instruction	\$0.00
Donations for HamFest	\$467.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Income	\$1,091.50

EXPENSES	
Ham Call	-\$78.00
Field Day	-\$53.00
Repeaters	-\$20.00
Liability Insurance	-\$329.80
KY State Treasurer -Fee	-\$4.00
Meeting Costs	-\$76.26
Instruction Costs	\$0.00
HamFest Storage	-\$37.84
Anderson PowerPoles	-\$110.00
Awards	-\$120.00
BridgeWatch	-\$38.16
Other Costs	-\$34.00
Total Costs	-\$901.06

We ended 2006 with 41 paid memberships, 2 lifetime memberships and 4 courtesy memberships. Already this year we have 9 paid memberships, 2 lifetime memberships and 4 courtesy memberships.

73's - Claire

Weaver's Words

- Morse Code License Requirement Abolished.
- Personal Perspective about Code Testing.
- New Voluntary Band Plan Announced.
- Collateral Change.
- Automatically Controlled Narrow Band Data.
- Tentative Travel Schedule.
- New Year's Wishes

MORSE CODE LICENSE REQUIREMENT ABOLISHED

By now, we all know FCC has ruled to



abolish Morse code testing as part of any amateur license requirement. There isn't much further to be said. With this act, FCC has taken a few additional steps. You can read about these on the ARRL web site.

Please notice the only thing abolished by FCC was the testing requirements. The use of Morse is still allowed and no CW privileges were lost by this latest Report & Order. Similarly, ARRL will continue with code practice, bulletins and CW operating activities. CW is not dead and won't die for many years, if ever.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT CODE TESTING

First, a question: What was the code test speed Hiram Percy Maxim (1AW, W1AW SK) passed to become a ham? Answer later.

As you may know, my prime operating mode on HF is CW. I enjoy it. It is a nice tool. For me, it helps keep my mind sharp.

Having said this, I do not feel that the FCC sold Amateur Radio down the river with its Report & Order to abolish code testing as a requirement for obtaining a ham license. As shocking as this may sound to some members . . . and nonmembers, as well . . . I've never thought Amateur Radio was all about Morse code testing or even Morse code.

Morse code has been -- and will remain for quite some time -- a valuable tool in radio, including Amateur Radio. And, contrary to an oft-stated popular belief, the US military has not totally abandoned Morse code. It is still found hiding in the nooks and crannies of military communication. It will continue to be a useful and well-used mode for many amateurs.

Some of you may view the demise of Morse code testing as a huge mistake and, moreover, deaths blow to our great radio service. I respectfully disagree. As I mentioned in one of my newsletters a couple of years ago, discarding Morse testing is merely one more change in the history of Amateur Radio.

Just as automobile drivers no longer need to take driving exams in cars equipped with manual transmissions, incoming hams will simply not need to pass a code test. Drivers who have passed drivers license testing without touching the shift lever of a manual transmission are drivers just as

much as drivers who tested using manual transmissions. So, too, hams who have passed amateur license testing without touching a telegraph key or keyer are just as much radio amateurs as amateurs who passed 20 wpm exams.

Contrary to the belief that it is Morse code that gives us qualified operators, it is the operator who makes a qualified ham. An unethical, selfish individual who becomes a ham will be an unethical, selfish ham regardless of whether he or she has passed a code exam.

Don't believe me? Look around the bands and check over FCC enforcement records. You will see that some of the worst operators and most flagrant violators of FCC rules are Advanced and Extra Class licensees. Flip the coin to its other side and you'll see that some of the best and most law abiding operators are no code Techs . . . many who joined Amateur Radio after getting their introduction to radio through CB.

As one of my most outspoken critics, Jim Wades, K8SIW recently wrote on the QMN (CW traffic net) Reflector, "We will gain nothing by creating a 'cast system' based on telegraph proficiency or any other standard. Attempts on the part of operators to belittle, isolate, or otherwise single-out individuals as 'no-code' licensees or by otherwise implying they are not 'real hams' will likely be very counterproductive." Jim went on to observe, "Such an approach was taken by some misguided individuals after the implementation of the no-code Technician license and it did much harm to the Amateur Service and CW in particular."

Amen, Jim.

Just as some world cultures relegate "undesirable" people into inferior classes (e.g. the unclean); many amateurs mistakenly cast other hams into hamdom's supposed inferior classes. To some amateurs, the real sinners in the world are no code Techs and 5 wpm Generals, Advanced and Extra Class operators and such. How many times have you heard someone say, "I'm a 'real' Extra." I passed 20 wpm. Or, what about an old time Extra who might say he is a "truly real" Extra because he had to draw wiring diagrams for his written exam as well as pass 20 wpm. You've doubtlessly heard of hams who have been cast into other versions of Amateur Radio's leper colony.

Many decades ago, the argument was over

2007 KCARC OFFICERS

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2007 KCARC Meeting Dates (Third Friday)

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 11
May 18, 19, 20 Hamvention
June 15
June 23-24 (Field Day)
July 20
August 17
September 21 (Picnic)
October 19 (Elections)
October 31 (Bridge Watch)
November 16 (Annual Dinner)
December 15 (Sat Morn.)

spark gap. Today, many hams don't know what spark gap is and couldn't care less. Back then, to be a "real" amateur, one had to use spark gap, not the new-fangled continuous wave (CW) stuff. Then we "moved on" to the "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you 'talk over the air'" debate. Using code was "the only way to go." After this it became "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you use this noise-polluting, Donald Duck-sounding SSB garbage."

There have been changes in Amateur Radio ever since it first came into existence. Change is what Amateur Radio is about. There will continue to be change for as long as it exists. Technology and science move on, even though we would be more comfortable if we could stay where things don't change. Humans don't like change. We like to stay in the comfort zone of known territory. This is where we can stay warm and fuzzy.

My message is that we all are Amateur Radio operators. This applies whether our license is a no code Tech or a 20 wpm Extra. We all are hams. Moreover, we don't have such huge numbers of people in Amateur Radio and we haven't captivated the public imagination sufficiently with our miraculous deeds that we can afford to be snobbish over how long we each have been licensed . . . or over differences in the requirements that were in place when we took our exams . . . or over how we like to spend our time on the air. We can't afford to divide one ham from another.

We need to work together to develop a great new Amateur Radio that recaptures and surpasses its gloried past. We will never be able to accomplish this task if we don't respect each other and work together.

What do you think about all this? Let me know.

Answer to question: Hiram Percy Maxim, a principal founder of ARRL and Amateur Radio, never took a code test to obtain a ham license. In spite of this, he was a great user of Morse and a great ham.

NEW VOLUNTARY BAND PLAN ANNOUNCED

Not to be confused with the band changes made in the FCC's Report & Order, ARRL has released suggested revisions in the Voluntary Band Plan that hams generally follow. This voluntary bandplan does not supersede the FCC's recent ruling that became effective December 15.

The revisions in the Voluntary Band Plan were based largely on hundreds of suggestions and comments made in response to ARRL's request for input. I don't usually try to put tables in this newsletter, but I am going to deviate from this general rule and have placed the revisions below (I hope this through the reflector without becoming garbled):

75/80 Meters	Current Band Plan	New Band Plan
3.590	RTTY DX	RTTY/Data DX
3.580-3.620	RTTY	3.570-3.600: RTTY/Data
3.620-3.635	Packet	Delete
3.790-3.800	DX Window	No change
3.845	SSTV	No change

3.885	AM calling frequency	No change
<u>40 Meters</u>	<u>Current Band Plan</u>	<u>New Band Plan</u>
7.040	RTTY DX	RTTY/Data DX
7.080-7.100	RTTY	7.080-7.125: RTTY/Data
7.171	SSTV	No change
7.290	AM calling frequency	No change

<u>15 Meters</u>	<u>Current Band Plan</u>	<u>New Band Plan</u>
21.070-21.100	RTTY	21.070-21.110: RTTY/ Data
21.100-21.110	Packet	21.070-21.110: RTTY/ Data
21.340	SSTV	No change

You can see the complete story and a graphic presentation of the new Voluntary Band Plan by going to www.arrl.org/news/stories/12/14/101/?nc=1.

COLLATERAL CHANGE

When the R&O that drops code test requirements becomes effective, current Tech licenses will receive the same CW privileges as current Novice licensees.

AUTOMATICALLY CONTROLLED NARROW BAND DATA

The new automatically controlled, narrow band digital segment on 80 M will be from 3585 kHz to 3600 kHz. This segment becomes official 30 days after the Order for Reconsideration is published in the Federal Register.

FCC apparently had its method for correcting its error of outlawing automatically controlled, narrow band data from 80 M worked out even before ARRL submitted its request to restore these operations at 3600-3635 kHz. This error had occurred in the R&O it published in mid-November and that became effective December 15. No sooner had ARRL requested restoration of this form of operating to 80 M, but the FCC published its version of a fix. The fix was simply announced much too quickly for it to have been stimulated by our petition.

FCC's fix, of course, was far from satisfactory in my opinion.

TENTATIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR K8JE

- Jan. 9: 20/9 Meeting, Canfield, OH.
- Jan. 13: SW OH Digital Symposium, Middletown, OH.
- Jan. 18: A&F Meeting, Newington, CT.
- Jan. 19-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.
- Feb. 11: Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH.
- Mar. 12: West Chester ARA, West Chester, OH.
- Mar. 15: Bellbrook ARC Dinner Meeting, Waynesville, OH.
- Mar. 18: Toledo Hamfest, Toledo.
- Apr. 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH.
- Apr. 20: KY Colonel ARC, Bowling Green, KY.
- Apr. 26: SUMCO ARES, Stow, OH.
- May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.
- Jun. 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI.
- Jul. 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.

Aug. 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL.
 Sep. 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI.
 Sep. 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH.
 Sep. 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH.
 Sep. 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH.

GB to 2006. It was a very eventful year. I wish you and your family all the best in 2007.

During this coming year, please think globally when thinking of Amateur Radio. I don't mean globally in terms of the world, but globally in terms of how we and our individual operating preferences fit together with so many thousands of other individuals and their operating preferences in a jigsaw puzzle. This puzzle, when put together in its total form, discloses the beautiful picture that is Amateur Radio

73,
 Jim, K8JE

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FCC Releases Report and Order in "Morse Code" Proceeding

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- The FCC has issued the complete *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The R&O follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The R&O

also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future -- who have not passed a Morse code test.

"In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement," the FCC concluded in the R&O, released today. "We also believe that these rule changes will allow Amateur Service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the Amateur Service and will enhance the usefulness of the Amateur Service to the public and licensees."

The FCC took the opportunity in the R&O to act on the League's *Petition for Partial Reconsideration* in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, to retain the 3620-3635 kHz segment for automatically controlled digital stations. "We conclude that the expansion of the 75 meter band should not be so limited," the FCC said. "We agree with the ARRL, however, that the Commission did not intend to reduce the amount of spectrum available for automatically controlled digital stations."

To rectify the "unintended consequence" of the rules adopted in the omnibus proceeding, the Commission amended §97.221(b) to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations.

Finally, the Commission said it would conform the Amateur Service rules to reflect that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has reduced from two to one the number of Amateur Radio license classes.

The Commission is amending §97.301 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

No Effective Date Yet

Today's R&O spells out the specific Part 97 changes going into place once the new

rules go on the books and indicates that the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the *Federal Register*. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going into effect in February.

Reprising the History the Morse Decision

Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) effectively eliminated the international requirement to demonstrate Morse proficiency to gain access to HF bands, the FCC recounted in discussing how it reached its decision in the Morse issue. A dozen and a half petitions for rule making -- most calling on the Commission to simply eliminate the Morse requirement -- in the wake of WRC-03 gave rise to the "Morse code" proceeding. A flurry of comments followed.

"The record reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community regarding this proposal," the FCC's R&O said. "Many of the comments from individual Amateur Radio operators support eliminating the telegraphy proficiency requirement." Others suggested dropping the requirement for General applicants while keeping it for Amateur Extra applicants, the FCC noted.

"Others argue that the present telegraphy examination requirements should be maintained because any reduction in these requirements will be detrimental to the Amateur Service while providing no long-term benefits," the Commission continued.

The FCC proposed in 2005 to drop the Morse examination requirement altogether, although the ARRL was among those who felt the Commission should retain it for Amateur Extra class applicants. The FCC remained unconvinced.

"We nevertheless believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from

Continued on Page 7



Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club Membership Form - 2007

** PLEASE PRINT **

NAME: _____

CALL SIGN: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ OTHER PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ ARRL MEMBER: Y N

We recommend the use of the free ARRL email forwarding service (k4abc@arrl.net). This way if you change your real email address you will not have to notify the KCARC Secretary. You must be a member of the ARRL. Go to http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html for more information.

Personal Information

KCARC recognizes the seriousness of keeping the information you have provided on this application confidential, and indeed we will do that. However, we would like to publish your membership information for other members of KCARC but we will only do this with your permission.

ALLOW MY INFORMATION TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO CLUB MEMBERS: Y N (by circling N your information will not be released to anyone, even club members)

+++++

For Secretary Use Only
Date Paid:
Amount:
Check: Cash:
Patch given: Hand: Mailed:
Other:

New Member (\$15.00):
Renewal (\$15.00):
Additional Family Member (\$7.50 ea.):
Student or Associate Member (\$7.50):
KCARC Patch (one w/membership \$2.00):
Additional KCARC Patch(s) (\$4.00 ea.):
Total:

TURN OVER - MORE ON BACKSIDE

The KCARC and your Community Needs You!

One of the fundamental reasons we have our FCC granted Amateur licenses is to provide emergency communications to our community (FCC Rules and Regulations part 97.1a). With the recent Terrorist attacks on our Country and other disasters our existence as Amateur Operators and our status as "Emergency Communications Providers" has risen to a new level. When cellular systems overload, telephone lines interrupted, and other complicated communications systems that we take for granted fail, there is only one group that can provide the needed communications to our communities and those individuals are Amateur Radio Operators. Members of the KCARC recognize this unique responsibility and in an effort to facilitate our readiness we ask you to indicate your interest below. Your willingness to participate in such events is not an obligation for membership. Thank You!

I WOULD LIKE TO BE TRAINED AND ASSIST WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: _____.

The HamCall (KARC Newsletter)

As part of your KCARC Membership, you will receive the KCARC Newsletter titled the **HamCall**. In an effort to reduce costs associated with the newsletter we would prefer that you choose to receive the **HamCall** via the Yahoo group KCARC-BG; the official means of communication concerning KCARC business and activities. However, if you do not have a computer or access to the internet then we will mail you a copy.

I DO NOT HAVE A COMPUTER OR ACCESS TO THE INTERNET: _____

I DO HAVE A COMPUTER AND HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET: _____

Note: all members are encouraged to submit articles (even have your own column) and other information that you feel should be included in the newsletter. Contact the HamCall editor for more information.

KARC Monthly Meetings and Programs

The club will have a special program for each of 9 months out of the year (Septemeber is the annual SwapFest and Picnic, November is the annual Banquet, and December has no official meeting). The program centers around a specialized topic related to Amateur Radio. This is your opportunity to tell your club officials what type of programs you would like to see held. Please indicate your suggestions below:

KARC Committees

The KCARC has several committees that serve its members and the community. If you would like to assist with one or more of these activities, please indicate your selection below with a check mark. If you would like to Chair one of these committees indicate your desire by writing in 'CH' in the space provided.

Police Station Club Room: _____ **Club Repeater & Communications:** _____ **November Banquet:** _____
Emergency Communications: _____ **Field Day:** _____ **Bridge Watch:** _____ **Fund Raising:** _____
September Picnic: _____ **Nominating:** _____ **Awards:** _____ **Training Classes:** _____
Club Board Member: _____ **Club Officer:** _____ **Other:** _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SEC/TRES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**Claire Rinehart, KF4IWX
755 Whitlock Rd.
Alvalton, KY 42122**

11/19/04 b

other Amateur Service communications techniques.”

The Commission said its reasoning “applies equally” to both the General and the Amateur Extra class licenses. “We are not persuaded that the Amateur Extra Class being the highest license class is a sufficient reason alone to retain a requirement that we conclude is otherwise inappropriate and unnecessary.” At the same time, the FCC said, its action doesn’t preclude Amateur Radio licensees of any class “from pursuing and/or continuing to pursue Morse code proficiency should they so desire.”

The FCC said its rules don’t require applicants to pass practical examinations to demonstrate proficiency in non-telegraphy communications techniques, and it feels the current regime of written examinations is “sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license.”

No Special Advantage to Retaining the Morse Requirement

In today’s R&O, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergency communication situations. “The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques,” the FCC said. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse code requirement would help in keeping out the bad apples.

“The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct,” the FCC observed. “As a result, we concur with the observation that ‘maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does.’”

The Commission further reiterated its belief that the ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency doesn’t necessarily indicate an applicant’s ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. “A number of commenters agree that the Morse code requirement ‘keeps individuals that would enhance the hobby

from getting a license,’ and that there is ‘no relationship between an individual’s knowledge of Morse code and that individual’s knowledge of radio regulations and practices and skills necessary to operate an amateur station.’”

Eliminating the Technician Disparity

The FCC also reviewed how it changed its mind regarding requests to eliminate the distinction between Technician and so-called “Tech Plus” (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees. In its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in the proceeding, the FCC said it wanted to maintain the status quo. The League was among those asking the Commission to reconsider.

“Based on our review of our rules, we agree,” the FCC explained in its R&O. “Consistent with our decision herein to eliminate the Morse code requirement, we are eliminating this disparity by amending Section 97.301(e) to afford Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.”

The rule revision will mean Technician and so-called “Tech Plus” (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees will get voice and telegraphy privileges in four HF bands that are identical to those of Novice class licensees. “In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity,” the FCC said.

No Additional Changes

The FCC again denied requests -- including one from the ARRL -- to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license along the lines of the old Novice ticket. Pointing out that the rules it’s adopted grant Technician licensees additional operating privileges in four HF bands, the Commission said it didn’t see any need for additional changes. The FCC also declined the League’s request to grant Novice and Technician licensees voice and image privileges in certain segments 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

“Our action today giving Technician class licensees the same privileges as

Technician Plus class licensees does effectively provide some of the relief ARRL seeks because Technician class licensees now have voice and digital privileges in the 10 meter HF band,” the FCC said.

The Commission expressed concern that giving Novice and Technician holders voice privileges on other HF bands “would be a disincentive for these licensees to improve their knowledge and skills and attain a higher class license.”

Web Site Resource

The ARRL is posting [all information](#) relevant to the FCC’s actions in WT Docket 05-235 on its Web site.

A Friendly Reminder...

Don't forget to renew your membership in KCARC for 2007!



The illustration shows a black stick figure standing with arms raised, holding three items: a computer keyboard, a telephone, and a stack of papers. The items are floating above the figure's hands. The entire graphic is set against a yellow background within a black border.

THE KCARC CLUB MEETS AT THE BOWLING GREEN POLICE STATION COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM.

THE FORTH DISTRICT ARES NET MEETS 7 NIGHTS A WEEK AT 9:00PM LOCAL TIME. REPEATER FREQUENCY 147.330 MHZ, KA4CFW. SECONDARY REPEATER 147.165 MHZ, W4WSM.

**Next Meeting:
January 19th
7:00PM**

Local Repeaters

Two -Meters

147.060+	PL156.7	K4LOL (CLUB)
147.165+		W4WSM
147.330+		KA4CFW
146.655-		W4WSM

440MHz

444.100+		W4WSM
444.700+	PL136.5	WB4JM (IRLP 4678)
		(Use the # key before dialing any IRLP node number)

ATV

439.25 AM IN - W4HTB
1280.00 FM Out - W4HTB
421.25 AM Out (CH-57) - W4HTB

THE HAMCALL

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