

Printed Circuit

Merry Christmas — Happy New Year — Seasons Greetings

2006.12/2007.01

MERRY CHRISTMAS...FROM THE FCC?

A VARIETY OF SOURCES AND THE ARRL WEBSITE

Editor's Note: Before going into this month's feature article, congratulations to Andy Gabbert, KA0TUD, and Bill Reynolds, N6HXI, for being elected President and Vice-President, respectively. Both Mark Mitchelson, NOZPD, and Jim Johannes, NOZSQ, will continue serving as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. We should be grateful to Martin Matarazzo, WD6FIC, and Ray Brown, KBOSTN, for serving as 2006 President and Vice-President, respectively. Andy and Bill will need everyone's help to make this year successful for our club. Please volunteer as much as your time allows.—editor

Just in time for the holidays...The FCC finally agreed to drop Morse code testing for all examinations and realigned amateur frequency privileges once again.

Just like incentive licensing in the 1960s and the no code debate in the late 1980s and early 1990s to the 2000 restructuring decision, feelings on both sides of the issue are flourishing on internet chats, on-air conversations, and throughout the amateur radio community in general. After a brief review of the upcoming changes, the editor will make two points that can make or break the future of amateur radio in light of

these massive changes.

Even though it appears that the FCC approved these changes without fully looking at all the implications, it's important that we understand that the Commission has many other tasks to perform, which are more profitable than amateur radio. In addition, the ARRL voiced our concerns and encouraged all operators to make their opinions known, and the FCC did receive a the proverbial ton of paperwork which had to be reviewed.

In addition, the Commission had been looking for ways to simplify the amateur service for years. The 2000 restructuring was perhaps the largest leap in this direction, but then the FCC had to keep tabs on those amateurs who *renewed* their Novice and Advanced licenses. Then those Technicians who had passed a Morse code exam had to keep their CSCE handy in the event they were ever questioned about HF operating. These were more license classes than the FCC wanted, and other countries were simplifying their license structure.

Meanwhile, the ARRL proposed refarming some HF spectrum to spur interest in Novices and Tech Plus holders, maybe

hoping that they would upgrade to General or possibly Extra. Even though the FCC agreed to *some* of the League's suggestions, the five license classes remained, along with five sets of privileges.

Finally in mid-December, the FCC announced another set of sweeping changes that would, along with eliminating code requirements for testing, allow Novices and Techs to enjoy the same operating privileges. The Advanced licensees would gain additional voice spectrum as well. No mention was made, however, that those license classes would disappear in print, but the Commission did refuse to allow a new "novice-type" license to be formed.

Whether you agree with the FCC's move, it will become reality in 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. The League estimates that the new rules will take effect in February, and you might say all these changes were just in time for a Merry Christmas gift.

Yes, it's true that we might see thousands flock into General class who

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ANDY GABBERT, KA0TUD

As the newly elected President of the Joplin ARC, I promise will bring some exciting times. I look for a lot of changes within the club this year, but also I need for the members of the club to view the purpose in a different way. This year, lets look at ourselves as a team: Every member has a part or position to play.

The past Presidents and Officers have done well, and I am grateful for their service. But there's more to do.

Lack of new members is hurting our club. Let's all make a plan of action and see what we can do about this. Everyone has talent, and lets find that talent and put it to the best task.

The 2007 Hamfest is going to be our largest and most important hamfest yet. The State Convention will be held here, and this may the first time that many have ever come to Joplin. We need to begin talking to Jim Scott, asking him where he needs our support. This year I believe we could bring the room ratio for the motels by talking up the Hamfest, but everyone needs to help.

Right now the committee I feel that needs to have prioity, is the New Membership Committee. I'd like to see at least 3 or 5 members on, coming up with new ideas, to make the club more impressive and draw more members. This committee really is the heart of the club, because without members, there would be no reason for a club.

A branch off of the Membership Committee will be the Activities Committee. I want to see more activities within the club, not just dinners or coffee get together. For example, why can't we have contests within the club, or let's bring back rabbit/fox hunts.

There will be more organization during club meetings. It has been said that our

club is too small for "Roberts Rules" and maybe so, considering the whole picture, but we must have more structured and organized meetings so everyone can be heard.

Check the club website for a more up to date version, thanks to Jim Scott. We'll also be posting a calendar soon.

If everyone come to meetings with open minds, I promise this year will be interesting.

If anyone would like to speak to me or Bill Reynolds, give us a call, or email us. If you have something to bring up during meetings, I would ask you to call or email Bill or myself, and we will put you on the agenda. This year, there will be an agenda, so the meetings will run without much of a surprise and run more smoothly.

Thats about it for January. I'm proud to be your Club President and am looking forward to the beginning of a great year!❖

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

ARRL WEBSITE

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) now is accepting applications for 56 academic year 2007-2008 scholarships to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2007. FAR fully funds three of scholarships and administers 42 others without cost on behalf of various club and individual donors; grant income funds the remaining 11 awards. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$3000. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. More

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARK MITCHELSON, NOZPD

The November meeting was called to order by President Martin Matarazzo. Both the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given and accepted.

President Matarazzo noted that the repeater was working fine but had been turned off several times due to maintenance work at the repeater site.

The following officers were elected by acclamation: Andy Gabbert, President; Bill Reynolds, Vice-President; Mark Mitchelson, Secretary; and Jim Johannes, Treasurer.

After discussion and a vote, the meetings will move back to 7:30pm and that the President can decide when meetings are held.

Jim Scott agreed to allow the Club to use a room at his office building, and the radios can be stored at the Red Cross.

Andy noted that the radio room does not have a door, and the club discussed options for locking up equipment. After a vote, the club decided to purchase a door so that the radio room could be locked.

John Tudenham informed us that he had made reservations at the Great Wall Restaurant for our Christmas banquet.❖

TREASURER'S REPORT

JIM JOHANNES, NOZSQ

Income during November consisted of 3 dues/renewals.

Expenses included postage for the newsletter.

We also earned interest on our money market account.

All of our accounts have balances.❖

MERRY CHRISTMAS....

(Continued from page 1)

have no interest in CW or technical aspects of our hobby. Yes, we might hear more improper operating procedures on the bands, but *the lids are already on air!* How many of us remember to steer clear of certain "nets" on 75 meters, lest we receive directions to the hottest place known to mankind? How many of those poor operators had 1x2 and 2x1 calls *before* the vanity program started? And we could keep going on with this type of *negative* discussion and "forecasting."

But let's consider the other side of the coin. What if through studying more technical material a Technician upgrades to General and joins in a nightly homebrewing roundtable on HF? How about that Novice who studies and passes the General exam, and who can now assist in health and welfare nets, such as the Hurricane Net on 20 meters? What about groups of college broadcasting, journalism, and electrical engineering majors throughout the US who decide that ham radio can give them an edge on landing their first job after graduation? Or how about a widowed lady who decides to earn her General license and discovers other women throughout the US and beyond who share similar interests that she does? These examples show us the *positive* side of the new rules; each of these people has the potential to become a fine operator. Like looking at the negative side, we can get our vision distorted by rose-colored glasses.

Let's try to clear the dust from both sides and consider two points. First reality is here. It doesn't matter what we think about the Commission, the League, No Code International, FISTS, or anyone else. The Commission has ruled, and sooner or later, the new rules will take effect. If we refuse to encourage newcomers in the hobby, then our numbers will continue to dwindle. But that doesn't mean what we have to encourage *anyone*. It only means that we should

help those who *want* to learn more.

There's nothing wrong with visiting schools and advertising our skills to like-minded people about the new rules. In fact, that can encourage some who had some interest into looking further. We'll still have to mentor people and maintain high testing standards; so those traditions will remain.

Second, a "gift" can be either good or bad. Your editor likes to pride himself as an amateur photographer and was given a Minolta Maxxum 7000 camera for Christmas one year. Unfortunately, the camera stayed in the box for about 2 years *because he didn't want to try something new*. Imagine all the photographic possibilities missed during that time because your editor refused to take a real camera and learn how to use it! He first thought it was "bad" because he had to learn new skills since a 110 camera is a lot simpler. On the other hand, after learning how to use manual metering, a new world of photography opened up. This is where we are with these new changes.

In closing, give some serious thought to what amateur radio means to you. Wouldn't you like to see others get the same fulfillment? They won't unless each operator welcomes and helps newcomers in the hobby. Think about this analogy: The FCC pitched us a ball. Amateurs, as a whole, are at bat. The good and bad are the conditions the batter must field: testing, rules, bad operators, band conditions, elmering, etc. Are we going to hit a homer? Or even a base hit? *We'll strike out if we do nothing to help others enter our hobby and learn how to be proper operators; that is the only given here.*

Let's go for a home run! What are your thoughts? Please feel free to share them in the newsletter. ❖

HAMFESTS

13 January 2007. Willard, MO. Winter Fest 2007, Willard Rec Center, 133 North Highway Z. 145.49 Repeater Group. Talk in: 145.49- (PL 136.5). Contact: Michael Blake, NONQW, PO Box 246, Willard, MO 65781. Phone: 417-839-2071. Fax: 417-742-3955
Email: n0nqw@att.net
<http://www.www.sgf49ers.org/>

20 January 2007. St. Joseph, MO. Northwest Missouri Winter Hamfest, Ramada Inn, I-29, Exit 47. Missouri Valley ARC and Ray-Clay ARC. Talk-In: 146.85- (PL 100) & 444.925+ (PL100). Contact: Roy Burnett, KA0SIU, NW MO Winter Hamfest PO Box 1533, St. Joseph, MO 64502. Phone: 660-446-3589 or 816-387-3758.
Email: rfbkdb4@ccp.com

27 January 2007. Collinsville, IL. Winterfest 2007, Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Center. St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club. Talk-In: 146.97-. Contact: Jim Glasscock, W0FF, 8300 Whiskey Creek Road, Union, MO 63084-2715. Phone: 636-584-8888
Email: foxfoxdxer@gmail.com
<http://www.slsr.org/>

3 February 2007. LaCygne, KS. LaCygne Hamfest, LaCygne Community Building (Broadway Street). Mine Creek ARC. Talk-In: 147.285+. Contact: Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, PO Box 36, LaCygne, KS 66040. Phone: 913-757-3758
Email: kb0dti@arrl.net ❖

SCHOLARSHIPS...

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information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2007, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. ❖

LEAGUE FAULTS FCC CHAIRMAN RE BIASED, INACCURATE BPL PRESENTATION INFORMATION

ANDY GABBERT, KA0TUD

The ARRL has called on FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and his fellow commissioners to employ “a more even-handed approach” when promoting new broadband technologies. In a December 6 fax to Martin and the other four FCC members, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, faulted the chairman for using broadband over power line (BPL) deployment data from the BPL industry when speaking at Georgetown University November 30. Martin’s presentation included a slide of a map from the United Power Line Council (UPLC), a BPL proponent, purporting to show current BPL deployments in the US.

“This slide is taken from a biased industry source and fails to note that a large percentage of the deployments shown on the map have been shut down and no longer exist,” Sumner told Martin. His letter included a list of five systems shut down as much as two years earlier. In several instances, utilities announced they had abandoned their BPL pilot projects because they proved to be uneconomical or were unable to compete with existing broadband technologies.

Sumner said the ARRL “respectfully requests” the FCC cease using the UPLC as a source for illustrating BPL deployments. He further faulted the chairman for failing to include slides on the other two new technologies in the early stages of deployment he’d mentioned—wireless broadband and fiber-to-the-home.

That omission occurred despite the fact that the FCC Report, High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of December 31, 2005, showed 448,196 fiber lines and 256,538 fixed wireless “lines” compared to just 5859 for “Power Line and Other,” Sumner pointed out. “Your prepared remarks do not even mention satellite broadband, yet the same report shows 426,928 satellite ‘lines,’” he added.

Sumner also said BPL, as a technology,

doesn’t warrant the kind of partiality it’s been getting from the FCC. “As you know, the ARRL’s concern is with the still-unresolved radio interference issues that uniquely plague BPL and not with BPL as such,” he noted in conclusion. “However, it is evident that the technology does not deserve the favored treatment the FCC continues to bestow upon it, especially when its inherent shortcoming, that it is a radio spectrum polluter, escapes mention.”

Sumner said the UPLC BPL deployment map Martin used when speaking at the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business Center for Business and Public Policy November 30 also was on display at the FCC open meeting last August at which the Commission adopted its BPL Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O). The MO&O dispensed with various reconsideration petitions, including one from ARRL, asking the Commission to reconsider its October 2004 BPL Report and Order (R&O).

Martin’s excessive emphasis on BPL as a “new” technology when other new technologies, “are vastly more successful and promising according to the FCC’s own reports” belies the chairman’s impartiality, Sumner commented after faxing the letter.

“The ARRL remains highly dissatisfied with the Commission’s handling of the BPL radio interference issue,” he continued. “There is nothing evenhanded about the Commission’s continuing favoritism of BPL over other broadband technologies that do not share its unique shortcoming of causing radio spectrum pollution.”

In October, the ARRL notified the US District Court of Appeals—DC Circuit that it would seek review of the August MO&O as well as the October 2004 R&O on the ground that they exceed the Commission’s jurisdiction and author-

ity, are contrary to the Communications Act of 1934, and are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law.

The League will request that the court “hold unlawful, vacate, enjoin and set aside the orders.” A court filing detailing the League’s specific objections to the two FCC orders is pending.

Sumner has said the League decided to go forward with its appeal only after considering the effect on licensed spectrum users of letting the BPL rules stand. He addressed a number of ARRL’s concerns with the FCC’s BPL rules in his “It Seems to Us . . .” editorial in October *QST*. ❖

NEW ARRL QSL RATES

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new rate structure, effective January 1, 2007. The new basic rate will be \$5 per half-pound (8 ounces -- or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound. One pound will now cost \$10, and larger packages will be assessed \$5 for each additional half-pound (or portion thereof). For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards will cost \$15, while a package containing 1.75 pounds of cards will cost \$20. For smaller packages, the new fee is only \$1.50 for 10 or fewer cards, \$2.50 for 11 to 20 cards and \$3.75 for 21 to 30 cards. ❖

EDITORIAL POLICY

- 1 Articles are due the first Monday by 4:00PM.
- 2 Submissions may be handwritten, typed, or emailed.
- 3 Readers are welcomed to comment but should focus on the article.
- 4 Buy-Sell-Trade items may be posted for no fee.

All articles are subject to editing. ❖

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	2	3	4 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	5	6 9:AM--Breakfast
7	8 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	9 7:30PM—Club Meeting	10	11 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	12	13 9:AM--Breakfast
14	15 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	16	17	18 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	19	20 9:AM--Breakfast
21	22 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	23 7:30PM—Club Meeting	24	25 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	26	27 9:AM--Breakfast
28	29 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	30	31			

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PRINTED CIRCUIT

2007

Note: W4VEC testing information is on the back page; those with questions should contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

Printed Circuit

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings

The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month, except December. Meetings are held at the Joplin Red Cross (4th and Jackson) and begin at 7:30 PM. All amateur operators welcomed at meetings and other club functions.

Club Repeaters - Open for all to use

WØIN - 147.210+ (No tone)

WØIN South - 145.390- (91.5)

Weekly Net (Mondays at 7:30 PM, 147.210+)

All operators are welcome to check in the net. ARRL Audio News, ARES, buy-sell-trade, and other announcements are made.

W4VEC Volunteer Examining Sessions

On the first Monday of each month, exams are offered at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on W. 26th Street, west of Maiden Lane. Applicants need to bring 2 pencils, 2 forms of ID (including 1 photo ID), and the *original and 2 copies of any current license and/or Certificates of Successful Completion if applicable*. Registration begins at 6:30 PM. For questions, contact Martin Matarazzo, VE Manager.

Social Gatherings

On Saturdays, members gather at Steak n Shake (Hammons Blvd.) for breakfast, beginning at 9:00 AM. On Thursday evenings, members gather at a local restaurant. Check with John Tudenham (624-8058) for location.