

# Printed Circuit

Severe Weather Classes in March — Are you prepared?

2007.02

## CODELESS AMATEUR RADIO TESTING REGIME APPEARS SET TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 23

ARRL WEBSITE

The ARRL has learned that the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, is scheduled to appear in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, January 24. Assuming that occurs, the new Part 97 rules deleting any Morse code examination requirement for Amateur Radio license applicants would go into effect Friday, February 23, 2007. The League cautions that this date is tentative, pending official confirmation and publication.

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Morse code R&O.

Publication of the R&O in the Federal Register starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to go on the books. The FCC reportedly completed its work on the R&O this week and forwarded it to the *Federal Register* receiving desk. The *Federal Register* must make the document available for public inspection 24 hours prior to publication. *Federal Register* personnel are constrained by law from saying if a particular R&O is in the publication queue, however. Rules and

regulations that appear in the Federal Register constitute their official version.

Deletion of the Morse requirement is a landmark in Amateur Radio history. Until 1991, when a code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse test. Once the new rules are in place, Amateur Radio license applicants no longer will have to demonstrate Morse code proficiency at any level to gain access to the HF bands.

On or after the effective date of the new rules, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for a higher license class will be able to redeem it for an upgrade. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 (General) could apply at a VEC exam session, pay the application fee -- which most VECs charge -- and receive an instant upgrade. A CSCE is good only for 365 days from the date of issuance. Candidates for General or Amateur Extra between now and the effective date of the new rules still must have Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) credit to obtain new privileges, however.

The new rules also mean that all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will gain HF privileges identical to those of current Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees without having to apply for an upgrade. Novices and Technicians with Element 1 credit have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify the Amateur Service rules in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that were effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data.

The ARRL has been posting all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235," available from <http://www.arrl.org/>. ❖

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ANDY GABBERT, KA0TUD

This year, I'm looking for a good year. I hope that we can boost membership and make club membership more attractive to the hams of the Four State area, by building a membership committee, our first step. Our club cannot function without members, and members provide dues to help finance not only the club, repeaters, and our upcoming August hamfest. You might say that the eyes of Missouri, and the ARRL Midwest Region, are on our club. *We must have all members working together to accomplish an outstanding event.*

Second, our upcoming Field Day is another activity the club can build upon. We have a good opportunity to introduce the community to what amateur radio and our club can and does do. Rather than waiting for the "big event," we need monthly programming meetings to help us learn and re-learn necessary skills. I'd appreciate any suggestions and volunteers for these meetings.

Third, my first appointments were to rearrange the Technical Committee, by replacing Martin Matarazzo with Larry Sparks, Wayne Graham, and Rob George. I feel the Technical committee will function better. Martin has served this function for a long time, without much club support, and I felt that a change was necessary. *Please join me in thanking Martin for his years of service.* Linking both club repeaters would be in the best interest of the JARC. Members are welcome to contact me or the Technical Committee with suggestions.

In short, think of the club as a *team*, without teamwork the task at hand cannot get accomplished. I'm proud of this club; I've been a member for many years. I'm proud to serve as your President. Let's work together as a team, and put the past behind us. The team is only as strong as its weakest player. Let's try not to be the weakest operator. ❖

## VU7RG DXPEDITION

ARRL WEBSITE

The VU7RG DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands, sponsored by the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), is scheduled to get under way Monday, January 14, at 1830 UTC. The DXpedition will continue until January 31. Plans call for having up to 14 stations on the air from four islands. Operators on Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat islands (all AS-011 for IOTA) will use VU7RG, while a separate all-Indian team will operate as VU7MY from Minicoy Island (AS-106). The *Daily DX* reports the vessel carrying the more than two dozen operators will depart January 12, although some operators already are on Kadmat Island. A DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands sponsored by the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) concluded in late December. Lakshadweep Islands has been the second most-wanted DXCC entity. ❖

## NEW WTB CHIEF

ARRL WEBSITE

FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin has named Fred Campbell to be the new chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), the bureau that oversees the Amateur Radio Service. Campbell succeeds Catherine Seidel, the acting chief of WTB since April 2005, who will become chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Campbell most recently served as Martin's legal advisor for wireless issues and previously as an attorney advisor in the Wireline Competition Bureau. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked at Harris, Wiltshire, and Grannis, where he advised on a broad range of legal issues associated with the provision of domestic and international telecommunications services. Campbell is a graduate of the University of the State of New York and the University of Nebraska College of Law. ❖

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

MARK MITCHELSON, NOZPD

Andy Gabbert called the meeting to order; the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and accepted.

Andy appointed the following committee chairs: Bill Reynolds, N6HXL, Membership; Jim Scott, WB0IYC, Hamfest; Larry Sparks, N0BHU, Public Relations; and John Tudenham, W0JRP, Program Meeting.

Larry Sparks will chair the Technical Committee. Wayne Graham and Rob George are members on the committee. Mark Mitchelson requested to be a member since he is repeater trustee.

Jim Scott said that the club could store property at his office. We bought a door for the Red Cross radio room; property will be stored once installed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

JIM JOHANNES, NOZSQ

Income during November and December included 4 dues payment/renewal. The money market account also earned interest.

Expenses during this time included postage for the November newsletter, 100 QSL cards for the Route 66 special event station, and payment to Zimmer Radio Group for repeater space.

All of our accounts have balances. ❖

## 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. ❖

## SKILLS I LEARNED AS A CONTESTER

TOM HURLEY, K1TH

*I like to see connections between seemingly unrelated things, and I see big connections between sharp flying and radio operating. Maybe that's why there's a high correlation between folks holding an amateur license and a pilot certificate -- they're really not that different.*

When I turned 50 some years ago, I decided to tackle another challenge that had intrigued me since I was a kid. I had always wanted to fly, so I began the lessons and adventure that eventually earned me a private pilot's certificate. During the year that it took to get the "ticket," I learned a lot about myself as a person and relearned a lot of science and math that I had forgotten since I was in high school back in the 1960s.

Thirty five years of operating most modes on HF and VHF, including CW, really put me ahead of most of my fellow students when studying the communications and navigation radios and procedures we had to learn. While others were counting the "dots and dashes" to identify VOR navigation beacons, I was already steering the proper course.

But it was years as a contesteer that really prepared me for the no-nonsense, fast-paced world of Air Traffic Control (ATC) communications. I have never been a "big gun" contesteer, but I can hold my own in a 15 meter East Coast-to-Europe run on a Sunday morning.

Over the years, I have been amazed at the number of good pilots I have met locally who do everything they can to plan their flights to avoid having to "work" ATC. Even in the heavily congested airspace between Boston and New York, it is possible to fly a general aviation aircraft between many airports without ever having to talk to a controller. But that restriction can really limit a pilot's ability to do any significant cross-country travel and, in my opinion, also really limits the fun of sharp flying.

The bug to fly cross-country hit me early in my student pilot training after a few trips to New York and Maine from my home base in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In fact, after allowing me to use the radio early on, my instructor told me to always identify myself as a student to the controller after the aircraft call sign. When I asked why, he said, "Because you can talk a lot better than you can fly, so let's help ATC know that!"

Recently, I flew the Piper Arrow directly over Manhattan during the morning rush hour when commuting between Plymouth and Philadelphia. The New York Approach Control frequency sounded like a 10 meter opening at the top of the solar cycle. It was a constant stream of instructions, requests and verifications that many people's lives (including mine!) depended on total accuracy.

I have come to appreciate that good contest and ATC communications have much in common. Here are some of the lessons I have learned.

Your brain should lead your mouth: Always think about what you're going to say before you say it. There's no place for pauses, uumms or filler words after you begin your transmission.

Clear speech is more important than fast speech: Think about what you're going to say and then say it with a pace comfortable for you. In the air and during contests, the amount of information conveyed in each transmission won't have more than a few component parts. Get it right the first time. Repeats waste time and break the pace.

Use proper procedures: Know the terminology, the accepted shorthand abbreviations and standard phonetics. One ham radio-to-airplane habit I had to break -- in the air, it's niner, not nine.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## HAMFESTS

**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.netv

**3 March 2007. Omaha, NE.** SWIARC Hamorama, Westside Community Conference Center, 108th & Grover. South-West Iowa Amateur Radio Club. Talk-In: 146.82-. Contact: Brian Zdan, KM0Y, 4817 Douglas Street, Omaha, NE 68132. Phone: 402-551-5191. Fax: 712-256-7773. Email: BZdan@cox.net <http://K0SWI.org>

## SEVERE WEATHER CLASSES

Mark your calendars for Severe Weather classes. The National Weather Service give two classes on March 15, 2007, at 2:30 and 6:00PM. The location is to be arranged.

More information will be posted as it becomes known. ❖

## CONTESTING...

*(Continued from page 3)*

Pacing is critical during very short transmissions: Listen first and discover the pace of the frequency. Attracting the controller's attention during high-traffic times is almost like busting a pileup. Too quick on the push-to-talk is as unproductive as waiting too long to transmit.

Turn off the ego before you turn on the radio: Here's a lesson that all hams could learn from their ATC cousins. Approach Control is as attentive to a single engine "bugsmasher" as it is to a 747 in its sector. Tempers do occasionally flare on the aircraft bands, but nothing like the snide comments I hear continually on HF. I wish all the big guns would truly respect the little pistols who give them their big scores. And little pistols should know the challenge the guns face when there's a wall of stations calling them. Trust me, I've been at both ends of the pileup: With wires and a Yagi at 40 feet at home, to being part of the J3A team on Grenada in the 2000 CQWW where we scored #3 in the world, I've seen it all.

Fix your toxic audio: When you tell a pilot their audio is bad, he or she usually switches radios or takes some other action. If a contesteer tells you your audio stinks, it probably does. Turning up the processor to cut a wider swath of the band isn't the answer.

You never know just where ham radio can take you. It's taught me so much and taken me all over the world -- even to where I touch the sky.

Tom Hurley, K1TH (ex-WN2ROT, WB2ROT, WD8NL and KC8SR) was first licensed as a ham in 1965 and earned his private pilot certificate in 2001. He and his wife Linda, WB2BYO, reside in Plymouth, Massachusetts. ❖

## SCOUTING AWARD

ARRL WEBSITE

The World Scout Bureau is sponsoring the "Scouting 100 Radio Award" for contacting Scout stations via Amateur Radio during 2007 -- the centenary of Scouting. This international award is also available to short-wave listeners (SWLs). Stations may be worked/logged on all bands and modes including EchoLink and IRLP, and endorsements are available for special modes or bands, such as "All Satellite Contacts" or "All QRP Contacts." Award activity will focus around the international Scout frequencies (in the Americas, use 7270 kHz as the 40-meter SSB frequency; on 80 meters, avoid RTTY/digital DX on 3590 kHz). Contact Scout and Guide stations for points: Ordinary Scout stations are one point, special event Scout stations are 2 points and World Jamboree, Gilwell Park and Brownsea Island stations are 5 points. Logs should be verified as accurate by two other local radio amateurs. Logs should include name, Scout details and age of operator contacted. Female operators may send "YL" instead of age. Participants should submit age when applying for awards. Complete details are on the Scouting 100 Radio Award Web site (<http://www.scouting100award.org/>). ❖

## ATTENTION VES!

MARTIN MATARAZZO, WD6FIC

With the new license changes taking place soon, our VE Sessions will probably be flooded with lots of upgrade applicants.

We test monthly in Joplin and by registration in Neosho; I would like to encourage those General class or higher to join our testing group. I expect that our March and April sessions will be very busy.

If you are VE and not a member of our team or would like to become a VE, please give me a call at 623-0298. ❖

## HAMFEST CANCELLED

INTERNET POSTING

*Editor's Note: I am saddened to learn that Winterfest in Willard, Missouri, was forced to be cancelled.*

*I received two emails that document what caused the cancellation, along with a request for donations to offset some of the expenses occurred. Planning and holding a hamfest requires much work, and hopefully Winterfest will be held next year.*

The 145.49 Repeater Group holds the Winterfest in Willard each year to get money to maintain their repeaters, which are the primary SKYWARN repeaters for Springfield (SGF) NWS area. The current ice storm caused the cancellation of the hamfest yesterday.

As a result, the repeater group has incurred about \$250 in expenses instead of getting the additional funds to help maintain the repeater.

First, I am not connected with the club, just concerned ham who uses the repeater to pass on sever weather reports. I know that any financial assistance would be appreciated at this point. Am guessing they are wondering how to continue repeater maintenance schedules without the anticipated revenue coming in. I plan to send what I can afford to help offset their loss. Think it is least we can do for someone who supports our Emcom work.

If you can see your way through to send them few dollars, maybe just the amount of the entrance fee if you planned to attend, their address is:

145.49 repeater Group  
P.O. Box 567  
Willard, Missouri 65781

Thanks for listening

73 de  
Ron - AG1P

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	2	3 9:00AM—Breakfast
4	5 6:30PM—VE Testing 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	6	7	8 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	9	10 9:00AM—Breakfast
11	12 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	13 7:30PM—Club Meeting	14	15 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	16	17 9:00AM—Breakfast 1:30PM—Neosho Testing
18	19 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	20	21	22 5:30PM—Thursday Night Out	23	24 9:00AM—Breakfast
25	26 7:30PM—Monday Night Net	27 7:30PM—Club Meeting	28			

## Printed Circuit

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### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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#### PRINTED CIRCUIT

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The *Printed Circuit* is the monthly newsletter of the Joplin Amateur Radio Club, a 501-C Non-Profit Corporation.

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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, at 623-0298.

**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.