

The LANDLINE

The Newsletter of the
COPPER COUNTRY RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 217 DOLLAR BAY, MICHIGAN 49922-0217
Visit us on the World Wide Web: www.ccraa.net

Membership: "Time to Join or Renew"

2007 CCRAA membership form is available via
the Web page at <http://www.ccraa.net/start.html>.
Also attached form with this issue of CCRAA newsletter.
Howard(KD8ABP)

FOR SALE:

Wilson tri-band beam \$80. Also, all books going for 50% off. Contact: Stanley F. Strangle, K8NYT at Bruce Crossing, MI (906) 827-3526 or (906) 390-3526 (cell phone)

Web-Site:

The below web address was provide by Gary(K8YSZ)
www.rfcafe.com.

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY:

A program on the FCC's WT Docket 04-140 (Omnibus Band Plan), and their WT Docket 05-235 (Dropping the Morse code) will be presented by Geo., W8FWG

* **AO-51 "Echo"** is now carrier-access: AO-51 "Echo" satellite users no longer need to transmit a 67-Hz CTCSS subaudible tone to enable the satellite's transponder. AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, K04MA, reports AO-51 is now a carrier-access satellite. The change was aimed at improving worldwide access to AO-51, especially from those areas where CTCSS-equipped transceivers are less common. Check the AO-51 operating schedule [<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/ControlTeam.php >](http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/ControlTeam.php) ***before*** using the satellite! -- AMSAT News Service

HAMFEST:

Michigan, Negaunee (FEB 3) Flea Market,Dealers/Vendors
9am-1pm
Hiawatha ARA, Negaunee Township Hall, 42 Hwy M-35.
Swap & Shop, Refreshments, TI 147.270 (100Hz)
Adm:\$4, Tables:\$6
POC: Robert Serfas, N8PKN, 1600 Bayview Dr., Marquette, MI 49855;
906-225-6773; n8pkn@aol.com; www.qsl.net/k8lod/.
QST, January 2007, page 95

Howard(KD8ABP)

HERMAN APRS DIGI RESURRECTED:

Plans were completed recently, reinstalling the APRS digipeater at the Herman site under the call sign of W8FWG-9. New equipment in the form of a KPC3-Plus and an Alinco DR-1200T transceiver (25W output), and battery power supply with charger have been added and the installation completed with the help of Jim Phillips, KC8YTW who used his 4WD pickup to drive right up to the top of the Herman hill on this wintry day!

Thanks Jim! It will fill in a gap that exists between Houghton County and Marquette County, and will provide a needed link to Baraga County. It went into service at 10:30 am EST on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006. It will operate on the Nationwide APRS frequency of 144.390 MHz with 25 W of power output. Our thanks too, to Mark, KC8YDU of Hancock (The "watchdog" of APRS radio in the Copper Country!).....for reporting troubles as they occur on our ever growing APRS system! Thank you, Mark! Your efforts are very much appreciated!

(Submitted by Geo., W8FWG)

==>FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . 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 in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future - whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges

on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminati-ng this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

The Commission further amended Part 97 "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."

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says distribution of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

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The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket

05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

ARLB030: FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB030
ARLB030 FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes

ZCZC AG30
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 30 ARLB030
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 16, 2006
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB030
ARLB030 FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. In a break from typical practice, the FCC only issued a public notice at or about the close of business and not the actual Report and Order, so some details -- including the effective date of the R&O -- remain uncertain. The public notice is located at, http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf.

Also today, the FCC also adopted an Order on Reconsideration, in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding -- agreeing to modify the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. The Commission said it will carve out the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations. Prior to the long-awaited action on the Morse code issue, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. The Commission said today's R&O eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants.

"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 said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirement across the board, however, and it held to that decision in today's R&O.

Perhaps more important, the FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the R&O goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they've passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the R&O in the Morse

code docket would eliminate a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees. Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained," the FCC said in its public notice. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall. A number of countries, including Canada, no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. The list has been increasing regularly.

The FCC said today's R&O in WT Docket 05-235 comports with revisions to the international Radio Regulations resulting from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Typically, the effective date of an FCC Order is 30 days after it appears in the Federal Register. That would mean the Morse requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely not go into effect until late January 2007.

The ARRL will provide any additional information on these important Part 97 rule revisions as it becomes available.

NNNN
/EX

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Page author: wlaw@arrl.org

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HAM TEST SCHEDULE POSTED:

The 2007 V.E. Exam Test schedule is posted on the CCRAA's web page at www.ccraa.net. Please note that for the year 2007, the CCRAA/HARC Club will be providing only TWO test sessions per year, instead of the usual four. The other clubs will continue to provide a minimum of four, per year. Special arrangements can be made, however, by calling the V.E. Team Liaison to ARRL (George, W8FWG) at (906) 337-

2542, or sending your request to him at w8fwg@arrl.net . The good news is that the testing fee will remain the same as last year, \$14 per applicant.
Source: Geo., W8FWG)

CHU:

Canadian time standard operating on 7335 KHz.

In April 1, 2007, CHU needs to stop operating, change frequencies, or re-license

Contact radio.chu@nrc.gc.ca or mail CHU Canada K1A 0R6," and

This outreach is to collect information from users of CHU to help shape recommendations concerning what should be done concerning changes to CHU that will have to be in place by April 2007.

In April 2007 the license on 7.335 MHz will have to be modified to reflect changes on the status of the band allocation by the International Telecommunications Union. This frequency has been changed from "fixed service" to "broadcast". (The ITU decision does not affect the frequencies 3.33 MHz and 14.67 MHz.)"

Geo., W8FWG

OMNIBUS BILL UPDATE:

==>FCC CORRECTS J2D ERROR IN "OMNIBUS" REPORT AND ORDER

The FCC this week released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding. As originally worded, §97.3(c)(2) inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter.

Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC Erratum

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-268642A1.pdf

revises §97.3(c)(2) of the Amateur Service rules going into effect December 15 to read:

"Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having i) designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, 1 as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol; (ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted."

In its comments on the proceeding, the ARRL argued that a 500-Hz bandwidth limitation in the definition of data emissions would have unintended consequences because the limitation would also apply to Amateur Radio bands where a higher bandwidth is allowed. In its R&O, the FCC said relaxing the bandwidth limitation "would de facto eliminate the separation of narrow bandwidth and wide bandwidth emissions," which it called an "reasonable means to minimize interference on shared frequencies and bands."

The Commission said in the running text of the R&O that it would address the League's concern by revising the Part 97 rules "to clarify that the 500 Hz limitation applies only to the emission types we are adding to the definition of data when transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies below 30 MHz." Unfortunately, the language of the intended revision that appeared in the original version of the R&O inadvertently included J2D emissions among those to which the 500-Hz bandwidth limitation would apply.

The FCC incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the version of the R&O that appeared November 15 in the Federal Register <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-19189.pdf>>. The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST (0501 UTC).

The Amateur Radio frequency allocation chart

<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>> and the ARRL Band Plans <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html>> on the ARRL Web site have been updated to reflect the band changes. Revised FCC Part 97 Amateur Service rules reflecting all changes detailed in the FCC Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140, also are available <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>>. The charts below reflect the old band plan as well as the changes that went into effect December 15.

75/80 METERS	OLD 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
40 METERS	OLD BAND PLAN	NEW BAND PLAN
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
15 METERS	OLD BAND PLAN	NEW BAND PLAN
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

==>AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES AWAITING LAUNCH, DEPLOYMENT

The GeneSat-1 satellite <<http://www.crestnrp.org/genesat1/>>, which carries an Amateur Radio payload, now is set to launch Saturday, December 16, at 1200 UTC from Wallops Island, Virginia. The launch window extends to 1530 UTC. Problems with testing of TacSat-2, the primary Minotaur launch vehicle payload, forced NASA to postpone the launch from December 11. A collaboration of NASA Ames Research Center, industry and local universities, the GeneSat-1 CubeSat will transmit AX.25 1200 bps FM/AFSK telemetry on 437.075 MHz.

Additional information on GeneSat-1 and other CubeSats is on the Amateur Radio Information and Support for CubeSats Web site maintained by Ralph Wallio, W0RPK <<http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm>>. Rocket launches from the Wallops Flight Facility are available live via the Web <<http://www.wff.nasa.gov/webcast/>>, starting approximately 30 minutes before launch.

The space shuttle Discovery carried four other ham radio payloads to the International Space Station for deployment later this month. Discovery launched December 9 and now docked with the ISS. The spacecraft <<http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/ande-raft-ops.html>> will be released into space from the ISS on December 20.

The ANDE (Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment), RAFT (Radar Fence Transponder) and MARScom satellites all contain systems involving student projects. Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy's Satellite Laboratory designed and built RAFT and MARScom plus the ANDE communication package under the tutelage of Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. The fourth satellite, FCal (Fence Calibration satellite), was built at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) It contains an Amateur Radio CubeSat for communications and telemetry.

The Amateur Radio payload within the ANDE satellite will contain two independent AX.25 packet command and telemetry systems. The primary system will operate like PCsat and PCSAT2, providing telemetry and supporting 1200 bps packet communication (ie, digipeater operation) on 145.825 MHz. The secondary will operate on unpublished frequencies.

Bruninga says midshipmen had to rebuild the ANDE communication package from scratch after the finished modules "burned to a crisp" the day before it was due for delivery when a heat-chamber thermostat failed. "This project has taken multiple years to complete and the current team has taken the work of past students and moved forward with it," he explained.

RAFT-1 will have a PSK31 uplink passband of 28.117 to 28.120 MHz as well as a UHF telecommand uplink. The 145.825 MHz uplink/downlink frequency will support 1200 bps packet.

RAFT also will provide a 217 MHz transmitter/receiver for the NSSS radar fence experiments. Radio amateurs will be able to listen to the signal as the satellite crosses the National Space Surveillance Satellite Network (NSSS) radar-tracking system.

MARScom will operate on Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) frequencies. It will feature UHF AM and 148.975 MHz FM uplinks and a 27.965 MHz SSB downlink.

FCal's downlink frequency will be 437.385 MHz (AX.25 AFSK 1200 bps packet). It will identify as KD4HBO.

COPPER COUNTRY RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION
December 5, 2006 meeting minutes.

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by president Glenn-WA8QNF.
- II. Members and Guests present:

Paul-W9VLM	Gavrielah-KD8CTL
Andy-N8ZBJ	Richard-K6IPC
Glenn-WA8QNF	Micheal-K9SJ
Paul-KC8FLK	Gary-K8YSZ
George-W8FWG	Kevin-KC8TRX
Virginia Thurner	Milly Kangas
Mark-KB9RQZ	
- III. November meeting minutes were approved.
- IV. Treasurer's balance-\$2996.
- V. Committee reports: George was only reporter. Everything at clubhouse ok. VE-April and September will be test months.
- VI. The final vote on the surplus property policy passed by unanimous vote. It is now in order.
Motion was made by Paul-KC8FLK , 2nd by Gavrielah-KD8CTL.
- VII. President Glenn asked for Volunteers to be on the election committee. No takers.
- VIII. Next meeting, January 2, 2007 at Dollar Bay Fire Hall, 7:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 PM

Everyone in attendance enjoyed all the food for the Christmas party.

Respectfully submitted
Andy-Secretary(N8ZBJ)

Next meeting Tuesday January 2, 2007 – Dollar Bay Fire Hall, 7:00pm

The “**LANDLINE**” is published monthly by the **Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, Inc.** Contributions for use in the LANDLINE, relating to the amateur radio service and to the CCRAA are welcomed at any time. Please submit your contributions directly to the editor, and they should be received by the 25th of the month before the meeting. Material received later may or may not make it into that issue. The LANDLINE Editor is Howard F. Klann, KD8ABP.If you have a question or a comment I can be reached at:: (906) 337-2168 or E-mail to: msgklann@pasty.net. Club Members receive E-Mail copies sent by Howard, KD8ABP. Complimentary copies to other radio clubs and the E-mail copies are handled by George, W8FWG. Please refer any delivery problems to the Editor (Howard, KD8ABP) at (906) 337-2168/ Fax (906) 337-0599. To find out more about the CCRAA Inc. or the Amateur Radio Service, please contact one of the officers listed below or write to the **CCRAA, POB 217, Dollar, Bay, MI 49922-0217** or visit us on the web: **www.ccraa.net** **Ask for our new FREE booklet for new prospects to ham radio, for your friends who may be interested in ham radio. It's available in Adobe E-Mail format or via USPS.**

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