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North Shore Radio Association News



member

WINTER 2007

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www.nsradio.org

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Meetings: second Monday of the Month (September to June) at 7:30 P.M., at the South Congregational Church, 60 Prospect Street, Peabody, MA (talk-in 145.470/R)
Weekly club NET: Sundays at 20:30 (8:30 P.M.) on the 145.470MHz PL of 136.5 Danvers Repeater

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENTS ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23...

(This is from ARRL Bulletin 5, From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT January 24, 2007)

To all radio amateurs SB QST ARL ARLB005 It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23. Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination.

Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules.

It is on the web in PDF format at, <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a

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Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became 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 had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>. NNNN/EX

Re: FCC CHANGES TO LICENSE STRUCTURE & MORSE CODE REQUIREMENTS...

As noted in the ARRL article, two changes specifically affect NSRA members:

1. Everyone who currently holds a Technician class license can use High Frequency (HF) privileges previously reserved for Novice and Tech Plus licensees as of midnight (ET) February 22, 2007. For those who don't know the Morse code, this offers the opportunity to use SSB and Digital modes on a segment of the 10 meter amateur band. While we are on the low end of the current solar cycle, this band is still very useful and occasionally opens in spite of no one thinking it might. If you do know Morse code, the other CW sub bands noted in the article are active and available to you to help develop your skills.
2. For those who currently hold a Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) and / or Element 4 (Extra) written examination elements, you can apply for an "instant" upgrade to the corresponding License Class through one of the Volunteer Examination Coordinators (VEC). NSRA currently sponsors VE Sessions with certified ARRL/VEC examiners each month where you can submit your request for upgrade. The next applicable VE Session is February 24, 2007. For that session, your CSCE must have been issued February 23, 2006 or later to be valid.

If you hold a CSCE issued before February 23, 2006 it cannot be used for the automatic upgrade. You must pass the examination element again to qualify for the License Upgrade. And anyone who successfully passes the Element 3 or Element 4 examination from this point will be granted a License Upgrade.

As a final note, the General Class License question pool is due to be revised Ju1y 1, 2007. The current question pool will be in use through June 30 of this year. Information about this and other question pools are available on: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>

- By George Johnson, W1ZT



ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OKAYS REVISED BAND PLANS FOR 80/75, 40 AND 15...

The ARRL Executive Committee approved revised band plans for 80/75, 40, and 15 meters developed and recommended by the League's Band Planning Committee. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the Band Planning Committee "did a commendable job" stepping into the breach caused by the FCC's unexpected 80/75 meter decision in the so-called "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140.

"In the case of 80/75 meters, it is an interim plan, subject to change if the FCC acts favorably on our Petition for Reconsideration," Sumner said (see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/11/100/>). The lower edge of the Amateur Extra 75-meter phone band shifted to 3600 kHz as of December 15.

The League wants the FCC to rectify an "unintended consequence" of that expansion by moving the narrowband/wideband boundary on 80/75 meters to 3635 kHz.

ARRL Vice President and Band Planning Committee chair Rick Roderick, K5UR, says his panel considered members' input in developing the changes the committee recommended. He notes that the Committee received nearly 900 comments.

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



IN MEMORY OF WARREN “BUD” HARTMAN, Jr, W1LN...

Warren Ainslee “Buddy” Hartman, Jr, beloved husband of 39 years to Louise “Dolly” Hartman of Beverly passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday January 9th at Salem Hospital.

Bud was employed for many years as an electrical engineer at the Raytheon company. Upon his retirement from Raytheon, he founded his own technical consulting firm, AT COMM of Marblehead.

Bud a long time resident of Beverly, was very active in his free time, often in the pursuit of helping others. He was a member of the Civil Defense Ham Radio Operators and the North Shore Radio Association. He was also a trained and licensed EMT

From NSRA member, Eric Hortwitz - The Bud I know would help you in any way he could...He would help with radio stuff.. He would always come to NSRA events with a smile... He was the lead car in the Public Service Labor day Cape Ann Run Around the Cape Road Race for as many years as I can remember.. and he never need to be reminded the event was coming he would just BE there... He was always around to help NSRA with our VE exams for a few years now as well and he would come even if he was not feeling great. He would always come to Field Day for VE exams and Then back later in the day for Dinner.

He will be missed by all....

NSRA EVENT COMMUNICATION TEE SHIRTS

Thank you to all who purchased a t-shirt. I still have some shirts left (sizes XXL, and XXXL - no XL's). The price has been reduced to \$10, and, if you would like to purchase more than one shirt, I can make the offer even better! Those 2X's and 3X's would fit wonderfully over a winter jacket, or foul weather gear! Please don't hesitate to send me an email if you're interested. Remember, all proceeds will be donated back to the NSRA. Thank you again

~Gordon, Kx1kty
kx1kty at nsradio dot org

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS...

The Exams are being held on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Danvers Central Fire Station on High Street. E-mail W1ZT at nsradio dot org for information

Upcoming NSRA Exam Dates:

February 24, 2007

March 24, 2007

NORTH SHORE ARES/SKYWARN NEWS...

Winter may have been relatively calm and mild to date, but that has not held back our ARES/SKYWARN leadership from undertaking a few projects. First off, a special thanks to all amateurs that woke up during the early morning explosion in Danvers on November 22. Even though no deployment or official activation was required, keeping our team in stand-by for 15 hours proved that we were ready should deployment have become necessary. The activation report has been posted to the NSARES yahoo group for all ARES members to read.

Under the direction of Gordon – KX1KTY, our Operations AEC, we are moving forward with the development of our Simplex QSO Techniques. As many of you are aware, our most recent SET Drill did not go

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overly well, as we were not able to communicate via simplex. By holding scheduled Simplex QSO's, the first of which was held on January 28th prior to the NSRA net, we hope to determine who can best be heard via simplex to effectively pass messages in and out of the North Shore area. All of this activity will culminate in a Simplex Drill to put our best plans into practice. If you would like to participate in these exercises, or would like to volunteer as a relay station or net control station for our area, please contact us, we welcome your involvement.

The team has also begun production of the North Shore ARES Operations Manual. It is our hope that this manual will be used as a reference to the major operations conducted in our area: from severe weather to full-blown deployments. It is being compiled from various existing sources such as the ARRL, FEMA, as well as some original material. If you have any suggestions for the manual, please contact Matt – KB1MRH, our administrative AEC who is leading this project.

Other projects on the table will be the development of a call-up procedure to help during a major incident with little or no advanced notice, development of a database of ARES members' equipment and capabilities, and much much more. If you have a suggestion for the ARES team, again please let us know. By working together through the leadership, we can continue to be a successful team capable of anything that may arise.

Finally, as we start 2007, we are looking to assure that information in the EMA ARES database is updated and that if you've taken training classes that information is included. Please take the time to make sure your contact information is correct. Also, if you have taken training and it's not in your ARES record or you have started a training record and have not updated your record recently, please take the time to do so. The database is very easy to find on the Eastern Massachusetts ARES web page; <http://ares.ema.arrrl.org>. On the Main Menu, it is labeled Eastern Mass ARES Registration form and database. This will take you to the page where new ARES folks can register and existing ARES members can update their information. You can also reach the database by clicking Join Us on the Main Menu of the Eastern Mass. ARES web site.

As always, if you are interested in joining ARES, would like to join the NSARES yahoo group, or have any questions about the program, please contact us by e-mail at ares@nsradio.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Jim Palmer, KB1KQW
North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator
North Shore Asst. SKYWARN Coordinator

OUT AND ABOUT WITH AL...

A thought or two on CW, the new lack of testing and dropping of the same.

Everyone knew it was coming, no surprise here.. the age of CW has long passed. The Coast Guard dropped monitoring and using CW in their operations way back in 1967... I was there...when no one came up on the net to take traffic on the mighty Navy destroyer I was on at the time. My response "thanks for telling me-I hadn't been told."

The ham bands are, happily alive with CW and contests and ragchews are plentiful...and will remain that way for the rest of my life I am sure, then it's up to the next generation...We must show, tell and share with others so they have the opportunity to enjoy CW and in that context it may go on for a long time.

Of course I and just about everyone else has embraced the digital age... each day it continues to

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fascinate and challenge me on what else could possibly be done...Push button ease, solid state reliability, day in day out...continue to razzle dazzle with speed, performance reliability etc...well you get the picture, I am sure...BUT I am reminded of a mindset, performance standard, and concept that we don't always need speed and sharp -right-on-the-mark performance...maybe it can just be fun and there is where CW has its place.

Last point, on a recent visit to a modern Aegis cruiser while docked in Boston, I had the chance to talk with the IT's (new rating Information Tech) in the Navy which replaced the Radioman rating, (but interestingly kept the old four sparks on the rating badge.) After a discussion on what the Radioman did and worked with all types of message handling including my early days as a seagoing CW operator, one of the nice young crewmembers, said wow, "your days in our Navy were sure interesting with lots to do from tuning transmitters to working CW.. Now we have a reliability and security you could only have imagined. But the extent of our work is sitting by a computer terminal monitoring the router and switching station on the ship. Times have changed.

As reported at the NSRA January meeting on my attendance at the New England ARRL cabinet meeting this January, I found it interesting on what matters, and has the ARRL attention:

- The ARRL concern they are not getting through to the FCC on issues and matters important to the Amateur radio operator and there inputs.
- The concern continues with BPL even to the point the ARRL has taken the FCC to court on a issue.
- That BPL is coming to Mass. next stop, this summer for BPL, is Concord, Mass.
- That, happily, new growth in Ham radio new members, and decline has stopped, small growth but its here.
- Emergency management and Skywarn are strongly supported, and no place more so then the North Shore and the NSRA, Director Frenaye said.
- And finally, Boxboro 2006 was a big success and even more events and goodies are planned for the next Boxboro in 2008.

73's

Al Prudhomme, Jr. W1DUW

NSRA Repeaters

- All the following repeaters has the club callsign of **NS1RA**
- 145.470- Danvers (PL of 136.5), full functions including phone patch.
- 146.880- Salem, (PL of 118.8)
- 223.880- Danvers (PL 136.5)
- 442.800+ Danvers (PL of 136.5), full functions including phone patch
- 53.850- Danvers (PL 71.9)

All CTCSS tones on repeaters have the option to be turn off if needed. Dial "11" to turn off so that a non PL user can use the repeater, Please remember to turn PL back on with the code of "10"

Digipeaters

- 144.390 in Danvers, APRS Digipeater under the Call of NS1RA-1

144.390 in Beverly, APRS IP-Gate, Callsign of NS1RA-2

Go to to the APRS page for more information on this mode.



REPEATER STATUS...as of 12-19-06...

53.850 (-)	PL 71.9	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
145.470 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
146.880 (-)	PL 118.8	Salem	OPERATIONAL — PL REQUIRED
223.880 (-)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL
442.800 (+)	PL 136.5	Danvers	OPERATIONAL - NO FUNCTIONS
144.390		Danvers APRS	OPERATIONAL
144.390		Beverly I—Gate	DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE: The 145.470 and 442./800 Danvers repeaters have been moved to the temporary trailer until the new site is ready. Please direct any questions to tech at NSRADIO dot org. Thanks

What Does a Ham Operator Do?

What does a ham radio operator do
Besides talk from here to Katmandu?
Through conversation and mannerisms this he helps to fulfill.
When emergencies arrive, making most people nervous,
The amateur operator steps up for community service.
From his hands to others messages arrive,
Informing the public what we need to service,
Health and welfare communications are given for free.
From races, walks, and bike tours annually.
Continually vigilant, never looking for glory,
This is the amateur radio operator's story

James H. Cavanaugh

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FROM THE EDITORS...

If you like what you see and would like to contribute an informational article, cartoon or other ham related information, the deadline for the next newsletter will be April 1st. Please send your information to LB1LPW and KB1LYJ at newsletter at nsradio.org.



PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR...

Requests have started to come for Public Service Events for 2007. Also please check the website for additional events. If you are interested in helping out at any of these events, please contact: Eric at KA1NCF@nsradio.org

DATE	EVENT	EVENT INFORMATION
Saturday, March 4th	North Shore 30K Beverly, MA	Running race around Beverly
Sunday, April 29th	YMCA Ring Around the Neck Marblehead, MA	Running race around Marblehead Neck
Sunday, May 6th	Walk for Hunger Boston, MA	<i>On our list to help get Hams,. Check out http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net for more information</i>
Saturday, June 9th	ADA—Tour De Cure bike ride Cape Ann Area	Bike ride for diabetes
Saturday, June 22nd to 24th	FIELD DAY—Endicott Park. Danvers, MA	Annual Field Day event
Monday, July 3rd	Horribles Parade Gloucester, MA	Prade in Gloucester
Tuesday, July 4th	Manchester-by-the-Sea July 4th Parade	Parade in Manchester, MA
Saturday, July 21st	Blackburn Challenge	Rowing Race around Cape Ann, Gloucester, MA A great day on the water
Sunday, July 22nd	Reid's Ride—bike Ride from Lynn, Ma to Gloucester, MA	Bike ride for a Cancer charity
Monday, September 3rd	YMCA Cape Ann Run Gloucester, MA	Running races around Gloucester area
Saturday, September 8th	Cycle 4 Life Marblehead Ma to Ipswich, MA	Bike ride for cancer
Sunday, September 9th	Beverly Triathlon Beverly, MA	Swim, Bike Ride run, triathlon
Saturday, September 15th	Special Olympics Bike ride Topsfield, MA	Bike rin in the Topsfield area
Weekend, October 19th of 21st	Head of the Charles Regatta Cambridge MA	Contact Jeff at K1EMS at nsradio.org
Sunday, November 25th	Santa Claus Parade Gloucester, MA	Parade in Town

