

telstar



THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTHTOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

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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. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February.

"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 Report and Order. "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 FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees
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January meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 4 at the Hamburg Youth Center (corner of Prospect and Hawkins Avenues). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

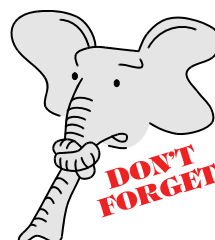


We look forward to seeing you there!

Time to Renew

Thanks to those who have already renewed (over half of the membership has!). To the other half...don't forget to renew *your* membership. STARS continues to be one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area, but we need each of you to continue to help keep us great.

A renewal application was included in the November Telstar and is available for download on our website at www.wb2elw.com



Send the completed application along with your dues check made payable to STARS to:

Judy Levan N2TEZ
120 University Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043-2874

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone is having a safe and happy Holiday season and the warmest wishes for a Happy New Year to you and your families. At our annual Christmas party on December 7th, we had about 25 members and special guests. It seemed to me that everyone had a wonderful time and I don't think that anyone went home hungry.

Now the New Year is here, we at STARS can start looking forward to another year of fun and educational club activities. I am still looking for ideas for speakers or programs for 2007. At this writing we do not have anything scheduled for January or February. If you can help out with filling some of the program openings in the upcoming months it would really help out, we need your ideas.

With all the Christmas rushing around and the unseasonable mild weather (no snow for Christmas) you may have forgot to send in your renewal for 2007. We are very proud of all the activities that the Club has to offer our members. One of the best newsletters in the Atlantic Division, 2 operating positions at a contest quality HF station, a summer picnic, Christmas party, Field Day activities, two repeaters, all for \$21 a year. It is my hope that all of you keep supporting the Club and get more involved.

I want your ideas for this upcoming year, so please feel free to make suggestions, this is your Club.

Sincerely,

Robert (KA2WYE) Koster
President

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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 eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

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 CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed, "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the ARRL 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. The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade.

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/>



STARS has been designated a Special Service Club by the ARRL.

Visit STARS on the web at
www.wb2elw.com

January Contests

- ARRL RTTY Roundup -- 1800Z Jan 6-2400Z Jan 7 (see Dec 2006 QST, p 99).
- North American QSO Party -- CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Jan 13-0600Z Jan 14. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For information: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.
- NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint -- sponsored by the North American QRP CW Club from 0130Z-0330Z Jan 18. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060. For more information and the yearly contest schedule: www.arm-tek.net/~yoel.
- Winter Field Day -- all modes, sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) from local noon Jan 13 to local noon Jan 14. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. For more information and bonus points: www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php.
- 070 PSKFest -- sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS) from 0000Z-2400Z Jan 13. Frequencies: 80-10m. For more information: www.podxs.com/html/pskfest.html.
- ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes -- 1900Z Jan 20-0400Z Jan 22 (see Dec 2006 QST, p 98).
- North American QSO Party -- Phone, 1800Z Jan 20-0600Z Jan 21. For information: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.
- CQ WW 160 Meter Contest -- CW, sponsored by CQ Magazine from 0000Z Jan 27-2359Z Jan 28 (Phone is Feb 24-25). For more information: www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html.

January Special Events

- Jan 11-Jan 17, 0100Z-2359Z, St Croix, USVI. Family Radio Club, KU9UUU. 513th Anniversary of the Discovery of the US Virgin Islands. day 14.332 14.260 eve 7.235 7.046 - all 3905 Century Club Nets SSB & CW. QSL. J.M. Zacher, 39W345 Central Dr, Elgin, IL 60124.

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be downloaded from the club website or obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$15.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month plus the \$5 initiation fee).

Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members who are joining ARRL for the first time or who are renewing their membership should send their ARRL membership forms to Jack Cullum KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

- Jan 13-Jan 15, 1500Z-2100Z, Atlantic City, NJ. Southern Counties Amateur Radio Association, K2BR. Absecon Lighthouse (ARLHS # USA-001) 150th Birthday. 21.260 18.160 14.260 7.260. QSL. SCARA, PO Box 121, Linwood, NJ 08221. CW contacts on request. mysite.verizon.net/vzpepb0rn
- Jan 14-Jan 15, 1400Z-0000Z, Wall Township, NJ. Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club, N2MO. From the Amateur Radio/MARS station at the historic Diana Site, to commemorate "Project Diana," the first ever successful moon bounce experiment. Gen and Nov/Tech subbands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m. Certificate. OMARC Inc, PO Box

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will be holding test sessions during 2007 however specific test dates have not yet been determined. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact John Crawford KB2VWC at 649-5933.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on a quarterly basis. For information on or to pre-register for Lancaster exams, call Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031. Pre-registration is required.

ARATS will be hold test sessions on the first Saturday of the month (except when falling on a holiday weekend, when they will be on the second Saturday) starting promptly at 10AM at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman Street. Walk-ins accepted, pre-registration is highly recommended. For information on or to pre-register for ARATS exams, call Vic Godzik K2YW at 694-9738 or email k2yw@hotmail.com.



PROS holds test sessions as needed at 585 North Star Road, East Aurora. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

The 8th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day was held on December 2nd, 2006. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

At the Buffalo office of the NWS, operators made 326 QSOs in 38 states, including 34 other NWS offices.

Among the operators at the event were STARS members John Leitten KA2RFT, John Czuba W2IV and Judy Levan N2TEZ.

You can find out more about what NWS offices participated and how to get a QSL card at: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

Club Nets



STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZX Memorial HF net meets at 10AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM. Bob Lehning WA2YSJ is usually the net controller.

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267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. *For QSL send SASE. Certificate also available, send 9X12 SASE and \$1USD; \$2USD and no SASE. www.omarc.org

- Jan 27-Jan 28, 2000Z-2000Z, Jefferson City, MO. Mid-MO Amateur Radio Club, W9C. 90th anniversary of the first transcontinental relay of formal message traffic by Willis Corwin, 9ABD. CW 14.035 10.113 7.035 3.535. Certificate. Kent W. Trimble, K9ZTV, 2210 Heartland Rd, Jefferson City, MO 65109. www.mmccs.com/mmarc
- Jan 27-Jan 29, 1400Z-0200Z, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem Radio Amateur Club (Edwards AFB), AL7LS. 40th anniversary of the movie "Hot Rods to Hell," released January 27, 1967. 14.315 7.273 pkt 14.105 7.105. QSL. Bruce Rossi, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Why not consider adding one of these to your list of resolutions...

- Take part in more STARS' activities
- Volunteer for community service
- Be an elmer to someone
- Come to the STARS Meeting and bring a friend
- Become a VE
- Clean up the ham shack

CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input) with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Use a PL of 141.3 for the Nike Base remote receiver. STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 output/input with a PL of 107.2 Hz). The club UHF repeater is location near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect and Hawkins Avenues) at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome. Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:30PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATION

The club Nike Base HF station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena.

Ham Radio Trivia

Test your knowledge with these questions taken from the QRZ.COM trivia website.

1. In what year did QST Magazine first appear?

a. 1901	c. 1915
b. 1910	d. 1920

2. In what year did Alexander Graham Bell patent the telephone?

a. 1876	c. 1900
b. 1883	d. 1859

3. In what year was the first U.S. amateur radio license issued?

a. 1850	c. 1912
b. 1940	d. 1901

4. In what year was the NOVICE class license introduced?

a. 1951	c. 1960
b. 1955	d. 1961

5. In what year did the ARRL form?

a. 1899	c. 1914
b. 1902	d. 1922

6. In what year were 1x3 'K' prefix callsigns first issued in the continental U.S.?

a. 1951	c. 1958
b. 1953	d. 1960

7. In what year did Alessandro Volta construct his electric cell?

a. 1785	c. 1795
b. 1789	d. 1799

8. In what year did the first International radio regulations go into effect?

a. 1896	c. 1917
b. 1912	d. 1924

9. In what year was the USA 'W' callsign prefix first introduced?

a. 1909	c. 1927
b. 1912	d. 1934

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-c, 6-b, 7-d, 8-b, 9-c