

CQ Chatter

Volume B2•Issue #9

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

FEBRUARY 2000

P. O. Box 534, Bowling Green, OH 43402

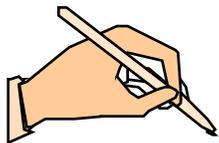
<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

President-AA8XS, John Lagger
Secretary-N8QMV, Esther Creps

Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman
Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton

A Note from the Editor

Well, the shoe finally dropped. The FCC has issued the Report and Order on the restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service. Issued two days before the turn of the millennium, the decision has excited many but disappointed others. The FCC has decided that Amateur Radio needs only three separate classes of operator license, Technician, General and Amateur Extra. They also bowed to strong public pressure to relax the Morse code requirements, stating that "proficiency in the Morse code no longer represents the technical expertise needed to become an amateur". Taking the "least burdensome" requirement of 5 WPM as the only code requirement for hf operation, the FCC has made a lot of people happy. This means that those Tech+ or Elder Tech (pre March 21, 1987) licensees have a straight path to the General license and hf operation. The former group has to pass element 3B (the General written test) and the latter group has merely to file an application and pay a fee for the upgrade. Those holding Novice licenses will stay in that class with the same privileges. Those holding Advanced class tickets will also remain as they are. The last group can of course upgrade to Amateur Extra by passing element 4B (the Extra class written exam).



What is disappointing about the ruling is that the ARRL's ambitious plan to "re-farm" the old Novice segments of the hf bands to phone privileges for the higher level classes was totally disregarded by the FCC. That action would have, in many eyes, helped alleviate some of the aggravation and frustration that results from overcrowded phone bands. If you don't believe me, try listening on 20 m some Sunday afternoon.

The other thing I found somewhat disappointing was the lack of recognition by the FCC that our hobby should encourage the experimenters and the tinkerers. The "wireless" rage that is sweeping the computer jockey community should be music to the ears of any ham. Why not get people into the hobby through that enticement? Just a thought.

73 de Bob

**WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130
147.18 & 444.475 MHz**

**Club Meeting:
Monday, February 14th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

Scholarships Available

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D. C., plans to administer seventy-three scholarships for the academic year 2000-2001 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully fund ten of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining sixty-three are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and

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**Last Chance to
Renew Your
Membership**

February Contests

The full contest line-up for the month of February includes the following:

Jan 29-30	0600 to 1800 UTC REF (France) CW	160 to 10m
Jan 29-30	1300 to 1300 UTC UBA (Belgium) SSB	80 to 10m
Feb 5-6	0000 to 2359 UTC Vermont QSO party	160 to 10m all modes
Feb 5-6	0000 to 2359 UTC New Hampshire QSO party	160 to 2m all modes
Feb 5-6	1300 to 0700 UTC Maine QSO party	160 to 70cm all modes
Feb 5-6	1700 to 0100 UTC (0500 to 1300 off) 160 to 10m Delaware QSO party	all modes
Feb 6	0000 to 0400 UTC North American sprint	80 to 20m CW
Feb 6-7	1600 to 0400 UTC Freeze your ---- off QRP	80 to 10m all modes
Feb 12-13	1200 to 1200 UTC PACC (Netherlands)	160 to 10m all modes
Feb 13	0000 to 0400 UTC North American sprint	80 to 20m SB

Pagers Available

A quantity of voice pagers is available to members of RACES/ARES at a small fraction of the original cost. The estimated total cost of the pager with crystals is \$35.00. This is a one-time charge and there is no monthly service fee. The pagers have been purchased and were re-crystalled, so they should be available soon. If you would like to be alerted to local emergency situations quickly, a pager fills the need ideally, and is a really good deal cost-wise. One of the objectives stated by the WCARC President, Larry Reitz, is to have all Wood County RACES/ARES participants equipped with pagers so that quick call ups can be made in time of emergency. For further information, please contact Larry WA8CWD, at (419) 837-2202. ◇

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Feb	1	N8QMV
Feb	8	AA8XS
Feb	15	KG8FH
Feb	22	WD8ICP
Feb	29	N1RB
Mar	7	N8QMV

FCC acts on restructuring

reprinted from ARRL Special Bulletin---

Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. On Dec. 30th, the FCC issued its long-awaited Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97--more commonly known as "license restructuring". The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 wpm.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians and electronics experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General Class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who quali-

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Feb 19-20 0000 to 2359 UTC ARRL DX CW	160 to 10m CW
Feb 26-27 0600 to 1800 UTC REF (France)	80 to 10m SB
Feb 26-27 1200 to 2359 UTC both days North Carolina QSO party	160m to UHF all modes
Feb 26-27 1300 to 1300 UTC UBA (Belgium)	80 to 10m CW
Feb 26-28 1400 to 0200 UTC YL-OM 'test	80 to 10m CW

Hamfest Calendar

Jan 30	Tusco ARC	8am to 1pm
Ohio National Guard Armory, 2800 N. Wooster Ave., Dover, OH. Contact Billy Harper, KB8CQG (330) 484-4634, bharper@neo.rr.com		
Feb 13	InterCity ARC	7am to ??
Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, OH. Contact Pat Akerman, N8YOB, (419) 589-7133.		

HF Rig For Sale

Yaesu FT-101B w/ digital read-out accessory installed
10 through 160 meters
Astatic Silver Eagle D-104 mic
Asking \$200 or best offer
Contact Chuck WD8ICP
352-0856

---scholarships---continued---Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter of QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2000, from:

FAR Scholarships
P. O. Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is a tax exempt organization. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

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fied for the Technician class prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be "refarmed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not refarm these subbands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated a "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 wpm Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges.

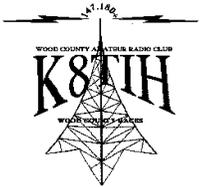
In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 wpm code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. "After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide emergency communications," the FCC said.

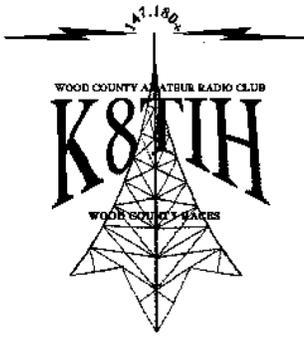
The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written (Technician) examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra--especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Advanced licensees. Between now and April 15th, current Advanced holders may take the existing element 4B, a 40-question test, giving them credit for having passed the current Extra written examination. Likewise, holders of a CSCE for Elements 3B or 4B dated on or after April 17, 1999, will be able to qualify for General or Amateur Extra, respectively, when the new rules go into effect on April 15, 2000. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>.

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WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402





WOOD COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 534
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Regular-\$10===Family-\$15===Senior/Student-\$5
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

DATE _____ ARRL MEMBER? Y____N____ DATE OF EXP. _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CALL _____ CLASS _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW SSB PACKET RTTY FM DX MOBILE QRP SSTV ATV EME SAT

Interests: Traffic DX Contests Foxhunts Satellites Nets Antennas

Computers Emergency ARES/RACES Skywarn Classic Radios

Do You Own a Computer? Y____ N ____ If yes, what operating system (check)?

DOS/Windows____MAC/OS____IBM/OS2____Linux____Other_____

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y____ N ____ If yes, what class? _____

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see? _____

What type of equipment would you like to see the Club purchase? _____

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer _____

General Comments _____

Signature _____ Date _____