

CQ Chatter

Volume B2•Issue #12

Wood County Amateur Radio Club

MAY 2000

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

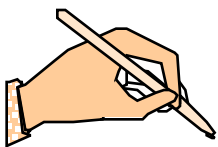
<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

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A Note from the Editor

The upgrade rush is on! From time to time, XYL Linda and I help out with the TMRA VE exam sessions in Maumee. These sessions meet every second Saturday of the month at the Community Center, and are managed by Ross, NS8C, a long-time member of WCARC before he moved out of the area. Apart from being a significant date for tax



purposes, April 15th was also a red-letter day for hams. It was the first day that amateurs could upgrade under the new licensing system. Ross knew that there would be a huge turnout, so he enlisted every

VE in Northwest Ohio that was still alive and kicking. That is how we happened to be there that day.

As promised, the turnout was larger than it has ever been for one of these exam sessions; in fact, there were no exams administered that day. Everyone who had the proper credentials in the form of a license or a CSCE was upgraded to a higher class. Ross estimated that around 75 persons took advantage of the "first day" opportunity.

If you are eligible for an upgrade, but have not yet had a chance to get processed, the next VE session in Maumee will be on May 13th. It is a good idea to contact Ross beforehand so he will know to have enough supplies. Some further details on what is required are given in a short article on page 3.

The activity on the HF bands definitely increased that first weekend, and has continued to hold strong, as many upgraded licensees take to the short waves and experience first hand the thrill of DX. To my mind, there is no greater excitement than making a contact with another ham on the other side of the world with 100 watts to a dipole, a feat that is entirely feasible on just about any HF band in these times of high sunspot numbers. If you have been frustrated by the code requirements for higher class privileges in the past, it now only takes 5 WPM--give it a try!!

73 de Bob

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

**Club Meeting:
Monday, May 8th
Location: Fairgrounds
Time: 7:30 pm
Social Hour: 7:00 pm**

FCC Says Advanced Subbands Not for Generals

The FCC says a lot of newly upgraded General class licensees have begun asking if they may operate in the current Advanced class subbands now that the new amateur rules are in place. "The answer is: Absolutely not," said the Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. "No privileges changed for any license class."

Cross pointed out that the Advanced class license did not cease to exist under restructuring, which went into effect April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. He said current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, at which point they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals are not entitled to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs under the new rules.

Cross cautioned newly upgraded licensees to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. "Now that they've gotten the license, it's time to look at the real rules," he said.

--continued on page 2--

May Contests

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

Apr. 29-30	0000 to 2359 Z	80 to 10m
County Hunters Contest		SSB
Apr. 29-30	1300 to 1300 Z	160 to 10m
Helvetia (Switzerland) DX		all modes
Apr. 29-30	1700 to 1700 Z	HF-VHF-UHF
Nebraska QSO Party		all modes
Apr. 29-30	1800 to 1800 Z	HF-VHF-UHF
Ontario QSO Party		all modes
Apr. 29-30	1800 to 2400 Z	80 to 10m
Florida QSO Party (0400 to 1400 off)		all modes
May 6-7	1800 to 2100 Z	HF-VHF-UHF
Mass. QSO Party (0400 to 1100 off)		all modes
May 6-7	2000 to 2000 Z	160 to 10 m
ARI (Italy) DX 'test		all modes
May 6-7	2000 to 2000 Z	160 to 2m
Conn. QSO Party (0400 to 1200 off)		all modes
May 6-7	0000 to 0600 Z	160 to 6m
Nevada QSO Party		all modes
May 6-7	0000 to 2359 Z	HF-VHF-UHF
Oregon QSO Party		all modes
May 6-7	1800 to 2300 Z	HF-VHF-UHF
Indiana QSO Party		all modes
May 6-7	2100 to 2100 Z	160 to 10m
CQ-M DX 'test (Russia)		all modes
May 13	1500 to 1859Z	160 to 10m
European Spring Sprint		SSB
May 20-21	2100 to 0200 Z	80m
Baltic Contest		all modes
May 20-21	1400 to 2200 Z	80 to 2m
Texas QSO Party (0500 to 1400 off)		all modes
May 27-28	0000 to 2359 Z	160 to 10m
CQ WPX		CW

WCARC

Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

May 2	WD8ICP
May 9	N1RB
May 16	N8QMV
May 23	AA8XS
May 30	KG8FH
June 6	WD8JWJ
June 13	WD8ICP
June 20	N1RB
June 27	N8QMV

June 3-4 1400 to 1400 Z 6m
IARU Region 1 'test all modes

Hamfest Calendar

Only 1 hamfest worth going to this month--

May 19,20,21 Dayton Hamvention
Hara Arena, Dayton, OH. Contact (937)276-6930
or visit: www.hamvention.org

Amateurs further are reminded that in order to apply for upgraded volunteer examiner privileges or for a vanity call sign reflecting new license status, a licensee first must have been issued an upgraded license grant by the FCC. Interim privileges conveyed by a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--or CSCE--are insufficient for these purposes.

Revised FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site at
<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>.

The FCC today released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year. ■

NWS Has New Severe Weather Plan

--*excerpted from Worldradio*--

The National Weather Service has unveiled its long-awaited nationwide version of its Storm-Ready program. StormReady is a code of principles and techniques the National Weather Service claims will better prepare Americans to face severe weather from floods to hurricanes. It was developed by the NWS office in Tulsa, which has been running the pilot program for a year in eastern Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas.

StormReady encompasses just about everyone in a given municipality who is involved in severe weather prediction and emergency preparedness. The plan includes hams and CB radio operators.

To be designated StormReady, a community must have a 24-hour warning system in place as well as an operational emergency operations center. It must also have more than one method of alerting the public in case of a storm and have a weather monitoring system. A public readiness program involving seminars and exercises is also required.

The program calls for regional advisory boards to examine cities that want to participate. A StormReady designation will have to be renewed every two years. The National Weather Service hopes that many cities across the nation will become a part of StormReady. This means even more chances for amateurs to provide public service to their communities. ■

RESTRUCTURING: PROVING YOU DESERVE AN INSTANT UPGRADE

excerpted from Newline--

It's been just about a week since the restructuring of the Amateur Service took place and the rush for instant 5 word per minute credited upgrades to General is on. These upgrades are available only to pre-1987 Technician class operators who passed the old exam that consisted of the Novice 5 word per minute CW and the General class theory exam. But there are a lot of old time Technician hams who cannot seem to find their original licenses and are wondering what to do.

According to W5YI VEC operator Fred Maia,

W5YI, proving you deserve an instant upgrade is not as hard as many seem to think. And if you have a computer and web access, it's as easy as logging on:

One option is to go to the QRZ website, www.qrz.com. Fred Lloyd, who operates it has posted a 1993 FCC data base there. It has much information on hams licensed in 1987 and before. If you don't have web access, another way might be to visit a library, do a bit of research and a bit of photo-copying. Maia says that if you can photocopy a page from a 1987 or earlier Callbook--that and your current ham license should suffice with most -- though maybe not all -- VEC teams. ■

Anybody Know the Frequency?

A new movie involving amateur radio has made its appearance. According to the *ARRL Web Extra* movie editor, "Frequency is an imaginative fantasy based on the complex relationship between fathers and sons." The movie stars Dennis Quaid, who plays the dead firefighter father from the '60s. It should be hitting the theaters at about the time you receive this issue of CQ Chatter.

The basic premise of this sci-fi thriller is apparently communication between the son, played by Jim Caviezel, and his dearly departed father on the ham bands during the peak of the sunspot cycle. It seems you have to stretch things a bit to include propagation through the time warp.

Never one to miss an opportunity, the ARRL believes that this movie will provide a public relations chance for local ham clubs. "Any ham club which can get it together to give demonstrations of ham radio in action in front of theaters playing *Frequency* should get a lot of interaction from the crowds leaving the movie. Since a number of equipment manufacturers are offering prizes for the best ham demo, and since it's a very entertaining film, any club with the ability should make arrangements ASAP for a 'movie field day'. There is a terrific PR opportunity here."

If you get a chance to see the movie, let me know what you think. One ham who saw it is quoted as saying that of all the "ham" movies he has seen (e.g., *Contact*), *Frequency* provides the best example of what the thrill of ham radio really is all about. It is a must-see film for all amateurs. ■

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