

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR



EDITOR'S DESK

Roy Hadden, KB8VJF

Welcome to the year 2000! Well, we made it without major incident. I didn't fill the bath tub with water, stock the basement shack with Spam or fill the cars' gas tanks with fuel. I only did a couple minor things like fill one jug with drinking water and made sure the backyard grill had propane. I've been meaning to get to that one for some time anyhow. The only other Y2K-related thing that I did was check-in to the C.A.R.S. special event net that started just before midnight on New Year's Eve. If there were a communication emergency, I would have left the party and

helped out where needed. Thankfully, all was going well and I could refill my glass a couple more times. It sounds like the net was a success with many more check-ins than the weekly net.

My only post-Y2K suggestion is to hit those garage sales and pick up cheap batteries, voltage inverters and generators. You may have to wait until after February 29; most of the avid Y2Kers will hold on until then.

One final note from the Editor: Please do not send membership renewal dues to the newsletter editor. All money should be send to:

Judy Crane, KC8FHE
C.A.R.S. Treasurer
6531 Tanglewood Lane
Seven Hills, OH 44131



TREASURER'S REPORT

Judy Crane, KC8FHE

MEMBERS ONLY - This article has been edited for the on-line version of the newsletter. C.A.R.S. members may request the full version of the newsletter by sending a request to the editor.

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VE NEWS

Gary Dewey, N18Z

New Rules for Amateur Radio

The FCC issued the "Final Rules" for Part 97 the "Amateur Radio Service" during the last week of 1999. There will be much discussion among the amateur community while everything is put into place. That will be April 15, 2000 which is the effective date the rules take place. For those that are not aware of the rule changes, here is a brief summary of what is supposed to take place.

First of all, there will be only a 5 wpm continuous wave International Morse Code requirement to allow amateurs to use the 3.5 Mhz to 24 Mhz High Frequency portion of the spectrum allowed for ama-





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(Do not send dues to this address!)

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teur radio use. Gone is the 13 and 20 wpm requirement.

Next, there will be only three license classes; Technician, General, and Extra. This means, though, only these three classes will be available for upgrade and new license. The Novice, Tech Plus and Advanced license class is eliminated from any new test after the effective date. Although, according to the FCC no existing licensee will lose any privilege as far as to the frequency spectrum their current license allows. The new rules now allow for a VE with an Advanced license to grade all except Extra class tests.

Basically that is it.

Now as the VEC for the C.A.R.S., this is my take on the changes. The changes were made to make it easier for the FCC to administer Amateur Radio licenses. Amateur radio needed a modification. Six license classes were too many. The Morse Code tests were too restrictive for most amateurs plus the governments military no longer required radio operator skills in CW. The International community still had the CW requirement so it stayed in the requirements for the time being.

We now still have the Technician class which is the No Code entry to amateur radio but restricts frequency usage to above 30 Mhz. The Technician class has been the fastest growing class in amateur radio. The Code test at 5 wpm for entry into the amateur radio service is the same as it has been to get to the HF spectrum. Now if a Novice or Tech Plus takes two written tests, they can have access to all of the HF spectrum. The General and Advanced need take only one written test to have the same spectrum as an Extra Class licensee. The written tests will have 35 questions for Technician, 35 questions for General and 50 questions for Extra. The passing grade has changed from 70 per cent correct to 75 per cent. That is the gist of the new rules.

I am expecting in 2000 there will be a flurry of testing activity. Please check our testing schedule located in this newsletter.

For anyone wishing to look at the FCC's full detail for the rules check out their web page at <http://www.fcc.gov/DailyRelease/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt>.

January VE session report

The January 2000 VE session, held on the 9th, was the largest turnout ever. Sixteen individuals came and took 25 elements of testing material. Thanks must be given to the VEs who came to provide their skill and time to handle this examination; Tom Wayne, WB8N; Dale Harper, KC8FAQ; Roger Boehnlein, N8TCP; Ed Celestin, WB8BOJ; and Greg Kopp, KG8O.

Eight individuals took the test to be ready for the April 15th rule change. Five new Extra class and Three General class upgrades will occur as a result of the new rules. In addition, there will be five new Technician class licensees.

The VE crew has agreed to provide addition testing times, one in February and another in April. See that information under the VE testing dates.

Congratulations are in order to three of our C.A.R.S. members who successfully received their CSCE for future upgrade.

There are lots of questions that have been asked regarding the new rules. Most of the questions and answers can be found on the ARRL webpage. Check out <http://www.ARRL.org>.

Due to the increased interest in upgrading, anyone wanting information on tests times or wishes to come to a VE session, please call me at least a couple of weeks prior to a C.A.R.S. VE test date. So far, our sessions have not had any problems with overcrowding but if we get more than 20 individuals at a test, we may have to set that as a limit due to space at the

TownHall and run a second session. Walk-ins are accepted, however they will be subject to space limitations and placed in the second session if 20 individuals have reserved space for the first session.

C.A.R.S. Volunteer Examinations

The test schedule for the year 2000 Volunteer Examinations have been scheduled. The location of all Amateur Radio Examinations will be 6652 Brecksville Rd, Independence at the Independence TownHall.

The examinations will be held on the Odd month [*Editor: Exceptions noted below*], second Sunday at 9 am. The dates for your planning calendar ---

January 9
Feb 20th (* Special Session *)
March 12
Apr 2nd (* Special Session *)
May 14 (Tentative)
July 9
September 10
November 12

The cost of taking the test will be \$6.65. Everyone taking a test for a new license or an upgrade must bring a valid picture I.D. The original and a copy of their license, any CSCEs are necessary.

Bring an ink pen to fill out the new 605 form plus 2 pencils with erasers for the written tests. Everyone fill out the new 605 form should have their social security number.

Contact NI8Z, Gary Dewey at 216-642-1399 or email to gdewey@en.com for further information and special request.



DEATH NOTICE

Tom Wayne, WB8N

The father of Phyllis Collins KC8DVL, passed away this past Wednesday, January 5, 2000. For those of you that don't know, Phyllis is a board member of C.A.R.S. and is net control of the Wed. evening nets.

K8ZFR



FROM THE PREZ'S SHACK

Tom Wayne, WB8N

Y2K, HERE WE COME!

Happy New Millennium to everyone! As I write this, the electricity is working, the banks are working, the water is flowing from the taps, and everything seems to be running 5x5 as they say in radio talk. As many of you are aware, on New Year's Eve there was a net on the 146.82 repeater just in case anything occurred out of the ordinary at the stroke of midnight. Phyllis Collins KC8DVL was net control and had at least 50 check-ins, all reporting that everything seemed to be fine business. I felt that everything was going to be all right, after watching the reports from various parts of the world as they brought in the new year, including Russia, England, France, Italy and so on. I figured that if good old Russia didn't have a problem, neither should the good old U.S. of A. Would have been sort of embarrassing if we did though, don't you think?

As well as our net, there was a net on 146.76 as well and the amateur radio stations at both Brecksville VA Hospital and Wade Park VA Hospital were manned as well as one or two persons at the Cleveland Red Cross chapter, so I guess all bases were covered if needed. I want to thank everyone who checked in on the net and those that took their time to man the locations I mentioned.

I have to admit that I was ready for at least a minor breakdown of sorts. I had extra batteries for flashlights, hand-held batteries all charged up, with alternative power supplies at the ready, and an extra propane tank for the gas grill. Now I guess I will have to empty the 25 gallon jugs of water I have stored in the basement. Oh well...better to be safe than sorry, I say. Now if I can only find a way to get rid of all the cans of Spam. (Just kidding.)

OBJECTIVES FOR 2000

The new year opens up opportunities for C.A.R.S. I would like to see us increase membership, and everyone can help with that. Talk to your ham friends that do not belong and invite them to a meeting. Talk up the advantages of belonging to a hip and happening radio club. There is the bus to Dayton, the C.A.R.S. hamfest, our annual field day operations, meetings in the park, participation in several public service events, the total use of the club repeaters with full access to all the functions available to members only, and of course the camaraderie of the great C.A.R.S. members themselves.

I would like to see more of the members at the monthly meetings. If you have not been to a meeting for awhile, make an effort to attend soon. You may meet members you didn't know before, as well as seeing those you had not seen in awhile.

I would like to see participation in club activities by more of the membership as well. The club is only as strong as you make it, by getting involved. I know that your time is very precious, with work, family, and other obligations. You may belong to more than one ham club, or to other organizations that hold monthly meetings, but hopefully you joined C.A.R.S. for a reason other than helping to support the repeater.

Get on the air more often. Of all the members that belong to C.A.R.S., I only hear a relative few using the repeater. Sometimes I wonder why some became hams in the first place, since they never seem to get on the air. Your FCC license awards you certain privileges...use them, or we may lose them.

Go to Dayton. If you have never been to the Dayton Hamvention, this is the

perfect year to do so. The ARRL National Convention is going to be held in conjunction with the hamfest, and the combination should prove to be an exciting event! There will be a C.A.R.S. sponsored bus to the Hamvention which makes attending very easy.

MEETINGS FOR 2000

As in the past, meetings will be continued to be held at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room, on Ridge Rd., just west of Pleasant Valley Rd. with meetings starting at 8:00 p.m. We hope to have some interesting programs for the meetings, and so far have scheduled Bob Winston W2THU, who is an elected official of the ARRL representing the Ohio section, to speak to us at our January meeting. If you are not a member of the ARRL, perhaps you should think about joining, and maybe Bob can twist your arm a bit.

For February We plan to have a presentation on traffic nets and traffic handling by someone representing one of the traffic nets. Not sure who at this time. In March, we hope to have a good showing of members, as we have a man coming to take digital photos of those that would like to have a photo C.A.R.S. ID badge made. He has offered a discount for us if we have enough members interested. You can see my badge at the January meeting to get an idea as to what yours would look like.

We need some ideas and input from you as to what you would like to have at future meetings in the way of programs. Let us know and we will try to implement your ideas.

MORE TO COME...

I would like to see C.A.R.S. move into the new millennium with gusto! As re-elected president for 2000, I will try my best to work in the best interest of the club and it's membership, and I know that the other officers, re-elected and newly-elected alike, will do so as well. In order for us to do our best for you however, we need your support and help in the various facets of club operation. That means getting in-

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volved, giving us your ideas, and helping C.A.R.S. to become even bigger and better than we are already!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Don't forget the weekly club net on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The net is held every Wednesday except for meeting nights. Check in, even if just to say hi. The more the merrier. Also, don't forget to pay your annual dues to renew your membership. If you get the newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service, the date for renewal is on the address label. If you get the newsletter electronically, Judy KC8FHE should be notifying you when it comes time to renew. If in doubt, check with Judy at the next meeting, or give her a call.

If you have e-mail service other than Juno or some other (*text-only*) E-mail, give your e-mail address to the newsletter editor, Roy Hadden KB8VJF, so you can start receiving the newsletter electronically. This will save the club 33 cents (*plus copying costs*) per month, which adds up to almost \$4.00 in postage per member! We can use the money towards equipment to keep the repeaters up and running and getting new equipment when necessary.

Regarding the newsletter, do you have something you want to get off your mind regarding the club, ham radio in general, or ham related subjects? Do you have a ham story to relate, a new mode you have tried? Tell us how you went about upgrading, about a project you built. If you have been a ham for a long time, relate to us some stories from the past. Sit down and start typing. It really is not hard to do. Send your composition off via e-mail, U.S. mail, or whatever other means you desire, to Roy Hadden KB8VJF to newsletter@cars.org.

FCC RESTRUCTURES AMATEUR LICENSING

Well, they have finally "gone and done it", as the song goes. The FCC has announced their license restructuring for amateur radio. It is a little different than we all expected, and may upset some of us, but in the long run I think it will be good

for the hobby in general. Gary Dewey NI8Z has more on this in this issue. I can see that our VE licensing exams will busier than ever.

73FN (best regards for now)

That about does it for this month my fellow hammies. See ya at the meeting, and hope to talk with you on the air.

de Tom, WB8N



FCC ENFORCEMENT

Greg Kopp, KG8O

This is from the ARRL FCC Enforcement Logs, 12/15/999 PARMA, OH: The FCC sent a Warning Notice November 30, 1999, to Technician licensee Darren M. Turk, KC8CYG, citing monitoring evidence alleging that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with radio operations of repeater systems belonging to the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association." The FCC said the interference has occurred at various times since March 1999 and includes "interference by random touch tones and by the dialing of telephone numbers for the purpose of bringing up the telephone carrier intercept message and off-the-hook announcement." The FCC said the interference also included unidentified transmissions. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth warned the licensee that operation of the type described would not be tolerated and that additional incidents could result in a fine, license revocation proceedings, and seizure of equipment.



ARRL LETTER CLIPS

From the ARRL Letter

Vol. 19, No. 2 January 14, 2000

by The American Radio Relay League.

QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE EYES FEBRUARY 1 RELEASE DATE

A revised Amateur Radio question pool that reflects the April 15, 2000, restructuring rules could be out by February 1. Chairman Ray Adams, W4CPA, of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee says the QPC is in "band aid" mode right now and will try to get "something usable into public domain for all three of the new written pools by February 1 or very shortly thereafter."

Adams says that a Technician class syllabus already has been drafted and approved. The various QPC members have been keeping in touch by telephone and e-mail since the FCC announced the restructuring rules December 30.

"We will go back over the newly configured pools, refining them and updating in a methodical manner with the order to be decided by the NCVEC when next in session," Adams said this week. He said the revised question pools will follow the established format.

After April 15, 2000, the FCC will only issue Technician, General, and Amateur Extra class licenses. Novice and Advanced licensees will retain current operating privileges and may renew indefinitely. Applicants desiring HF privileges will only have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The new licensing regime has four examination elements: Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test; Element 2, a 35-question Technician test; Element 3, a 35-question General test, and Element 4, a 50-question Amateur Extra test.

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Frequently Asked Questions on restructuring are available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html/>. A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

ARRL ASKS FCC TO RETHINK PARTS OF PRB-1 PETITION DENIAL

The ARRL wants the FCC to declare that its limited federal preemption policy known as PRB-1 applies to amateurs who live in areas governed by deed restrictions, covenants, CC&Rs, or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. In a Petition for Reconsideration, the League has formally asked the FCC to rethink its November dismissal of a 1996 ARRL Petition for Rule Making. That petition called on the Commission to expand and clarify PRB-1.

In November, the FCC said PRB-1 excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as “outside the reach of our limited preemption,” although it strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to “follow the principle of reasonable accommodation” with respect to Amateur Radio. But the FCC drew the line at proposing specific rule changes to bring private restrictive covenants under the umbrella of PRB-1.

In asking the FCC to rethink its November Order, the League said the FCC’s disclaimer “is no longer a valid premise” and no longer accurately reflects FCC jurisdiction over private land use regulations. Since the advent of PRB-1 in 1985, the ARRL pointed out, the FCC has made it clear that it has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The

League asserts the same principle applies to Amateur Radio, in which the FCC has said it has a “strong federal interest.”

The League called on the FCC to clarify that PRB-1 applies to private land use regulations, leaving hams free to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with local homeowners’ associations just as they do now with governmental land use regulators.

The League also asked the FCC to provide some relief from “prohibitive and excessive fees” that localities might impose on amateurs for permits and fees. The ARRL said that such costs can be “the functional equivalent of a prohibition of amateur communications” and asked the FCC to state that “excessive costs associated with land use approvals fail the ‘reasonable accommodation’ and ‘minimum practicable restriction’ tests of PRB-1.”

A copy of the ARRL’s Petition for Reconsideration is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/prb-1/prb1-recon.pdf>

IN BRIEF:

* Obtaining documentary proof of pre-1987 Technician ticket: The FCC says to send any requests for verification of a pre-March 21, 1987, Technician license in writing to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, ATTN: Amateur Section, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The request must include name, address, telephone number, date of birth, call sign issued at that time, and when the Technician license was granted (if exact date is not known, give the approximate timeframe). The FCC asks those inquiring to include any information that may be helpful in researching these requests, but it does not need to know details of the examination session, such as where the test was administered or who gave it. “These requests must be researched on microfiche,

so they will be very time-consuming,” an FCC spokesperson said, adding that no one should expect an overnight response. You also may contact the FCC contractor ITS Inc (visit <http://www.itsdocs.com/>). For a fee, ITS will research prior FCC licensing records and should be able to provide necessary documentary proof.— FCC

* QRZ.com offers look-up service for pre-1987 Techs: In response to numerous recent requests by amateurs seeking to obtain information regarding licenses that existed before 1987, QRZ has placed a copy of the March 1993 edition of the QRZ Ham Radio CDROM Ver 1 on line for public access. This collection, the oldest available from QRZ, contains listings of more than 195,000 licenses issued between 1983 and 1987. Call sign and name searches are available. Visit <http://www.qrz.com/search1993.html> .— QRZ.com/Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ

* FCC shifts license color: The ARRL has learned that the FCC’s Gettysburg office has begun issuing new Amateur Radio license documents on blue paper instead of the beige stock that hams have become accustomed to for many years. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau personnel say the new licenses are printed on whatever color “safety paper” stock they have available. “Our policy/procedure is to print all licenses on safety paper, so they can be easily identified as our official documents, but we don’t have a requirement as to the color,” an FCC spokesperson told the ARRL. “When the last shipment was received they were blue.” The change apparently has nothing to do with the recently announced FCC license restructuring.

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PARTY PICS

Gary Dewey, N18Z



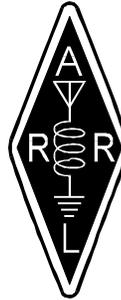
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THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

January, 2000

CLUB FREQUENCIES

70cm repeaters	443.825 MHz	Input 448.825 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
	444.750 MHz	Input 449.750 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
2m repeater	146.820 MHz	Input 146.220 MHz PL 110.9 Hz
2m simplex	146.475 MHz	
2m digipeater	145.070 MHz	Node CARS or K8ZFR
6m repeaters	53.010 MHz	Input 52.010 MHz PL 136.5 Hz
	53.830 MHz	Input 52.830 MHz PL 107.2 Hz
Internet	http://www.cars.org	



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2000
 Busch Community Room
 7501 Ridge Road
 South of Pleasant Valley
 Parma, Ohio
 Meeting starts at 8:00 PM



Time to renew your membership?
 Check the expiration date on your address label.



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 (Do not send dues to this address!)

