



QSP



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February 2007

February Meeting
February 23rd at
7:30 PM Peter's
Science Hall at KWU

2007 Storm Spotting Classes for the Surrounding Area

Host is Virgil NØXRS

While some (most?) of in the local area know when the Salina Storm Spotter class is, here's the schedule for the surrounding area.

Inside this issue:

Minutes of the January Meeting	2
VE Report & Treasurer's Report	3
CKARC Board Meeting Changes	3
New Emergency PR Campaign	4
Vanity Call Processing Resumed	4-5
No Code License Status Update	5-6
Misc. Ramblings	7
Sideband Net Time Change	8
ARES Group gets Call Sign - KCØZLL	8

- March 5 Herington, KS 7:00 PM CST
 Community Building
- March 6 Concordia, KS 7:00 PM CST
 Community College
- Time Change to CDT March 11, 2007
- March 12 Abilene, KS 7:00 PM CDST
 Civic Center
- March 14 Salina, KS 7:00 PM CDST**
 Nickell Barracks 2929 Scanlon
- March 15 McPherson, KS 6:30 PM CDST
 Community Building
- March 15 Minneapolis, KS 7:00 PM CDST
 Ottawa County Court House (Minneapolis)
- March 27 Lincoln, KS 6:30 PM CDST
 Lincoln High School
- April 3 Ellsworth, KS 7:00 PM CDST
 Evangelical Free Church

Minutes of the CKARC Jan. 26, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Sid, NØOBM, Vice President at 7:30 PM in the absence of the President, Mark, KBØMQX, who was out of town.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag and a round of introductions with 28 members and guests present.

Minutes for the December meeting were approved and second as printed in QSP.

Marty, KGØMT, gave treasurer's Report, Moved and seconded as read.

Ron, WAØPSF, reported that the repeaters were both working and also would like someone to take over as the club trustee. Volunteers encouraged, we do ask that you have an Extra Class license to be considered for this position.

EC report by Sid, NØOBM,

The Saline County Storm Spotter Class for 2007 will be at The Nickell Barracks 2929 Scanlon Avenue, (the same location as the past few years) on Wednesday **March 14th, 2007 at 7:00 PM.**

The testing session that is scheduled for March 14th at 7 PM with the CKARC Board meeting to follow will most likely be re-scheduled (*to March 7th, 2007 ed*)

Old business

Club Dues are now past due for those that have not already paid for 2007. \$15.00 per year.

Mark is still looking for help with membership drive and is also looking for members to serve on the field day committee.

New Business

Club voted in a new member Ron McIntyre, KDØMU.

Welcome Ron to the club, when you see him or hear him on any of the local repeaters.

Bob Blaeuer, of the Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a visitor to the meeting, requested that we keep October 20 and 21 of 2007 open to participate in the 50th Annual Jamboree-On-the-Air.

Program by Dan, AAØTT, on the Mars Odyssey Probe [may some day be DX]

Meeting adjourned. 8:08 PM

Secretary: Alvin, WØME

VE Report

At the Feb 3 W5YI-VEC Exam session, we had Two for testing, both from Derby, Ks. Derby by now has one new Technician and one Tech who has now passed his General Written exam. We also had 6 VE's present for the exam session.

Feb 14th Test Session: 9 folks took tests. 5 New Technicians, 1 Did not pass Tech, 1 New Upgrade to General (was Tech Plus), 2 Passed the General Written and will be back in March for an Admin. Upgrade, and 2 Attempts at Extra (both did not Pass). Great Session!

The March Test session will be March 7th, rather than on the 14th to avoid conflicting with the Storm Spotter Training. As usual, CKARC Board meeting will follow the Test Session at 7:30 (or later as required for the testing).

CKARC Treasurer's Report

Due to computer problems in the Treasurer's household, the February Treasurer's Report was not available at the time this issue of QSP went "to press".

The Treasurer's Report will be presented at the February CKARC Meeting.

CKARC Board Meetings

While this change was actually made a month ago, it was not announced at that time. Until further notice, the Monthly CKARC Board meeting will start no earlier than 7:30 PM if no candidates show up for a testing session. If there are candidates for testing, the CKARC Board meeting will follow the end of the Test Session, but not start prior to 7:30 PM.

The March 2007 CKARC Board meeting will be on March 7, 2007 after the Test Session, but no earlier than 7:30 PM.

League Rolls out Emergency Radio Public Relations Campaign, Web Site

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 30, 2007 -- "Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through for your family and community" is the theme of the League's 2007 public relations campaign. The "Emergency Radio" Web site debuted this week. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the 2007 emergency communications initiative pick up the momentum ARRL public information officers started during the just-ended "Hello" campaign.

"As we begin launching the new emergency communications campaign, the friendships and good will developed in Hello will aid in future promotions of Amateur Radio," Pitts said. "For 100 years, radio in its many forms has saved lives and aided in crises. We have a great legacy and a bright future."

Pitts says the new Web site is a partner to the "Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through for your family and community" brochure now available and, in fact, already starting to make the rounds. "If an emergency or disaster should happen, the new 'Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through' site has the capability to quickly upload current information, providing PIOs with words and pictures to circulate to the media while the event is still news," he explained.

As both the brochure and the "Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through" Web site note: "Amateur Radio . . . has consistently been the most reliable means of communication in emergencies when other systems failed or were overloaded." The campaign stresses that ham radio works and works well and it doesn't require any external infrastructure, such as telephone lines or even the Internet, to get the message through.

The Web site provides page space for emergency communication and disaster relief organizations to tell about their work. "So far, SKYWARN, MARS, SATERN and RACES have taken advantage of our offer, showing the versatility of ham radio in disasters and emergencies," Pitts says, "and more are expected." One page on the Web site and in the brochure cite examples of the varied emergency communication role of Amateur Radio. It supports National Weather Service forecasters through SKYWARN, and it helps relief agencies communicate in the wake of hurricanes and tornadoes -- such as the devastating 2005 hurricane season and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In addition, the campaign emphasizes, ham radio is fun and a good way to keep in touch with friends or family. "You can have this capability for yourself and your family," the campaign points out, inviting members of the general public to get an Amateur Radio license and become active in emergency communication through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or other organization. A "How to Get Started" tab on the Web site offers step-by-step instructions.

FCC Now Processing Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Backlog

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 9, 2007 -- The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8 -- five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption.

The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System (ULS) vanity application software to accommodate a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign. The FCC has continued to accept new vanity applications and to process vanity renewals. According to a WTB staff member, speaking on background, the Commission could wrap up backlog processing and be back on track by next week.

"We've resumed processing, and by next week we'll be caught up," said the staffer, who conceded that the FCC's ULS software had not been fully tested to ensure it could deal with the multiple-applications issue when the new rule's December 15 effective date rolled around. "We knew the date was coming, but the software wasn't quite ready." The staff member indicated the Commission could complete processing of applications that have been sitting in the queue as early as Monday, February 12. Under normal circumstances, vanity applications submitted on January 22 would have been issued February 9.

The Commission just today removed the January 11 ULS Web site advisory announcing the new vanity call sign processing hiatus. So far, the WTB appears to have granted some 125 vanity call sign applications submitted between December 18 and December 22. Another 500 or so applications remain in the queue.

The FCC this week also issued a public notice to announce the formal implementation of the multiple applications rule, §97.19(a)(1), effective February 8. The notice said the ULS would limit individuals to filing only one vanity call sign application on the same day. "In the case where an applicant files multiple vanity call sign applications on the same day, only the first-filed application will be considered for the process, and the additional applications will be dismissed," the FCC said. "This new process will eliminate the possibility of an applicant having more than one application for the same call sign being considered on any one day."

The WTB staff member told ARRL that while the FCC knew the ULS software wasn't ready to handle multiple applications on December 15, it went ahead and processed vanity application receipts for December 15, 16 and 17 after determining that no one had filed multiple applications on those dates. The December 18 applications did include at least one such application, however.

"Once we received multiple applications for the same call sign, we knew we had to suspend processing," the FCC staffer explained.

The Commission is likely to receive an avalanche of new vanity call sign applications after February 23, when elimination of the Morse code examination requirement is expected to spur a massive influx of license upgrades.

The FCC is processing new vanity call sign applications now in the queue in the order they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

Code-Free Upgrades NOT Available Until Feb. 23

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 5, 2007 -- Code-free upgrades to General or Amateur Extra will not be available at volunteer examination sessions until the 5 WPM Morse code requirement disappears from the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules on February 23. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that, judging from the questions he's been getting, many in the amateur community -- including some Volunteer Examiners (VEs) -- don't fully understand the new rules and privileges resulting from the FCC's *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235.

He stresses that VE teams may *not* accept upgrade applications in advance of February 23, then hold the paperwork for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit

"There will be no instant midnight upgrades February 23 for applicants advancing to General or Amateur Extra," Henderson explains. "You must make application." He further advises that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) valid does *not* confer any operating privileges and, lacking Morse code credit, is no good for an upgrade until the new rules become effective.

"Anyone holding or earning a valid CSCE for element credit must wait until February 23 to redeem it at a volunteer examination session," he says. "You may *not* operate as /AG or /AE *until* you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade." A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, *no exceptions*.

Henderson further emphasizes that those who qualified as Technician licensees under the examination regime in place from March 21, 1987, until April 15, 2000, do *not* get General class Element 3 credit on that basis. For starters, he says, the "old" Element 3 is not the same as the current Element 3.

"When the Novice and Advanced examination elements went away, the FCC renumbered the elements," he explains. "Those who passed Element 3 from March 21, 1987 until April 15, 2000, qualified for the Technician license, and the exam was not the same as the current Element 3 General element test."

Applicants upgrading at a test session on or after February 23 on the basis of a valid CSCE must present the certificate for element credit, fill out an application and pay any applicable exam session fee, which most VECs charge. Between now and then, Henderson points out, upgrade applicants still have the option of passing the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test in addition to the General or Amateur Extra written tests.

Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination automatically gain new privileges on February 23 *without* having to apply at an exam session. But they're the only ones. On that date, all Novices and Technicians will have equal privileges on HF: CW on parts of 80, 40 and 15 meters, and CW, SSB and data on parts of 10 meters.

Test sessions at 12:01 AM Friday, February 23, have been scheduled at ARRL Headquarters and in many other locales to handle upgrade applications as well as those taking an exam element for the first time. W1AW will be on the air that weekend to welcome newly upgraded licensees to the HF bands.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) reports that business has been very brisk since the FCC announced the new rules dropping the Morse requirement for any Amateur Radio license.

"We're avalanched," said Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O. "Sessions are going onto the schedule fast and furious. They're all waiting for that magic date of February 23." ARRL VEC has hired extra personnel to deal with the anticipated post-February 23 application onslaught.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says the VEC typically schedules some 5500 exam sessions a year. By the end of January, some 3500 were already on this year's calendar with more pouring in every day. Sales of ARRL Amateur Radio licensing materials also are up dramatically.

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.

Misc. Ramblings

The Kansas-Nebraska Radio Club is seeking nominations for the **Kansas Amateur of the Year**, if you feel that you know someone that should be considered, please submit their name & call sign with a short description of why to the Kansas-Nebraska Radio Club.

The Ararat Amateur Radio Shrine Club's annual **HAMBASH 2007** is rapidly approaching. This year it's on April 21, 2007 at the Ararat Shrine Temple, 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, Mo. Table reservations or other info: Steve Dowdy, WJØI 12411 Olive, Kansas City, Mo. 64146 816-941-3392 email is sdowdy@kc.rr.com.

Anyone interested in working with the Boy Scouts of America's Coronado Area Council as a Merit Badge Counselor - or in helping to teach a Radio Merit Badge workshop, please contact Sid, NØOBM for further information.

CENTRAL KANSAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 2493
Salina, Ks. 67402-2493

Phone: 785-823-6560
Fax: 785-823-6560
Email: N0OBM@centralksarc.com



<http://www.centralksarc.com>

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH QSP IS MAR. 15, 07**

KS. Sideband Net back to Normal Time

Effective with Friday night's net on Feb. 16, 2007, the Kansas Sideband net returns to its normal 6:30 PM Local time 7 days a week. Due to poor propagation, the net had been running from 5:45 PM to 6:00 PM, on 3.920 MHz (plus or minus QRM).

Daylight Savings Time off to an Early Start this Year!

Just an early reminder that Daylight Savings Time has been extended this year. Starts on Sunday March 11, 2007 and ends on November 4, 2007

New Ham in Town?

If you hear a new call sign of KCØZLL, it's the Saline County ARES new Call. Now that Vanity Call sign processing has resumed, it's likely that this will change soon. Stay Tuned!