



# QSP



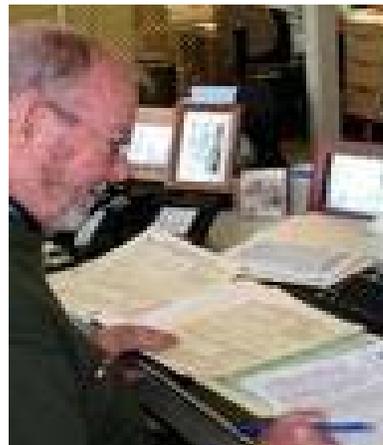
March 2007

## Advisory to Amateur Radio license/upgrade applicants: Use your FRN!

(Mar 8, 2007) --

- The March CKARC Meeting is on March 30, 2007 at 7:30 PM in Room 211, Peters Science Hall at KWU.

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) urges all Amateur Radio license and upgrade applicants to use their FCC Registration Number (FRN), if they have one, when completing Form 605, *not* their Social Security number. The FCC asks applicants to register via the FCC's **COMmission REGistration System (CORES)**, to obtain an FRN, and it *requires* applicants to use their FRNs when filing Form 605. The FRN uniquely identifies an applicant in all transactions with the FCC and avoids the need to provide a Social Security number on the application form. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says that if her department submits license data to the FCC using a Social Security number when the applicant already has an FRN, the FCC rejects the data because an FRN already exists. Somma also reminds applicants and Volunteer Examiner teams to attach any *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE)* for element credit to upgrade applications. Using your FRN and attaching any needed CSCE to your Amateur Radio application in Form 605 will eliminate delays in obtaining your license or upgrade.



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## Eisenhower Marathon April 7, 2007

The 2007 running of the Eisenhower Marathon in Abilene, Kansas is rapidly approaching. We are still in deed of Volunteers to help provide Communications for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sid NØOBM as soon as possible!

We will have the Communications Trailer in Abilene for this event again this year, and will be operating on both 2 meters and 440 MHz. Barton County is again providing their portable repeater for us to use for this event thanks to Carl, NØORS.

## VE Report

DeWite, WØOK was ill for this session, so Sid, NØOBM and Marty, KGØMT filled in for him at this test session. Sid was the “Session Leader”, and Marty handled the Paperwork (the really Important part!)

There were seven examinees at the test session

1 person passed the Technician Exam.

2 examinees passed the General Class Exam and 2 examinees failed the General Class Exam.

One person with a CSCE for the General Class Exam upgraded to General Class.

2 examinees passed the Extra Class Exam and upgraded to Extra Class (one of the testers came to the exam with a CSCE for the General Class Exam).

7 Testers Total.

1 new license

4 upgrades

Reported by Marty Soffran on behalf of the ARRL VEC Liaison, DeWite Constable, WØOK.

*Keep trying MARK! <grin> (Ed.)*

## Minutes of the February Meeting

Meeting called to order by Mark, KBØMQX at 7:33 PM with pledge of allegiance to the flag  
Followed by a round of introductions with 28 members and guests.

**A big round of applause to Rose and Al Shippy, WØTEA who were just married.**

Minutes of last meeting were approved as printed in QSP

VE report: Testing session will be moved up one week to March 7, due to the Storm Spotter Class on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Activities: Pete, NØOY working on several things jointly with Wichita and Hutchinson  
Bryan Armstrong talked to the physics club on weather spotting and storm chasing

Repeater report: Eric, NØYET will be taking over as club trustee and has been working on the 146.730 machine. Replaced antenna and still needs coax. No Report on the other 2 repeaters at this time.

Treasurer’s Report: Mark read treasurers report since Marty, KGØMT was out of town approved and seconded as read.

EC report: Sid, NØOBM (also absent from meeting) said: “Don’t forget Storm Spotter Class on March 14 Nickell Barracks, 2929 Scanlon Avenue at 7:00 PM”

Vance Eckstrom, KCØYH was voted in as a new club member.

Old business: Dues are now “**past due**”. Mark would like to schedule a Field Day Committee Meeting some time soon. The Field Day Committee Members are: Mark, KBØMQX, Sid, NØOBM, Pete, NØOY, Dan, AAØTT, and Mike, KBØLZQ

Program: Pete, NØOY gave a program on Sun Spots and Solar Flux Index.

## Application Avalanche Under Way as New Codeless Testing Regime Ramps Up

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 28, 2007 -- The avalanche of Amateur Radio license and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions held since the new rules went into effect February 23 has arrived so far this week. The ARRL VEC, which typically receives paperwork from about 70 sessions each day, has had to add personnel and schedule extended hours to keep up with the workload.

"We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge, and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip." Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk, and, with some 650 examination sessions already on the calendar for March and more arriving daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

### **New Rules Driving the Demand**

New Amateur Radio rules are driving the demand for new licenses and upgrades. Effective February 23, the FCC no longer requires Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz. As of the same date, Technician licensees who never passed a Morse code test gained new CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and new CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Since the Technician ticket has not required a Morse code test since 1991, most current Technician license holders will face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges. As of February 25, there were approximately 324,200 Technician licensees in the US -- more than any other license class.

Technicians may begin using their new privileges without having to apply for them. No other license class acquired new privileges as a result of the new rules that went into effect February 23, however. All license upgraders must first apply at an examination session, pay any application fee and either successfully pass the appropriate written test or present valid exam element credit.

### **Details, Details**

ARRL VEC personnel must go through "every single piece of paper" that arrives from an examination session, Somma explained. Before keying application data directly to the FCC's licensee database, the staff must make sure that session paperwork is in order, each application is filled out correctly and signed and any element credit is attached. If an applicant took an exam element, ARRL VEC must ensure that the test questions came from the correct question pool and that the applicant indeed passed. She said it typically takes up to 90 seconds for staff members to key in an application for a new licensee, but only about 30 seconds in the case of a license upgrade.

Among the growing stack of incoming paperwork February 28 was a package from a session held in the Bahamas for 56 US citizens -- more than likely retirees and members of the cruising and sailing communities in the Caribbean. Somma said it included applications for 12 new Technician licensees. The rest were upgrades.

### Handling the Rush

Normally with a staff complement of six, ARRL VEC now has as many as eight full-timers plus three part-timers to handle the rush. Somma says her team by and large has been able to review each application and transmit license and upgrade application data to the FCC within three or four days of receipt. She also had words of praise for the Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams.

"I want to thank the VEs," Somma said. "Most of the paperwork is neat and orderly, and this makes it easy for us to just key it to the FCC." She did caution VEs to make sure they include any proof of prior element credit -- usually a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination or CSCE -- when submitting applications.

Some VE teams have been sharing observations and photos from their examination sessions. "We're enjoying those," Somma said. "Keep 'em coming."

### Attention All Amateurs...

**ARRL releases statement on Red Cross background check policy (Mar 9, 2007)** -- ARRL -- the National Association for Amateur Radio, has released a position statement regarding the implementation of a background check procedure by the American Red Cross. The statement was released to address ARRL members' concerns prior to a March 31, 2007, compliance deadline the Red Cross has set. The application of the background check policy to Amateur Radio operators providing communication services to the Red Cross -- either as Red Cross volunteers or as Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members -- is the subject of continuing discussions between the ARRL and the Red Cross. Therefore, the position statement is subject to change. The ARRL will announce any such revisions and updates on the ARRL Web site.

### CKARC Treasurer's Report

55 Paid CKARC members

As of March 14:

Savings = \$3,630.97 (no transaction this month)

Checking

Last Months ending Balance = \$503.72

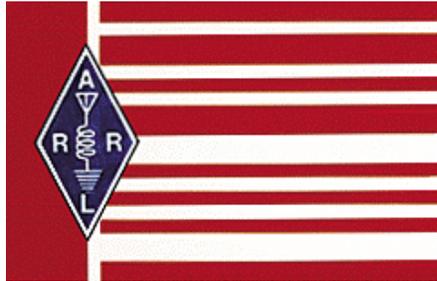
Expenses = \$163.00

Credits = \$288.50

Current Balance = = \$629.22

Total Club Balance = \$4,260.19

Reported by Marty Soffran, KGØMT, CKARC Treasurer



**2007 ARRL Kansas State Convention**  
**Sunday August 19, 2007**  
**8am – 4pm**  
Bicentennial Center – Oakdale Park  
Salina, Kansas

Talk in frequencies 147.030 + and 443.900 +

Registration \$5.00 in advance or at the door

Tables: Commercial or flea market \$15.00 each, includes electricity if needed, and one admission ticket per table.

**VENDORS – FORUMS – FOOD – FUN – YL ACTIVITIES**  
**HOURLY DOOR PRIZES – VE TESTING –**  
**DX CARD, WAS CARD, VUCC CARD CHECKING AVAILABLE**

This is your invitation to attend one of the finest gatherings of Amateur Radio operators in the Midwest. Your attendance at this convention will insure the continuation of this type of activity and help attract major vendors to bring and display their newest products for your enjoyment.

**Sponsored by the Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

For more information on space available contact:

Ron Tremblay, WAØPSF  
112 N. Douglas Dr  
Salina, KS 67401-3516  
Phone: 785-827-8149  
E-mail: rtremblay@cox.net

Check our web site: [www.centrankarsarc.com](http://www.centrankarsarc.com) for a schedule of events

**NOTICE:** No display, advertising, or sales or offers of future sales of amplifiers capable of operating in the Citizens Radio Service (CB) will be permitted during the Kansas ARRL convention, either within the Salina Bicentennial Center, or in the parking lot adjacent to the building. Those not adhering to this rule will be asked to leave the convention immediately.

## Late Addition

### A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to everyone. I wanted to take a few minutes to thank those of you who invited people to our last club meeting. It was good to see some new faces, and some new ham radio operators. For those of you who did not invite anyone to the club meeting, please consider bringing someone, or inviting someone to our next CKARC club meeting. Our club can only grow and move forward if we get new members, new talents, and new ideas.

Speaking of new ideas, if anyone has any ideas or projects they would like to work on, please share them with us. We are always looking for volunteers to share their skills with the rest of the club. I will be trying to get some club members to do a short program about their area of expertise at the upcoming meetings. We have a great club, with so many diverse talents. Many of our members are very good at a lot of different things. What are you good at? Is it DX ? Is it contesting? Is it RTTY ? Is it CW ? Is it HF mobile ? Please, think about something that you enjoy doing and consider giving a short presentation at one of our upcoming club meetings. I am certain that the rest of the club would love to hear about it.

Let's all help educate one another about all of the areas of our wonderful hobby. Thank you all for doing your part to help this club grow.

Mark Boyle, KBØMQX

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«Callsign»  
«First Name» «Last Name»  
«Club Name»  
«Address Line 1»  
«Address Line 2»  
«City», «State» «ZIP Code»

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL  
QSP IS APRIL 18, 2007**

## Attention All Amateurs...

ARRL VEC still "busy, busy, busy!" (Mar 15, 2007) -- The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports business continues to be brisk following the FCC's deletion of Morse code as a ham radio licensing requirement. "Busy, busy, busy!" is how ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, described the situation in her department. She says nearly 800 exam sessions are on the schedule for March with another 600 for April, "and it doesn't look like test session activity will be slowing down any time soon," she added. ARRL VEC hosts 450 exam sessions in a typical month. Despite the hectic pace, Somma says personnel have been able to process most test session paperwork promptly. "The majority of our VE teams are returning the sessions in good order and with all the needed forms," she noted. "Thank you!" Even so, processing times are down a bit. Somma advises applicants to allow 15 days from the testing date before checking on application status. To follow up, first use the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) "Search Licenses" tab, or check the ARRL Web license search engine. To contact the FCC, call toll-free during business hours 888-225-5322. Applicants who tested at ARRL VEC sessions whose applications have not been granted within 15 days may call ARRL VEC, 860-594-0300.