



QSP



May 2013

QSP On-Line at: <http://www.centalksarc.com/qsppage.htm>

The May Meeting is
 Friday May 31st at
 KWU's Peters Science
 Hall Room 211

May VE Report

6:30 PM

**Silent Key Pot Luck
 Dinner Meeting**

Inside this issue:

For the **May 8th** session, we had 3 Candidates. Donald Stovall, KDØVOV, of Halstead, a New Tech, Matt Wineland, KDØVOW, of Hutchinson a New General, and Carrol Christian KDØRZO, of Russell who upgraded to Extra Class. Congratulations to All!

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VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Leon, WAØJFC, Alvin, WØME, and Don, KAØEIC.

The next scheduled session is **Wednesday June 12th**, at 7:00 PM, at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom.

Sid NØOBM VE Team Leader

Minutes of the Meetings

The meeting was opened at 7:31 pm by Alvin, WØME followed by the Pledge Of Allegiance and introductions. 19 members and guests were present. As something a little different to try, Each person gave their main source of news / communications at their house. March's minutes were approved as written in QSP.

No treasurer report
No VEC report

Hamfest report:

Ron, WAØPSF reported that the club will be able to setup for the Hamfest around 7pm Saturday evening. Also there will be a 7 PM meal served Saturday evening at Webster. \$15.00 meal Saturday evening – extra cost is to help defer the cost of the speaker for that evening – WGØAT – who will have a good program on contesting. Lunch on Sunday will be in conjunction with the QCWA dinner – Cost is \$8.50 per person. Vendors will be able to set up Saturday evening . Also the WOUFF HONG ceremony is planned for Midnight Saturday. This is the first offered in Kansas for some time that we know of. All are welcome to attend.

Mark, KBØMQX asked about putting out a donation box for coffee. This was approved.

Old Business:

Trailer sale – It was brought up to remove the masts, tower sections, and extra tools and items from the trailer before the sale of the trailer / generator. Eric, NØYET looked into selling on PurpleWave.com – cost was 5% of final sale but with no minimum bid. It was brought up about possibly selling it at the Hamfest. Alvin, WØME made the motion that if nobody comes forth with any definite ideas to him before the Board meeting May 8, he will suggest a course of action at that time and the board will make the final decision.

New business:

Robert, WBØWTM – brought up that he will be recording Field Day for Community Access TV of Salina. If anybody does not want to be filmed please let him know.

Field Day update – Alvin brought up that he was in contact with the Parks and Recreation Commission. They will waive the fees and allow staying overnight pending approval from the police department and county. They will let us know. Indian Rock is still the primary site we are requesting. Lakewood Park the 2nd choice followed by Thomas Park .

Next month – May 31 meeting at KWU. Silent Key memorial. Starts at **6:30 PM** early this month. This will be a Pot Luck dinner. Please bring something to share.

John is reserving the meeting room at KWU for the next full year.
Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Alvin, WØME had refreshments. No program tonight.

Reminders

City of Salina Siren Test Net, **June 3rd** at 4:30 PM if the Weather cooperates!

Smoky Hill River Festival & Jam June 6—9th in Oakdale Park All help with the Lost & Found is welcome!

ARRL-VEC Test Session on Wednesday **June 12th** at 7:00 PM.

Board meeting follows the exam session on **June 12th after Testing in** the Saline Co. Sheriff's Office Classroom.

June 22, 23 is Field Day. All Amateur Radio Operators are welcome to attend.

CKARC Meeting is **June 28th** at 7:30 PM at KWU's Peters Science Hall Room 211.

There is a full Calendar of Events on the CKARC Web site <http://www.centalksarc.com>

Problems

I am currently having "Printer Issues", so this issue is being distributed ONLY in the Electronic format this month. We are hoping to get the printer fixed or replaced soon.

Sid NØOBM
QSP Editor

Technician Class Survivor Challenge

H. Wesley Boyd, W8IZC

Technicians licensed before March 21, 1987 are grandfather Generals.

On December 15, 2006, The FCC acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The public notice is located at hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf. This change had the effect of making “grandfathers” out of all Technicians licensed before March 21, 1987.

Over the last 10 years the FCC has restructured the requirements for the various classes of amateur licenses. Under the old system, the written examinations for Technician and General class licenses existed as one large exam, the only difference was that Technicians had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test, while Generals had to pass a 13 WPM test. Now that the Morse code requirement no longer exists, those who held a Technician class license before March 21, 1987, having already passed the General theory exam, can upgrade to General class without further testing.

In that era many wives or children of amateurs became licensed, mostly to please a spouse, parent or grandparent. Unfortunately, many of those amateurs lost interest and let their license lapse. However, some remain active as Technicians today. My “survivor challenge” is aimed at these Technicians.

Fee Only Upgrade

To get this upgrade the Technician must show:

- proof of that 1987 or earlier Technician license
- that they are presently licensed as a Technician
- and pay the Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC) licensing fee.

See the ARRL® website (www.arrl.org/license-restructuring) for upgrading details.

So, if a currently licensed Technician has a copy of their original pre-March 21, 1987 Technician class license, they may claim credit for a new General class license without additional testing. The upgrade is not automatic, however. The Technician has to apply to a Volunteer Examiner at a test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof listed above and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC involved.

An original or a copy of your Technician license issued any time prior to March 21, 1987, would suffice. Other documentary evidence could include:

- an FCC letter verifying your having held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987
- a verification document from the FCC’s contractor, ITS Inc.

- a Callbook listing dated prior to March 21, 1987, indicating your license class as Technician.

Searching for Survivors

In Mahoning County, Ohio I searched the FCC ULS database by zip codes and looked at call signs that appeared to be pre 1987. Once you start looking, these older calls are obvious. However, some of these older calls may have been issued recently through the FCC's vanity call sign program. Next, crosscheck those call signs at a website that shows operator licensing information dating back to the early 1980s. I use www.vanityhq.com, but I'm sure there other sites with the same information.

The first problem in the challenge is that some of the present day Technicians were licensed as a Novice and didn't upgrade to Technician until after 1987, making them ineligible for this upgrade. The next problem is that someone who was a Technician before 1987 may not be licensed now, but upon becoming relicensed as a Technician, they can use the old license to upgrade.

Armed with this information, your survivor challenge is to continue the search to contact as many of these "pre 1987 Technicians" as possible and inform them of the upgrade that they are eligible for. This process can seem time consuming but if I can do it single handed you can too and a club effort could do meet the challenge in a much shorter time.

Contacting Eligible Technicians

Upon locating eligible Technicians in the area, I prepared the following letter that informed them of their eligibility for the automatic upgrade and provided information on how to go about upgrading:

Hello,

While doing some Internet web surfing I came across you and found you held a Amateur Radio Technician license before 1987. At that time you were required to take the 50 question Technician/General class theory exam and pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to be licensed as a Technician.

Much has happened over the years and now your pre 1987 Technician license makes you eligible for instant upgrading to General class for a \$15 VEC filing fee.

To upgrade, all you need do is go to a local examination session (Testing is now done by Volunteer Examiners, often through local clubs.), with proof of holding a Technician license before 1987, your current Technician license and a copy of the current license as documentation. You will also need two forms of ID (one being a photo ID) and a completed NCVET Form 605, which is available at the session or can be downloaded from the ARRL website www.arrl.org/files/file/ncvec605-3.pdf.

When you get to the test session, the Volunteer Examiners will review all your documents to verify that you are entitled to the credit. For the General written exam (Element 3) credit, persons who took the 50 question Technician/General written exam before March 21, 1987 receive grandfathered Element 3 credit per FCC Rules.

As proof of being licensed before 1987, I have a 1987 Amateur Radio Callbook that shows you as meeting the “instant upgrade” requirements. I can supply you with a copy of the page that your call sign appears on, if you wish.

If you have an interest in worldwide communications, this is your opportunity to become active on the HF bands. Information is available at www.arrl.org.

Local exams conducted by the Mahoning Valley ARA (www.mvara.org) are at the YSU maintenance building on Wood Street, at 7 PM, on the third Thursday of “odd” months. The Western Reserve ARC (www.wrarc.net) has VE exams at the Mahoning County EMA building on Industrial Rd, at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of “even” months. Other area clubs also offer such testing events and can be found at www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search.

If you are interested, members of these clubs would be more than willing to assist you with your upgrade. If you would like more information, you can contact me directly: Wes Boyd, W8IZC, at w8izc@arrl.net or 330-565-5129.

Helping Hams, Helping Clubs

The challenge can benefit not only local Technicians but also local clubs. I did my best to include several area clubs as locations for Volunteer Exams. My letter is non club specific and offers information on two local club’s websites, the ARRL website and even the FCC website.

I doubt you will receive responses from 6 of 18 letters. Typically, I’m told, a 10 % response is considered amazing. Hopefully, I can convince some area clubs to assist me on continuing my challenge. I still have several adjoining counties to search for “pre 1987 Technicians” and more letters to mail!

My local efforts discovered 18 eligible Technician licensees. I’m happy to report I have received responses from 10, of which six upgraded to General within a month of receiving the letter. One turned out to be an old acquaintance of mine who had no idea such an upgrade was available. Another licensee was the wife of an amateur who had passed away over 10 years ago. She was very excited to learn of the upgrade and was looking forward to getting on HF and perfecting her CW skills. I even found an old high school classmate, now living in Maryland, who was able to upgrade. In all cases the results are more than gratifying.

Thanks For the Upgrade

I received this e-mail from one of the amateurs I was able to contact and help upgrade:

“I want to thank you and all your friends that helped for all the generous work that you had to go through to find all the people in the area that could get a license upgrade or enthuse them about ham radio.

“I met up, this morning, with some friends I haven’t seen in many years and even since I got your first letter, about an upgrade, it made me wonder how you knew I could be upgraded.

“Someone went through a lot of time and trouble to do this. I thank you and your helpers for all their efforts.”

H. Wesley Boyd, W8IZC, an ARRL member, has been a commercial broadcast engineering since 1960. He was first licensed as KN3VPK / K3VPK in February 1962. Wes moved to Youngstown, Ohio in the fall of 1964 and was issued the W8IZC call in 1967. Wes is an ARRL and W5YI VEC, a member of the Mahoning Valley ARA and Western Reserve ARC and the ARRL-ARES Mahoning County EC.

From the ARRL WebSite

June 2013 Contest Calendar

From the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	0000Z, Jun 1 to 2400Z, Jun 2
DigiFest	0400Z-1200Z, Jun 1 and 2000Z, Jun 1 to 0400Z, Jun 2 and 1200Z-2000Z, Jun 2
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Jun 1 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 1 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 1 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 1
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 1 to 1200Z, Jun 2
Maritimes QSO Party	1200Z-2400Z, Jun 1
UKSMG Summer Contest	1300Z, Jun 1 to 1300Z, Jun 2
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 1 to 1500Z, Jun 2
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 1 to 1459Z, Jun 2
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 1 to 0400Z, Jun 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 7
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	1730Z-1800Z, Jun 7 (40m) and 1800Z-1830Z, Jun 7 (80m)
VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 8 to 0600Z, Jun 9
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 8
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jun 8 to 2400Z, Jun 9
Portugal Day Contest	1200Z, Jun 8 to 1159Z, Jun 9
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 8 to 1500Z, Jun 9
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 8 to 1600Z, Jun 9
ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z, Jun 8 to 0259Z, Jun 10
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 12
CWops Mini- CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 12
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 14
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 15 to 2400Z, Jun 16
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Jun 15 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 15 (432)
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 15 to 0200Z, Jun 16
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 15
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Jun 15
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jun 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 17
NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint	1800Z-2000Z, Jun 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 20
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 22 to 1200Z, Jun 23
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 22 to 1200Z, Jun 23
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 22 to 1400Z, Jun 23
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 22 to 2100Z, Jun 23
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 26
CWops Mini- CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jun 27
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Jun 29

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club
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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE QSP IS JUNE 20, 2013

CKARC June Birthdays

KAØIFW	Mitch	Johannes	6/5
KSIP	Paul	Collins	6/10
KCØJNK	John	Burchill	6/18
WØYVR	Glen	Eaton	6/26
NØMOK	Tom	Blackshire	6/27