



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

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ARRL News

From The ARRL Letter, December 22, 2006

FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We ... believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future -- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

Calendar

1/8 SCCARA General Meeting

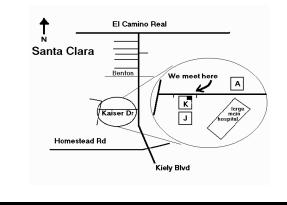
1/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

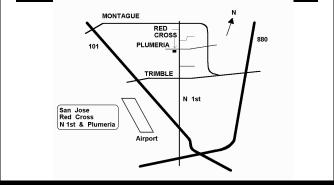
1/20-22 VHF contest (see article)

2/12 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

<u>Day:</u> <u>Time:</u> <u>Place:</u> <u>Featuring:</u> Monday, January 8, 2007 7:30 PM Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1 {to be announced}





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The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the month.

SCCARA was formed in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The club station is W6UW.

Web page: http://www.qsl.net/sccara.

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SCCARA REPEATERS

 SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

 2 meter:
 146.985 PL 114.8

 70 cm:
 442.425 +
 PL 107.2
70 cm:

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater and NOARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

NØARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497.. Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,	
Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

The Commission further amended Part 97 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules.

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says sales of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket 05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

From The ARRL Letter, December 8, 2006

LEAGUE FAULTS FCC CHAIRMAN RE BIASED, **INACCURATE BPL INFORMATION**

The ARRL has called on FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and his fellow commissioners to employ "a more even-handed approach" when promoting new broadband technologies. In a December 6 fax to Martin and the other four FCC members, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, faulted the chairman for using broadband over power line (BPL) deployment data from the BPL industry when speaking at Georgetown University November 30. Martin's presentation <http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/ martin/georgetown.ppt> included a slide of a map from the United

Power Line Council (UPLC), a BPL proponent, purporting to show current BPL deployments in the US.

"This slide is taken from a biased industry source and fails to note that a large percentage of the deployments shown on the map have been shut down and no longer exist," Sumner told Martin. His letter included a list of five systems shut down as much as two years earlier. In several instances, utilities announced they had abandoned their BPL pilot projects because they proved to be uneconomical or were unable to compete with existing broadband technologies.

Sumner said the ARRL wants the FCC to stop using the UPLC as a source for illustrating BPL deployments. He further faulted the chairman for failing to include slides on the other two new technologies in the early stages of deployment he'd mentioned -wireless broadband and fiber-to-the-home.

The FCC Report, "High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of December 31, 2005," showed 448,196 fiber and 256,538 fixed wireless connections compared to just 5859 for "Power Line and Other," Sumner pointed out. "Your prepared remarks do not even mention satellite broadband, yet the same FCC report shows 426,928 satellite 'lines,'" he added.

Sumner said BPL, as a technology, doesn't warrant the kind of partiality it's been getting from the FCC. "As you know, the ARRL's concern is with the still-unresolved radio interference issues that uniquely plague BPL and not with BPL as such," he noted in conclusion. "However, it is evident that the technology does not deserve the favored treatment the FCC continues to bestow upon it, especially when its inherent shortcoming, that it is a radio spectrum polluter, escapes mention."

Sumner said the UPLC BPL deployment map Martin used when speaking at the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business Center for Business and Public Policy November 30 also was on display at the FCC open meeting last August at which the Commission adopted its BPL Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O). The MO&O dispensed with various reconsideration petitions, including one from ARRL, asking the Commission to reconsider its October 2004 BPL Report and Order (R&O).

Martin's excessive emphasis on BPL as a "new" technology when other new technologies "are vastly more successful and promising according to the FCC's own reports" belies the chairman's impartiality, Sumner commented after faxing the letter. "The ARRL remains highly dissatisfied with the Commission's handling of the BPL radio interference issue."

In October, the ARRL notified the US District Court of Appeals --DC Circuit that it would seek review of the August MO&O as well as the October 2004 R&O on the ground that they exceed the Commission's jurisdiction and authority, are contrary to the Communications Act of 1934, and are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law.

The League will request that the court "hold unlawful, vacate, enjoin and set aside the orders." A court filing detailing the League's specific objections to the two FCC orders is pending.

From The ARRL Letter, December 15, 2006

AMATEUR COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS SMOOTHLY TO NEW ALLOCATIONS

With some confusion but little commotion, the amateur community took occupancy of more commodious HF phone subbands as the so-called "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket $0.4 - 1.4.0 \le h.t.t.p: //h.r.a.u.n.f.o.s.s.f.c.c.g.o.v./$ $edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf> kicked in$ December 15 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. Amongother things, the wide-ranging R&O inflated the overall phoneallocations on 75 and 40 meters and provided Generals with a littleadditional phone spectrum on 15 meters. On 75 meters, where thephone band expansion came at the expense of spectrum that hadbeen allocated to CW, RTTY and data modes, some operatorscamped out above the new 3.600 MHz Extra class phone bandedge to count down the switch.

"Anyone on that wants last CW es [and] first SSB?" pleaded one operator as the minutes ticked away. He'd been working a string of stations on CW, and when the appointed time arrived, he simply switched to SSB and carried on in that mode. There was no massive onslaught of phone stations, however, and several CW contacts continued largely unhindered, interspersed among a slowly growing number of SSB signals.

By week's end, the FCC had not acted on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration <http://www.arrl.org/ announce/regulatory/wt04-140/ARRL-04-140-ReconPetition.pdf> in the proceeding, filed December 11, so the changes went into effect as scheduled. The ARRL had called on the Commission to postpone the allocation change for 3600 to 3635 kHz while considering a request to maintain the status quo in that small segment. In its petition, the League emphasized that it was not seeking reconsideration of the entire 75-meter phone band expansion.

"Rather, we ask only that the Commission restore the privileges unintentionally withdrawn from those who operate and who utilize automatically controlled narrowband digital stations between 3620 and 3635 kHz," the League said. The ARRL pointed out that while the R&O left unchanged rules permitting automatically controlled narrowband digital in that segment, it eliminated RTTY and data as permitted emissions above 3600 kHz.

The League wants the Commission to make a "simple and equitable fix" by moving the dividing line between the narrowband and wideband segments of 80/75 meters to 3635 kHz. This would keep 3600 to 3635 kHz available to General and higher licensees for RTTY, data and CW and open to Novice and Tech Plus licensees for CW. It also would maintain access to the automatically controlled digital subband, 3620-3635 kHz.

"This is neither a minor matter nor an academic exercise in future band planning," the ARRL concluded. "It is an urgent problem which, unless corrected, affects a substantial number of existing Amateur Radio fixed facilities and an even more substantial number of mobile facilities."

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports indicated that some stations -perhaps out of confusion regarding the effective time or a lack of concern -- fired up on the new phone segments well in advance of the effective time. Judging from those heard in the eastern US, everyone was enjoying -- and even wisecracking about -- the additional elbow room.

"It's just like up the band," quipped one operator attempting a QSO in the newly expanded 40-meter phone band. Retorted another operator: "It's no good down here. It's too crowded!"

The Amateur Radio frequency allocation chart <<u>http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html></u> and the ARRL Band Plans <<u>http://www.arrl.org/FandES/</u>field/regulations/bandplan.html> on the ARRL Web site have been updated to reflect the band changes. Revised FCC Part 97 Amateur Service rules reflecting all changes detailed in the FCC

Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140, also are available http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>.

ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OKAYS REVISED BAND PLANS FOR 80/75, 40 AND 15

The ARRL Executive Committee this week approved revised band plans for 80/75, 40, and 15 meters developed and recommended by the League's Band Planning Committee. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the Band Planning Committee "did a commendable job" stepping into the breach caused by the FCC's unexpected 80/75 meter decision in the so-called "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140.

"In the case of 80/75 meters, it is an interim plan, subject to change if the FCC acts favorably on our Petition for Reconsideration," S u m n e r s a i d (see < http://www.arrl.org/ news/stories/2006/12/11/100/>). The lower edge of the Amateur Extra 75-meter phone band shifted to 3600 kHz as of December 15.

The League wants the FCC to rectify an "unintended consequence" of that expansion by moving the narrowband/wideband boundary on 80/75 meters to 3635 kHz.

ARRL Vice President and Band Planning Committee chair Rick Roderick, K5UR, says his panel considered members' input in developing the changes the committee recommended. He notes that the Committee received nearly 900 comments.

The charts below reflect the old band plan as well as the changes that went into effect December 15.

75/80 METERS

OLD	NEW
RTTY DX	RTTY/Data DX
RTTY	3.570-3.600: RTTY/Data
Packet	Delete
DX Window	No change
SSTV	No change
AM calling	No change
OLD	NEW
RTTY DX	RTTY/Data DX
RTTY	7.080-7.125: RTTY/Data
SSTV	No change
AM calling	No change
OLD	NEW
RTTY	21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data
Packet	21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data
SSTV	No change
	RTTY DX RTTY Packet DX Window SSTV AM calling OLD RTTY DX RTTY SSTV AM calling OLD RTTY Packet

ARRL 600-METER EXPERIMENT SEEKS RECEPTION REPORTS

The ARRL 500 kc Experimental Group for Amateur Radio (WD2XSH) http://www.500kc.com/ is encouraging radio amateurs and listeners to submit reception reports http://w5jgv.com/500kcreportform.htm of group members' operations between 505 and 508 kHz. As of this week, 16 of the 21 WD2XSH participants were on the air.

"Several 500 kHz experimenters are generally active every evening," says Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, in Vermont. "Your signal reports will help to establish communication capabilities." Team participants are using 507.5 kHz as a "calling frequency."

Raab urges listeners to file multiple reports for receiving the same station on different days. "This helps to establish the reliability of the communication path," he said. Most communications to date have been nighttime skywave using CW and very slow-speed CW (QRSS).

Raab also would appreciate reports from northeastern Nebraska comparing the signal strengths of WD2XSH stations to those of NDB (non-directional beacon) OF on 510 kHz. Raab says the six WD2XSH stations in the Midwest are avoiding 508 to 510 kHz to make sure there aren't any interference problems.

More than two dozen two-way contacts have been logged to date, the best distance being 884 miles. The experiment's Web site already has gathered more than 900 reception reports. Three stations have been received in Europe, one in Hawaii.

Gus Gustafson, SM6BHZ, in Gothenberg on Sweden's western coast, contacted Raab this week with the news that Sweden's telecommunication authority has given Gustafson permission to operate from 505.0 to 505.2 kHz at 20 W ERP until November 30, 2007.

From The ARRL Letter, December 22, 2006

AO-51 "ECHO" IS NOW CARRIER-ACCESS

AO-51 "Echo" satellite users no longer need to transmit a 67-Hz CTCSS subaudible tone to enable the satellite's transponder. AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, reports AO-51 is now a carrier-access satellite. The change was aimed at improving worldwide access to AO-51, especially from those areas where CTCSS-equipped transceivers are less common. Check the AO-51 operating schedule http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/ControlTeam.php *before* using the satellite! -- AMSAT News Service

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 16, 2006



{*No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.*}

Board Meeting, Dec. 18, 2006



Attendees: Gregg Lane, KF6FNA Member Clark Murphy, KE6KXO Member Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU Editor John Parks, W6JPP Member Don Steinbach, AE6PM Treasurer & Director Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD Member Lou Steirer, WA6QYS Director Fred Townsend, AE6OL Vice President & Director Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY Director Don Village, K6PBQ Station Trustee & Director

The meeting was called to order at 19:56 by Clark Murphy, KE6KXO.

No secretary report. Treasurer to provide secretary coverage for this meeting.

The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$1,507.47, savings account balance of \$4,766.65, and cash on hand of \$53.50. We need to pay NARCC \$20 for membership dues. QSL.NET has been paid \$100 for 2005 and 2006 web hosting. The Secretary of State has been paid \$20 to register the biennial Statement of Information for Non-Profit. The DMV has been paid \$10 for Permanent Trailer Identification for 5 years. Liability insurance is paid to 6/8/2007. PO box is paid through June 2007. Central Self Storage is paid through December 2006. Treasurer recommended retaining storage locker through January 2007 and the Board concurred.

WA6QYS moved and AE6QL seconded motion to reimburse AE6PM \$669.08 for holiday luncheon payment he made to the Bold Knight on 12/16/06. Motion carried.

WA6QYS moved and K6PBQ seconded motion to reimburse AE6PM \$35.95 for amounts he paid to eBay to list the Collins KWM-380. Motion carried.

Those in attendance discussed the use of the club call (W6UU) on group outings. It was decided that any club-sponsored activity needed to be announced in the SCCARA-GRAM before the event and that use of the club call would then need to be coordinated with the station trustee, K6PBQ. Presumably, the club liability insurance would then be in force for the event. The next club activity will probably be the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes beginning 1900Z January 20.

The UHF repeater upgrade was reported as still being in process. AE6QL may away on work duty in the near future. No further action.

Discussed future meeting programs. AE6QL suggested 'chalk talks' geared toward license upgrades. No further action.

The Collins KWM-380 will be listed on eBay again early next year. We will eliminate any shipping restrictions. AE6PM action.

W6JPP is looking for a place to store the trailer. The Erwin Electric property where the trailer is currently parked has been sold and we will likely be forced to find a new place. This could be a significant financial hit to the club since we have been parking there rent free.

AE6PM moved and WA6QYS seconded motion to buy an appreciation gift for Erwin Electric such as we did last year. Cost not to exceed \$50. K6PBQ action.

The cost for the new storage cabinets constructed by W6JPP, et al, is currently at about \$125. KE6KXO will locate receipts and the club will reimburse the expenses as previously agreed.

The Kaiser meeting room is available through June 2007. WA6QYS requested that we remind him in April to reserve the room for the next block of time.

WA6QYS announced that the next SVECS quarterly breakfast will be on January 27 at Washington Park in Sunnyvale.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:58.

Don Steinback AE6PM

VHF Contest

SCCARA goes to Skyline on Jan 20-22, 2007 for VHF contest. Contact John W6JPP (w6jpp@sbcglobal.net) or Ned AC6YY (ac6yy@arrl.net) for more info

John W6JPP

Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each.

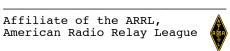
If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please fill out an Elmer form from the club secretary.

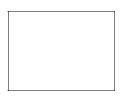
Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ TVI/RFI: WB6YRU Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PB0 DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator: K6PBQ EchoLink: KK6MX W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105 WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr., evening & msg: (408) 945-1202 KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns, (408) 225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725 e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058 evening (408) 867-8654 packet: home BBS NOARY e-mail: jad@aol.com K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789 WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999 packet: home BBS NOARY

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336 also (408) 269-2924 packet: home BBS NOARY e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net



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FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2007 (Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label above; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name:	Call:	Class: E A G T+ T N		
Address:		Licensed since (yr):		
City:	State: Zip:	- Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr):		
Telephone: ()	□ New Member □ I □ I'm also a member of the second	Renewal ————————————————————————————————————		
E-mail:		Packet:		
Annual membership dues are payable at the fi New members joining on or after July 1, pay 1		December 31.		
Annual Membership dues:				
I want the newsletter by: U.S. Mail	\Box e-mail \Box I'll g	et it on our web site <www.qsl.net sccara=""></www.qsl.net>		
Give this completed form (or copy) with payn	nent to the Secretary or Treasurer at any	y meeting or mail to the club address. Rev. 1/16/20		