

# Marshall County Amateur Radio Club News

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Homepage: <http://www.qsl.net/w0gcj/> • email: w0gcj@qsl.net

## MCARC Meeting Schedule

February 20, 8 PM

March 20, 8 PM  
Officer elections

April 17, 8 PM

Marshall County Amateur Radio Club meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Community Memorial Hospital Conference Center, 802 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Marysville, Kansas.

## MCARC Officers

Officers for 2006 are:

**President:** Myron KØMLS

**Vice-president:** Nate NØNB

**Sec/Treas:** Dave KØKSI

**Trustee:** Dennis KØBYK

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## Welcome Again to the MCARC News

Procrastination is an interesting thing. My plan three long years ago was to do this newsletter thing on a quarterly basis. In case you hadn't noticed, this is the *next* issue—a bit late. Ahem.

Several things have developed on the regulatory front that have led to me thinking that getting another issue out the door would be a good idea. Hopefully, I can avoid procrastinating until the next major FCC action before putting out another newsletter.

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## MCARC Christmas Dinner

MCARC members gathered on January 16, 2007 for the annual club Christmas dinner. This was one month later than usual due to difficulties of securing reservations before Christmas.

The club was well represented and we filled a long table and two booths occupying half of the south room at the Marysville Pizza Hut. While the date seemed a bit late for a "Christmas" dinner, the weather was more like Christmas than it had been in December.

Everyone had plenty to eat and good fun was had by all. Plan to attend the 2007 Christmas dinner (what year will it be?).

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## '07 License Exam Sessions

Recent action by the FCC in WT Docket 04-140, effective December 15, 2006, eliminating advance publicity requirements for Volunteer Exam sessions have given us flexibility for scheduling and holding exam sessions.

From now on exams will be held **upon request only**. I have listed the 2007 regular MCARC meeting dates as likely exam session dates on our exam webpage at:

<http://www.qsl.net/n0nb/ham/exams.html>

It is my plan that sessions will begin at 7 PM, one hour before the monthly MCARC meeting at CMH. I am requesting that prospective examinees notify me at least 48 hours in advance so I can notify the other examiners and set up the session.

All license exams will be offered. CSCEs must be dated no earlier than 365 days prior to the exam date for exam credit. The session fee for 2007 is \$14 (cash only please). A copy of your current license or any other claimed element credit is required.

Please keep in mind that if you held a Technician license issued prior to March 21, 1987, you qualify for Element 3 exam credit. Do contact me to confirm your situation if you believe you qualify for a "paperwork" upgrade.

Complete details can be found on the Internet at the weblink above or by contacting me at **785-562-8704**.

de Nate, NØNB

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## FCC Releases "Omnibus" Report and Order

On October 10, 2006, the FCC released its Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "Omnibus" proceeding.

The biggest news of this proceeding was realignment of the phone bands on 75 and 40m and allowing Novice and Technician with HF operators access to the General CW/digital portions of 80, 40, and 15m using CW only with 200 Watts PEP maximum output power. Novice and Technician with HF operators also gained use of the 10m band from 28.0 to 28.3 MHz using CW and digital modes with 200 Watts PEP maximum output power.

General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra operators gained additional phone and image privileges on 80 40m, while General operators also gained phone and image privileges on 15 meters (a copy of the revised band chart is included).

Other actions include (from *ARRL Web*):

- discourage multiple vanity call sign filings on the same day from the same applicant;
- permit auxiliary stations to transmit on portions 2 meters (allows Kenwood's Sky Command);
- permit auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of 2m;
- permit amateurs to retransmit International Space Station communications;
- permit a radio amateur to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive his or her call sign *in memoriam*;
- eliminate certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external

RF power amplifiers intended for Amateur Radio use;

- clarify that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";
- delete Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) frequency bands and segments stations;
- delete the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times, and
- permit Amateur Radio stations in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications.

Complete information, including links to the official documents, can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/15/101/?nc=1>

## FCC Releases Morse Exam Report and Order

The "Omnibus" proceeding had only been in effect less than 24 hours when the FCC issued a press release on December 15, 2006 that it had issued a Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 which eliminates Morse Code exams. The actual Report and Order was released on December 19, 2006 and publication in the *Federal Register* took place on January 24, 2007 with an effective date of February 23, 2007 at 12:01 AM EST.

The Report and Order is rather simple in that Element 1 is rescinded

as of the effective date and the three written exams remain:

- Technician – Element 2
- General – Elements 2 & 3
- Extra – Elements 2, 3 & 4

In addition, the FCC has chosen to merge all Technician privileges together so that all Technician class operators will enjoy the same HF privileges that holders of Technician with HF held prior to the effective date. However, both Novice and Technician operators are limited to 200 Watts maximum PEP output on their HF segments (see included ARRL band chart).

In other action, the FCC assigned 3585 to 3600 kHz as available for automated digital operations. Automatic control of digital devices had been inadvertently eliminated with the phone band expansion in the Omnibus proceeding. Complete details can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>

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## St. Joe Hamfest

Several MCARC members made it over to the St. Joseph, MO Winterfest on January 20, 2007. In attendance were Dennis, KØBYK, and Norma, Mike, ACØI, Mike, NØUDF, and Marcia, NØYWM, Barney, NØSZS, and Lila, NØSZR, Bernie, NØVXT, Bob, KCØTYG, and Nate NØNB. Attendance looked to be good. And, no, the MCARC gang didn't come home with any prizes this year.

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## 2006 Field Day Results

The results are in and MCARC did well in the Kansas Section in the 2006 edition of Field Day, placing second in the 1A category with a score of 2696 and 609 QSOs. Thanks to Ken's,

KKØHF, CW operations for our good showing. In Kansas six stations competed in the 1A category which is defined as One transmitter, Club or non-club group operating with emergency power.

We also placed second in the Midwest Division out of a total of 11 entries. Two stations each in Iowa and Nebraska and one in Missouri along with six from Kansas turned in scores in class 1A from the Midwest Division.

Overall we placed 25<sup>th</sup> in class 1A out of a total of 154 entries, a nice showing indeed. Complete scores are available at <http://www.arrl.org> for ARRL members.

Field Day 2007 is just over four months away and even though there is snow on the ground as this is written, it won't be long before we're slapping mosquitoes and swatting June bugs. If available, we will probably operate from Lions Park in the northeast part of Marysville. The pavilion we have used in the past offers a lot of shade in the afternoon and evening hours and remodeled restroom facilities. Plenty of mature trees stand around the pavilion and offer shade as well as make great antenna supports.

Field Day 2007 will take place June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday). On-air operations begin at 1800z (1 PM local) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and continue for 24 hours. Setup of the station will take place on Saturday morning. Plans will be finalized at the June MCARC meeting.

Field Day is the highlight of our club's activities, so make plans now to participate.



## Dave, KØKSI, is new EC

Dave Crawford, KØKSI, of Blue Rapids has been appointed the Emergency Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Dave's area of responsibility includes Marshall and Washington counties in Kansas.

Any interested and licensed radio amateur is encouraged to sign up with Dave in ARES. Neither ARRL nor MCARC (nor any other) membership is required to participate in ARES. Signing up is a matter of filling out a one-page form that describes in general terms your station's capabilities.

An ARES net has been setup and is called each Sunday evening at 9 PM local time on the 147.285+ repeater at Home City. KØKSI is net control and is using the net to conduct training exercises. All stations capable of using the 147.285+ repeater are encouraged to participate in the net.

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## RACES News

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), is the only recognized emergency operation that may take place during certain declared emergencies according to Part 97.407.

The MCARC met with Marshall County Officer of Emergency Management Jonathan York several times during 2006. Jonathan, with the help of Dennis, KØBYK, has built an emergency operations trailer for Marshall County. MCARC plans to continue to work with Mr. York throughout 2007 and beyond to become a part of RACES with Marshall County Emergency Management.

As this editor understands it, each county's Emergency Manager is in

charge of RACES for that county. Interested radio amateurs must contact their county Emergency Manager for information on RACES in their county.

Joseph Plankinton, WDØDMV, is the Kansas State RACES Radio Officer and conducts a statewide RACES net on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM CST/CDT on 3940 kHz. Joe would also be the go-to guy for any questions about RACES in Kansas.

RACES participation will likely be one of our areas of emphasis for 2007.

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## And, finally...

Many things have been happening in amateur of late on the regulatory front even though the low sunspot numbers have compressed most operations to the lower bands on HF. Arguably, the most important and contentious issue, Morse Code exams, will soon be behind us. No matter one's personal opinion of the matter, it's time for all of us to put it behind us and enjoy what the bands do offer.

Solar Cycle 23 is forecast to end during the next year or so and Cycle 24 begin. Some are forecasting Cycle 24 to be a much stronger solar cycle than the past few. We can only hope.

Besides being emailed to all MCARC members and a few others, this issue is being mailed to all hams I could find in Marshall, Washington, and southern Gage (NE) counties. Beyond the obvious intention to make other hams aware of our club, it is also a good time provide information on recent regulatory changes and to publicize our exam sessions for those wishing to upgrade locally.

I look forward to hearing from you. My email address is [n0nb@arrl.net](mailto:n0nb@arrl.net), or by phone at 785-562-8704.

73, de Nate, NØNB >>