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Monongalia Wireless Association Newsletter



NO MWA MEETING DECEMBER 2006 NEXT MWA MEETING JANUARY 16, 2007

The January 2007 meeting of MWA will feature the new MWA officers, William "Bill" Harris, N6XAK, MWA President, Randy Crowe, N8OZY, MWA Vice-President and Bob Steele, N8HGL, MWA Secretary Treasurer.

There will be discussion for the 2007 calendar year and MWA by President elect Bill Harris. There has been several ideas thrown around and I am sure it will be an exciting year.

The quarterly meeting of Monongalia ARES will be held just after the MWA January meeting. If you are an ARES member, this meeting is for you.

Bob West, WA8YCD will be discussing the upcoming Amateur radio class that will start Thursday February 15 and run for 10 weeks.

The class details are located on the last page in this newsletter.

There will be a debriefing of the MWA participation in the Morgantown Christmas parade on December 1st, 2006. Mike Hopkins, parade organizer, will be our guest.

Rick Heis, N8PDQ

MONONGALIA **ARES** NET

Wednesday following the third Tuesday at 7:30 PM on 145.43-PL 103.5 / W8MWA Repeater.

This month the net will be Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30pm.

This is an ARES training net, have plenty of paper and pens available.

There will be an ARES training net every month. Contact Bob Steele, N8HGL for details.

MWA Meeting info

- January 16, 2007
- Third Tuesday of every month **7:00pm**
- Refreshments at 6:30pm
- Red Cross office
White Birch Towers
3rd Floor
- Meeting topic
 - debrief the Christmas parade
 - New officers discussing MWA & 2007 programs
 - discussing the MWA technician class in Feb
- ARES meets after MWA
- Equipment set up assistance

MWA INFO

President

Leroy Heck – N8UEV

Vice President

Randy Crowe – N8OZY

Secretary/Treasurer

Norene Arnold – N8TJM

ARES Mon. County

Emergency Coordinator

Bob Steele – N8HGL

Web Administrator

Roger Neptune – KC8YNZ

<http://www.qsl.net/W8MWA>

Net Control – Wed 7:30pm

Jim Southern – KC8GGX

Editor

Rick Heis – N8PDQ

RadarRick@atlanticbb.net

(304) 864-6356



ARES 'Communication Vehicle' at Christmas Parade Area Ham's provide communications.

MWA was asked to provide communications at the 2006 Morgantown Christmas parade. Several of the area hams came out to support the public service part of amateur radio.

Parade ham volunteers...Bill Jacobs, WA8YCG, Steve Wilson, WB8III, Jim Southern, KC8GGX, Randy Crowe, N8OZY, Wick Kirk, KC8RHO, Larry Wiley, KC8AYW, Audrey Coberly, KG8QS, Rick Heis, N8PDQ, Bob Steele, N8HGL, Bill Harris, N6XAK, and Sharon Harris, N6XAO.



Bob Steele, N8HGL, ARES Emergency Coordinator for Monongalia County provided the 'Emergency Communications' vehicle to ride in the parade. Net Control was worked from the vehicle during the parade.

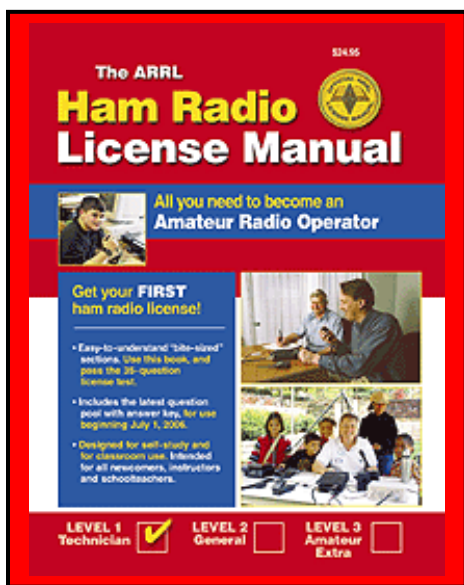
Several people were very impressed with the participation the Amateur Radio community provided for the Christmas parade. I know of three people who are planning on taking the next ham class as a result of seeing the amateur radio vehicle in the parade.

As you can see there are a lot of antennas, radios and banners to show off.

Bob did a lot of work to make this vehicle all it could be. All the volunteers did a very good job and we have been asked back for next year. **THANKS A MILLION!!!**



Rick Heis, N8PDQ



HAM RADIO
MANUAL TO BE
USED AT HAM
CLASS STARTING
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2007



MWA new meeting location
White Birch Tower Building
1299 Pineview Drive
Morgantown WV
Red Cross area on 3rd floor

End of an Era: FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur Licenses

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 15, 2006 -- In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted, but hasn't yet released, the long-awaited *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding. Also today, the FCC adopted an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding -- modifying the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. The Commission said it will designate the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations, although the segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data as it has been. In a break from what's been the usual practice in Amateur Radio proceedings, the FCC only issued a [public notice](#) at or about the close of business today and not the actual *Report & Order*, so some details -- including the effective dates of the two orders -- remain uncertain. Currently, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. Today's *R&O* will eliminate that requirement all around.

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirement across the board, however, and it held to that decision in today's *R&O*.

Perhaps more important, the FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the *R&O* goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they've passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the *R&O* in the Morse code docket would eliminate a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees -- something the ARRL also has asked the Commission to correct following the release of its July 2005 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician class licensees and Technician Plus class licensees should not be retained," the FCC said in its public notice. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. Tech Pluses or Technicians with Element 1 credit have limited HF privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Under the Part 97 rules the Commission proposed last year in its *NPRM* in WT Docket 05-235, current Technicians lacking Morse credit after the new rules went into effect would have had to upgrade to General to earn any HF privileges.

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall -- especially since the FCC instituted an across-the-board 5 WPM Morse requirement effective April 15, 2000, in the most-recent major Amateur Radio licensing restructuring ([WT Docket 98-143](#)).

Typically, the effective date of an FCC *Order* is 30 days after it appears in the *Federal Register*.

HAM CLASS FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Class cost: \$39.00 (Only if you need manual & exam)

The cost covers the Ham Radio License Manual (\$25.00) and exam session (\$14.00) the last day of class (April 26)

Class starts: Thursday February 15, 2007

Class ends: Thursday April 19, 2007

Exam night: Thursday April 26, 2007

Class Times: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

10 weeks long (Feb 15 – Apr 19)

Location: White Birch Towers building,
3rd floor **Red Cross**
1299 Pineview Drive
Morgantown, WV

Lead instructor: Bob West, WA8YCD

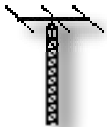
Contact info: Bob West 291-0418 rlwest@wa8ycd.net



Holiday Dreams and Best Wishes !

This space for rent

MWA web site <http://www.qsl.net/W8MWA>



MWA
PO Box 4263
Morgantown, WV 26504



Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code