



It's Official!

Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 24, 2007 -- Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. Beginning on that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Publication of the new rules in the January 24 *Federal Register* started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" *R&O* that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The *R&O* appearing in the *Federal Register* constitutes the official version of the new rules.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. **Starting February 23, all Technicians will have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.** When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

On or after February 23, an applicant holding a valid *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE)* for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A *CSCE* is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, *no exceptions*. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid *CSCE* for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

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MWA Meeting info

- February 20, 2007
- Third Tuesday of every month **7:00pm**
- Refreshments at 6:30pm
- Red Cross office
White Birch Towers
3rd Floor
- Meeting topic
MWA jackets & hats
Odds and Ends
Net Control information
- Equipment set up assistance

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."

MWA INFO

President

Bill Harris – N6XAK

Vice President

Randy Crowe – N8OZY

Secretary/Treasurer

Bob Steele – N8HGL

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

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid *CSCEs* for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may *not* operate as *JAG* or *JAE* until you have upgraded and have been issued a *CSCE* marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid *CSCE* for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges." Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. **Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone. I was glad to see the turn out at the last meeting. I know some of you had to work and could not make it, but it was a good get together. I have asked Wick, KC8RHO to be the Sergeant at Arms for MWA. He will open the meetings with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He has asked to be the 'go to guy' for the welfare of the club. If you know a member that is sick or not doing so well, please let Wick know. Maybe we can be of some kind of help.

I hope you will be at the next couple of meetings so we can get your input on what is good for the club and the individuals in it. I'm sure we will be planning to make improvements in the club in the near future and we want to make sure everyone that can, has a chance to speak up.

Sharon and I are presently moving into our new digs, so please bear with us as we try to get settled. It can be a bit overwhelming to take care of a new job, new house and new position all at once. Going through the learning curve on all three at the same time will be a challenge to say the least. Hang in there, we'll get it done. If you have any ideas or wants for the club, please let myself, Randy (N8OZY), Bob (N8HGL), Wick (KC8RHO), or Rick (N8PDQ) know. We need your input so we can build the club around your wants and needs. And I ask that you give us enough lead time to do something with your requests. Sometimes it takes a while to get things rolling. If you would like to have the club purchase any articles of recognition, i.e. patches, shirts, jackets etc., please try to find out where they can be obtained and what the cost will be. Another thing is to find out if they will fit everyone in size and taste. We'll talk more about this at the club meetings.

There are a number of events that will undoubtedly appear on the schedule this year. Bob has the calendar of events and you can coordinate through him. If you have an event that you want to do or get involved with, come to the meeting and give it a pitch. We will need some folks to step up and take charge of some of these events so that others don't get burned out doing it all the time. Besides, new blood quite often improves things. If you aren't sure you want to take it on, work with someone who is and learn the ropes and perhaps do it next time. I myself only know The Christmas parade as I have not had the opportunity to participate in the other events. I certainly will if I can, because I really believe in giving back to the community. It's a catch 22. I need to work to pay for the toys, but don't have the time to play with them when I get them.

Randy, N8OZY, advised that he will keep us updated on the progress of the repeaters and what needs to be done. From what I hear, it sounds like it is time to set our hats to find some monies to replace some equipment. I'm told this gear has been in use for quite some time and the tubes and parts are becoming very hard to find. If anyone out there has connections or knows of anyone selling equipment that may be of interest, please let Randy or myself know. I have located some things, but they appear to be just as old as ours.

Bill/N6XAK

Emergency Coordinator Message, N8HGL

FEMA classes online programs

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation for nongovernmental organizations (NGO) applies to ARES.

Local government often calls on NGOs for assistance. NGOs are non-profit entities working cooperatively with the government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs are the American Red Cross and ARES (ARRL).

Recommended FEMA training for ARES:

- IS-700 National Incident Management System an introduction
- IS-800 National Response Plan an introduction,
- IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System,
- IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents.

You can go to the following link for information and instructions for taking the free courses online.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

Refer any questions to Bob/N8HGL ARES EC



Remember, if you plan for problems, they cease to be problems and become merely a part of the plan.

Bob Steele, N8HGL



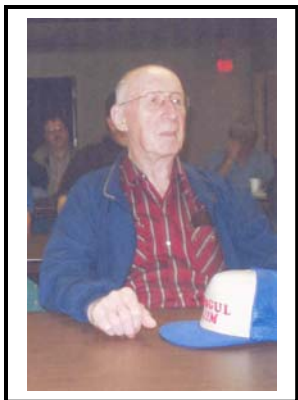
Amateur Radio Technician Class for 2007 has started. Still time to sign up!



The next class is rumored to be a General upgrade class later in the year. Contact Bob West if interested. No interest, no class will be held.



**Bob West, WA8YCD
ARRL registered instructor**



**Jim, W8GUL
at September
2006 MWA meeting**

James E. McEwuen, W8GUL, SK
 on Feb 9, 2007 after a short illness. Jim was 82, lived in Morgantown, WV (Brookhaven) and was a veteran of WWII, serving with the 6th Army Group in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Germany and France. Jim was an engineer and worked at WCLG, WDTV TV (Bridgeport), WVU Hospitals, and the Navy Department. He also volunteered for Civil Air Patrol, Navy Mars (NNN0TNS) and taught beginning computer classes for 23 years at M-TEC. Jim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Alice (Dessent) McEwuen, 3 sons, Richard, Charles and John (and families), 1 daughter, Mary Faye (and family) and 8 grandchildren.



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

MWA January 2007 MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by MWA President, Bill Harris, N8XAK
- Pledge of allegiance
- Introductions
- Minutes for Nov 2006 meeting read and approved
- Financial report and status was given.
- President thanked previous officers for their service and discussed some intentions for 2007
- Mike Hopkins commented on the Christmas Parade and thanked all the amateurs who provided communications support.
- Discussion about obtaining MWA hats, jackets, t-shirts, patch, etc. Some were going to check out possible sources. Also there was discussion on MWA magnetic vehicle signs.
- Leroy, N8UEV postponed a presentation until a later date.
- Al/W3GEG announced a VE session on Jan 25 at 7 PM.
- Bob/WA8YCD reminded all that the 2007 License Class would begin on 15 FEB and run for 10 weeks followed by a VE session on 26 Apr.
- MWA calendar of events was discussed.
- Randy, N8OZY reported on status of repeater.
- Aaron/KC8WML talked about the WVUARC, including programs and stated would notify the date of the next meeting. Aaron also stated that there would be a balloon launch sometime in April.
- Club and other nets were discussed. Bob/N8HGL submitted possible dates to NWS Pitt for a SKYWARN Class.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

MAY 18, 19, 20, 2007

<http://www.hamvention.org/>



SKYWARN Training **Tuesday April 24** *not the meeting night*

MWA meeting location
Red Cross facility, 3rd floor
White Birch Tower building
1299 Pineview Drive

To schedule and info:
Bob Steele, N8HGL
(304) 216-1726 (cell)
N8HGL@arrl.net (email)

Area Amateur Radio HamFest

Feb 25 – WASHfest, Castle Shannon VFD, PA
<http://www.n3sh.org/>

Mar 11 – Foothills ARC, Greensburg, PA
<http://www.w3lww.org/>

Mar 17 – Charleston Area Hamfest, WV
<http://www.karc.wvhamradio.com/>

If you know of an area Hamfest, send info to Rick Heis

MWA meeting location will have a talk in frequency MWA repeater on 145.43 MHz (tone 103.5)

OR

Cell 685-0862

Cell 216-1726

Forward this newsletter via email or snail mail to those who would appreciate a copy. Print out a copy(s) and leave at work or school or a doctor's office.

Mountain State Emergency Net

meets the first Thursday of each month on 3.865 MHz, immediately following the closing of the WV Fone Net (which meets at 6 PM Eastern

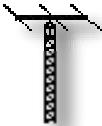


Monongalia County ARES Net

meets the Wednesday after the third Tuesday of every month on 145.43 repeater (tone 103.5) February 21st at 7:30pm

Bring a former MWA member to the meeting

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



MWA
PO Box 4263
Morgantown, WV 26504

