



(Our Temporary Logo)

AADXA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2003

The Amateur service, if proposed changes take place, will see the most rule changes in 4 years than it has seen in the past 55 years! If you haven't heard yet, The international treaty requiring morse code knowlege, has now been deleted giving the national rule making bodies of the world's countries, the sole choice if it wants morse code testing or not. There are currently 6 proposals in comment stage with the FCC to do away with the code or modifying the law for code profieency for Extras only. If the code is done away as a requirement, estimates of early 2004 have been given in some sources. The amateur service, will have seen the most major changes since the 1950's if the no code petition passes. We went from 6 licenses to 3 in 2000. We gained a new band in 2003, and with this, 2004 will possibly allow all hams HF privilages for the first time ever with no morse knowledge. Some have commented saying " HF will be nothing more than CB with a license". This does remain to be seen with most of the above commenters stating their position to use CW exclusively if this becomes in effect. What ever the outcome, Amateur radio is in for one tough fight on it's hands.

73 Mike KC5OKP

What would Prof. Samuel Finley Breese Morse (Born: April 27, 1791- Died April 2, 1872) think of the advances made to his "electronic alphabet" ? The inventor of the American Morse code might be surprised to find that it has changed somewhat over the past years. The original Morse code was developed for the use of land lines or telegraphy, using a series of long and short pulses. Original users did not listen to tones, but rather clicking from a sounding board.

With the advancement of radio or wireless communications the code underwent some changes, gone were the clicks and pauses used by telegraph, to be replaced by the dit and dah tones produced by radio equipment. This new technology required a change in the code, many of the long pauses were replaced with the dahs, effectively changing the code symbols and giving us the code as we know it today.

In recent years there has been much discussion into the abolishment of code in the Amateur testing. Many argue that cw is outdated and not even the military uses it on a constant basis. There are more advanced means of communications such as PSK, satellite, and even the internet. Others argue that Morse code should remain a part of the Amateur testing, otherwise it will become another CB band. Code testing should be used to ensure the high quality and dedication of the operator. These were many of the same arguments used when the 20 wpm test was abolished.

In looking at Morse code, several points come to mind instantly; What other mode of communication uses half the bandwidth to convey the same information ? Which other mode produces satisfactory results in high noise or poor band conditions ? In which other mode of communication is an A, I, O , or U, pronounced the same ? What would the radio operator of H.M.S. Titanic have sent without Morse code, and how many more would have been lost?

Regardless of where you stand on the issue, we are all Amateur operators, dedicated to the sport and hobby of experimentation, mode of operation, and advancement of radio technology. At the moment the FCC is soliciting comments concerning code testing on many upcoming proposals. I urge you to visit the ARRL site, read these comments and if you have concerns or better ideas please submit them. Amateur radio only survives because we as members voice our opinions and ideas, That is what makes a quality and dedicated "HAM" operator.

73 Mark KD5NOY

Editors Note- If you want your own voice heard on the no-code petitions currently before the FCC, Go to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/> and look for RM-10781 through RM-10787 with the heavily talked about no code international <http://www.nocode.org/> proposal being RM-10786. The comment session may be over by the time this newsletter is received by our readership but please view comments made by others at least on this effort.

Notes From The President

Dear Members and Friends,

As with every previous year in our increasing history, now is a slow and laid-back time. The most exciting thing to happen as of late is our problems with the meeting site. We have improvised over the past few months with this becoming increasingly more difficult. Hopefully, we'll have this problem solved real soon.

I would also like to wish Thomas AB5DK, all the best up in Pineville and hope you do not become a complete stranger. You will truly be missed. In addition, I'd like to wish Newton N5BOD the quickest of recoveries following his accident. Get Well Soon!

Finally, I would like to formally invite everyone to our nominations in the next couple of months. Let everyone hear your voice and come take part in deciding the future of our club.

Best Regards,
Guy W5ZIM

Meeting site problems

The AADXA group has been weathering it's worse problem ever with our need for space. Currently we have no permanent site for meetings at all. The court house, where we met for 5 years, became unexplainedly off limits with no keys to access the room since roughly March. We did use the Civil Defense Building afterwards until a incident happened with the generator soon after Field Day and the building was closed to all non civil defense employees until this incident was fully investigated.

Our August meeting was cancelled, with a September meeting at the Morgan City Volunteer Fire Department home on Victor II Blvd. Courtesy of Phillip KC5WFV who came to our rescue. This is a temporary situation as Phillip must be present and get prior approval before our use of the building and this would be too much for him as a permanent plan.

The officers, as well as numerous members, and Non-club members, are searching for a more permanent site in East St. Mary parish. We have contacted the libraries and other spots and trying to gain more information on different solutions before voting on a permanent solution.

If you have a site in mind, or can help us in making contact with those in charge of a possible meeting site, Please contact Guy at w5zim@qsl.net, Mike at kc5okp@hotmail.com, or Ronnie kd5gag@msn.com As soon as possible to find a solution.

Monthly Manic

By Guy Morrison W5ZIM

I would like to introduce you to an idea I had for the newsletter. This article will be about anything and everything (ham radio or not) that just is so outrageous, unexpected, or just totally “ticks” you off. I highly encourage anyone to submit their personal stories for this article as I will share mine.

As everyone knows, we have been testing for ARRL for almost three years now. I have never had a problem with mailing them off until this past August. We had three testers that month and I went the following Monday to mail off the results. I waited about twenty minutes in line and when I got to the counter and set the envelope on it, the postal worker tossed it back at me and proceeded to tell me that he cannot accept it, as it cannot be mailed.

I then asked why it could not be mailed and he said that the affixed “No Postage Necessary” sticker that the ARRL provided us for the envelopes does not belong on the Priority Mail Envelopes, which the ARRL also provided us. I tried to explain to him that I’ve been mailing these for over 2 ½ years and I have never had a problem, however, he continued to argue with me and tried to show me the envelope that the No Postage Necessary sticker belongs to and refused to take the mailing.

As soon as I got home, I contacted Bart Janke, the head of the ARRL VE system. I told him the situation and Bart made a phone call to that Post Office and then the supervisor called me at home, apologized for the incident and asked me to bring the mailing back. I have yet to see that same Postal Worker in there since. I take my hat off to Bart and the ARRL for quickly resolving this problem.

Elections

The AADXA will hold nominations for officers for 2004 in November with nominations and election of new officers in December. If you wish to become an officer or want information about what it takes to be one, please contact Mike KC5OKP at kc5okp@hotmail.com .

Leaving the area

With sadness, I report that Thomas Lacaze AB5DK has left the area to work in his hometown of Pineville again. Thomas was one of the 3 CW operators who helped make numerous contacts for AADXA at numerous Field Days. He was also an active participant at many AADXA meetings

and functions. We will be sorely missed with CLARC, the ham club in Alexandria, picking up a great ham and member.

Testing

We had no one test in July, with all regularly scheduled testing for the rest of the year cancelled until our meeting site situation is finished.

In August, when our meeting was cancelled, we had a makeshift test session set up at Guy W5ZIM's home for 3 hams who came for testing.

Passing are:

- Raymond Tassin N5THI of Houma who became Extra class
- Keith Day Sr (now KD5YVV) of Zachary who became a Technician
- Keith Day Jr (now KD5YVW) of Slaughter who became a Technician

We would like to congratulate all who passed and wish many years of very happy amateur radio.

On another note, with Thomas AB5DK moving, our plans for commercial testing will be held off; until another volunteer comes forward to accept the duties of being the contact VE.

Note - You must hold a Extra class ham license or a commercial GROL to become a VE for commercial testing with W5YI (ARRL does not offer any non-amateur testing).

Upcoming Events in the Area

The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association is sponsoring a special event station, KE5LP, from 1300Z November 1 until 2400Z November 2 to commemorate the Bi-Centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. Frequencies of operation will be 28.465, 21.365, 14.265, and 7.240 MHz. A special QSL card for contacting KE5LP will be available from Roland Guidry NA5Q, 118

W Betty St, Rayne, LA 70578.

Jackie KA5LMZ has proposed that our section's clubs operate a special event station on the LA Purchase Bicentennial Train on its 36-day tour around the state from mid November through mid December. The newly restored Southern Pacific No. 745, a 1921 New Orleans-built steam engine, will pull a multi-sensory exhibit featuring various exciting aspects of the LA Purchase. Jackie has received permission from the LA Steam Train Association for a ham station to be put aboard! Details are yet to be worked out, but the itinerary of the train can be found at www.lasta.org Ray W5EW, our Affiliated Club Coordinator, will be working with Jackie on this project. If your club is interested in

participating, please let Ray know via email, w5ew@arrl.net As more details become known over the next few weeks, I will pass them along as quickly as possible via email.

For those into Boy Scouting, Local ham radio operators in baton Rouge will sponsor a JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) for Scouts at the Carrouth Campground in Port Allen, Louisiana. Operating times will be from approx. 9 am to 5pm on Saturday October 18, 2003. Directions to the campground can be found using the following URL: http://www.iac-bsa.org/pdfs/carruth_directions.pdf Any scout troop or amateur radio operator wishing to join in this event should contact Karl Sandstrom at 225-261-8162 or k5man@arrl.net as soon as possible.

Upcoming hamfests in the section include:
October 18th - 2nd CLARC Hamfest in Alexandria (www.clarc.us)
November 8th-9th BRARC hamfest in Baton Rouge (www.brarc.org)
November 14th-15th TC hamfest in Monroe (www.tchams.org)
December 6th Minden ARC in Minden (kb5pkw@aol.com)

Repeaters

We have had 3 new reports on different repeaters here in St. Mary Parish. Currently the 6 meter is being readied for testing again at repeater builder Huey N5DVI's home in Amelia. The 146.745- Amelia repeater has lost it's ability to transmit voice over the repeater again. And their are unconfirmed reports of the audio of the 147.120+ repeater in Franklin interfering and being heard by Sheriff's office dispatchers.

Where To Write

If you would like to submit an article or reply to anything in this newsletter for printing, send email to either the editor directly at kc5okp@hotmail.com, our co-editor at kd5noy@qsl.net or by snail mail to:

AADXA Newsletter
P.O.Box 337
Amelia, Louisiana 70340-0337

NOTE: We do have the right to edit for size and/or content and ask that you leave your name, callsign, and a way to get in touch with you for any possible questions or clarifications.

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Mike Robichaux KC5OKP Mark Robinson KD5NOY