

B.V.A.R.A. QRM

W3SGJ

www.qsl.net/bvara

March 2004

144.710/145.310 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

447.975/442.975 MHZ - 100 HZ PL

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR & DISTRIBUTION

KB3EAQ .Debbie Reid



THE NET LIST

WPA CW NET.....7:00 PM DAILY.....3.585
 TRADERS NET.....7:00 PM MON & FRI 3.898
 HOSS TRADERS....8:00 PM WEDNESDAY.3.910
 CALLOUS BOTTOMS...11:00 PM DAILY...3.912.5
 WPA PHONE & TFC NET .6:00 PM DAILY...3.983
 PA TRAFFIC TRAINING NET..6:30 PM .3.610
 E-CARS.....8:00 AM DAILY...7.255
 EAN NET..2:30 PM DAILY..7.243
 RIP VANWINKLE...7:00 AM DAILY..145.31
 B.V.A.R.A. 2 METER ...8:30 PM WED....145.31
 B.V.A.R.A. 10 METER .9:00 PM WED...28.370
 WPA TRAFFIC.....8:00 PM DAILY..146.88
 QCWA NET.....8:30 AM SUNDAY.147.03
 VISIT THE B.V.A.R.A. s WEBSITE AT:

Error! Bookmark not defined.

Submit all articles for the B.V.A.R.A. QRM, to Debbie KB3EAQ at our monthly meeting or by phoning her at 724-758-4074 on details on how to get it to her. All articles must be typed in text format on floppy disk. Thank you.

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==CLUB NEWS==**CLUB MEETING**

The March B.V.A.R.A. meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th, 7:30 PM at the Beaver County Emergency Operations center located 250 East End Avenue, Beaver PA.

FIELD DAY

Field Day will be held at Economy Park on the following days in June, Friday the 25th, Saturday the 26th, and Sunday the 27th. We have secured two shelters for the event this year. They are shelters #2 and #4. The Covered Dish Dinner will start the weekend off on Friday, June the 25th. Dinner time to be announced at a later date. It looks like we ll'have plenty of room this year for all the operators and equipment that will be participating **HI!** We do need to start with the planning of Field Day as it s'just around the corner.

FROM THE DESK OF THE 2nd V. P.

For those who don t have the addy s'yet for some of the ham web sites, here are a couple for you:

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org>
 EHAM <http://www.eham.net>
 ECARS <http://www.ecars7255.com>
 (East Coast Amateur Radio Service) --^
 NIGHT HAWKS <http://thenighthawks.com>

Some up coming hamfests for your calendar:

OHIO:

Lake County ARA	Madison, Ohio	28 Mar 04
Cuyahoga Falls ARC	Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio	18 Apr 04
Twenty Over Nine Radio Club	Youngstown OH.	25 Apr 04
Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, Ohio	14-16 May 04

PENNSYLVANIA:

Two Rivers ARC	Boston / McKeesport, Pa.	14 Mar 04
Foothills ARC	Greensburg, Pa.	28 Mar 04

The ARRL is proposing a new entry level license, and code free HF access to the FCC.

1. Consolidating all current licenses into three classes.
2. Retain Morse Code requirement, 5 WPM for Extra Class.

For all the pertinate information, the ARRL has it on it s' website and in the upcoming QST It is also in the 2004 ARRL Bulletin ARLB003.

Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) is an ongoing issue. Many amateurs, the ARRL, FEMA, NITA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) they coordinate government frequencies, have all come on board against it. The FCC is still for it and will have to go through the motions. Other governments have banned BPL as it causes high noise levels on low bands.....

There are a number of contests coming up. I m' trying to get the listings for March in time for this QRM. I wish I could do more than 5 WPM.

An interesting website I found was one ARES / RACES hams might want to look at. It has links to antenna building, go kits, and an interesting method of setting up your communication radios, and containers. Go to <http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/hampage.htm> This site is the KB1DIG and KB1GTRham page. Have fun looking.

If You are an ARRL member, You can have the ARRL newsletter, the Contest s'Rate Sheet, the DX Bulletin, and other stuff sent to you FREE via e mail. By USPS it costs You. Why spend money when You can get it FREE! Other benefits are available if You register at the ARRL website.

Until next month.....de N4KRA

ADDED VALUE FROM THE DESK OF THE 2ND V. P.

MY QST showed up today and here are some of the contests I mentioned that I would try to get in this issue of the QRM.

Mar 6-7	ARRL International DX Contest
Mar 13-16	RSGB Commonwealth Contest
	Wisconsin QSO Party
	Oklahoma QSO Party
	North American RTTY Sprint
Mar 20-22	Russian DX Contest
	Virginia QSO Party
	10-10 Mobile Contest
	CLARA and Family HF Contest]
Mar 27-28	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!!

The FCC voted to go forward with the NPRM on the subject of Broadband Over Power Line (BPL). The amateur community is dismayed and hopes that after all is said and done, BPL will be rejected. Lets keep our fingers crossed.

Until next time, 73 de N4KR

ARRL News**ARLB003: ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access**

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB003

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

ZCZCAG03

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 20, 2004

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement —now 5 WPM-only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals —developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July —are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional, said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's religious debate. "

The Entry-Level license class —being called Novice —for now —would require 25 question written exam. It would offer limited HF/CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while

retaining a motivation to upgrade, said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees —now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs —would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees —Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General —would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written examination would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus, and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service, " Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said.

We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century. "

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the Novice reformatting plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17, or 12meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to propose New Entry-Level License, Code Free HF Access " on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

Most Frequently Asked Questions About the QSL Service

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Question: How do I QSL a station that has a QSL Manager when I'm using the Bureau? How do I indicate the Manager's call on my card? How do I sort cards with Managers, by the Contacted station's call or the Manager's call?

Answer: **A NOTE ON QSLING VIA A MANAGER**

When QSLing via a Manager please write via and the Manager's call on the back upper left corner of your card. If the back of your card is not blank please write it on your card near the contacted station's call and if possible make it stand out in some way (highlight it, use different color pen, etc.)

When sorting these cards please sort them en-masse with your regular QSL's by the Manager's call (if the Manager's call is on the back of the card please sort with the Manager's call facing up).

DO NOT use envelopes, slips of paper or post-it notes to separate the cards with QSL Managers. Because these cards go through SO MANY hands before they reach their destination slips of paper and post-it's will most likely fall off and envelopes can become damaged, possibly damaging the enclosed card.

Please try and follow these guidelines to ensure your cards are routed properly and arrive in good condition.

Question: Sorting QSL cards for the old USSR callsigns is confusing, which prefixes are for which country?

Answer: **Prefix list for the Countries of the former USSR**

Russia: (parent prefix - **UA**), RA - RZ , UA - UI , U1 - U4 & U6 - UO **Ukraine:** (parent prefix - **UR**), UR - UZ , EM - EO & U5 **Kazakhstan:** (parent prefix - **UN**), UN - UQ

Uzbekistan: (parent prefix - **UK**), UJ - UM

Latvia: (parent prefix **YL**), YL only

Lithuania: (parent prefix **LY**), LY only

Belarus: (parent prefix **EU**) EH - EW

Estonia: (parent prefix **ES**), ES only

Kyrgyzstan: (parent prefix **EX**), EX only

Azerbaijan: (parent prefix **4K**), 4J - 4K

Georgia: (parent prefix **4L**), 4L only

Question: Can I send QSL cards to US QSL Managers through the Bureau?

Answer: Yes you can as long as you or the station you made contact with was outside the 48 contiguous states at the time.

Question: Can I QSL US Amateurs through the Bureau system?

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Answer: No you cannot send cards to other US hams through the Bureau **UNLESS** you or the other station was DX at the time and your QSL card indicates this. (ex. you make a contact with XE/K1TLK or you are in Mexico and your QSL card indicates that is where you were at the time of the contact.)

Note: DX means anything outside the 48 contiguous states, which means you can send cards for Alaskan and Hawaiian calls as well as those for US territories or military bases through the outgoing bureau. (The prefixes for these areas are as follows: All AL, KL, NL, WL, AH, KH, NH, WH, KP, NP, WP calls as well as KG4x2 calls (ex. KG4SV), KA6x2 calls and KA2x2 calls.) Please refer to the "Countries Not Served" list on the Outgoing QSL Service information sheet because there are a few US territories we can not forward to.

Question: I made a contact with RA/ZS3RAS, do I sort this card with the RA's or ZS's?

Answer: Whenever you are sorting this type of card always sort it by the FULL callsign, which in this case is ZS3RAS. If you encounter a call such as RA4WXS/HA3TL you would sort it by the **FIRST** full callsign unless the contacted station indicates otherwise. If the card needs to go to the second callsign you must indicate this on the card in some way. (please refer to the section on QSLing via a manager at the top of the first page.)

Question: How do I go about changing my address with my Incoming Bureau?

Answer: You need to contact the Incoming Bureau Manager for your call area, you can do this by mail or email. The mail and email addresses for the various Bureaus can be found on the ARRL web page (<http://www.arrl.org/qs/qslin.html>) or you can call the Outgoing Bureau at (860) 594-0274 and we will be happy to give you the information you'll need.

Question: I just changed my callsign, who within the QSL service must I contact?

Answer: You must let the Manager of your Incoming Bureau know and you must have envelopes or money credits on file for both calls for at least one to two years after the change. Also, if you had a 1-land call and your new call is a 2-land call then you must have envelopes or money credits on file with both Bureaus. The reason we ask that you do this is because the Bureau system is slow so even if you have not made any contacts in a few months you may still receive cards for contacts you made before then.

As for the Outgoing Bureau you don't need to do anything unless you happen to be sending cards for your old call as well as your new call in a shipment. If you do this

just write on a slip of paper that you have included cards for your old call in the shipment and put it in the package with your cards.

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Note: The ARRL QSL Service cannot be used to exchange QSL cards within the 48 contiguous states.

One of the greatest bargains of League membership is being able to use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to conveniently send your DX QSL cards overseas to foreign QSL Bureaus. Your ticket for using this service is proof of ARRL Membership and following the fee schedule below. For those of you who are not quite so DX active you can send 10 cards or less for just \$1.00. You can't even get a deal like that at your local warehouse supermarket! And the potential savings over the substantial cost of individual QSLing is equal to many times the price of your annual dues. Your cards are sorted promptly by the Outgoing Service staff, and cards are on their way overseas usually within a week of arrival at HQ. Approximately two million cards are handled by the Service each year!

QSL cards are shipped to QSL Bureaus throughout the world, which are typically maintained by the national Amateur Radio Society of each country. While no cards are sent to individuals or individual QSL managers, keep in mind that what you might lose in speed is more than made up in the convenience and savings of not having to address and mail each QSL card separately. (In the case of DXpeditions and/or active DX stations that use US QSL managers, a better approach is to QSL directly to the QSL manager. The various DX newsletters, the GOLIST QSL manager directory, and other publications, are good sources of up-to-date QSL manager information.)

As postage costs become increasingly prohibitive, don't go broke before you're even halfway towards making DXCC. There's a better and cheaper way -- "QSL VIA BURO" through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service!

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service

1) Presort your DX QSL's alphabetically by parent call-sign prefix (AP, C6, CE, DL, ES, EZ, F, G, JA, LY, PY, UN, YL, 5N, 9Y and so on). Canadian and Australian cards should be sorted by numerical callsign (VE1, VE2, VE3 & VK1, VK2, VK3 etc). NOTE: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e. G (parent prefix) = M, 2E, 2I, 2M, 2W.....When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped with the parent prefix in your alphabetical stack. Addresses are not required. **DO NOT** separate the country prefixes by use of paper clips, rubber bands, slips of paper or envelopes.

2) Enclose proof of current ARRL Membership. This can be in the form of a photocopy of the white address label from your current copy of QST. You can also write on a slip of paper the information from the label, and use that as proof of Membership. A copy of your current Membership card is also acceptable.

3) Members (including foreign, QSL Managers, or managers for DXpeditions) should enclose payment of \$4.00 for the first 1/2 pound of cards or portion thereof--approximately 75 cards weigh 1/2 pound. \$8.00 for one pound, the fee rate then increases at the rate of \$4.00 for each additional 1/2 pound (i.e. a package containing 1 1/2 pounds of cards should include the fee of \$12.00 and so on). A package of only **Ten** (10) cards or fewer costs only \$1.00. **Eleven** (11) to Twenty (20) cards are \$2.00. Twenty-One (21) to Thirty (30) cards are \$3.00. Please pay by check (or money order) and write your callsign on the check. Send "green stamps" (cash) at your own risk. **DO NOT** send postage stamps or IRCs. Please Make checks payable to:

---The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service:

DXCC credit CANNOT be used towards the QSL Service fee.

4) Include only the cards, proof of Membership, and fee in the package. Wrap the package securely and address it to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111-1494.

5) Family members may also use the service by enclosing their QSL's with those of the primary member. Include the appropriate fee with each individual's cards and indicate "family membership" on the primary member's proof of Membership.

6) Blind members who do not receive QST need only include the appropriate fee along with a note indicating the cards are from a blind member.

7) ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the service when submitting club QSL's by indicating the club name. Club secretaries should check affiliation papers to ensure that affiliation is current. In addition to sending club station QSL's through this service, affiliated clubs may also "pool" their members' individual QSL cards to effect an even greater savings. Each club member using this service must also be a League member. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix, and proof of Membership enclosed for each ARRL member.

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Recommended QSL Card Dimensions

The efficient operation of the worldwide system of QSL Bureau requires that cards be easy to handle and sort. Cards of unusual dimensions, either much larger or much smaller than normal, slow the work of the Bureaus, most of which is done by unpaid volunteers. A review of the cards received by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service indicates that most fall in the following range: Height = 2-3/4 to 4-1/4 in. (70 to-110 mm), Width = 4-3/4 to 6-1/4 in. (120 to 160 mm). Cards in this range can be easily sorted, stacked and packaged. Cards outside this range create problems; in particular, the larger cards often cannot be handled without folding or otherwise damaging them. In the interest of efficient operation of the worldwide QSL Bureau system, it is recommended that cards entering the system be limited to the range of dimensions given. [Note: IARU Region 2 has suggested the following dimensions as optimum: Height 3 1/2 in. (90 mm), Width 5 1/2 in. (140 mm).]

Countries Not Served By The Outgoing QSL Service

Approximately 260 DXCC countries are served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, as detailed in the ARRL DXCC List. This includes nearly every active country. As noted previously, cards are forwarded from the ARRL Outgoing Service to a counterpart Bureau in each of these countries. In some cases, there is no Incoming Bureau in a particular country and cards therefore cannot be forwarded. However, QSL cards can be forwarded to a QSL manager, e.g., ZB2FX via (G3RFX). The ARRL Outgoing Service cannot forward cards to the following countries:

A3	Tonga	SU	Egypt	3C0	Pagalu Island
A5	Bhutan	T2	Tuvalu	3C	Equatorial Guinea
A6	United Arab Emirates	T3	Kiribati	3W, XV	Vietnam
D2	Angola	T5	Somalia	3X	Guinea
E3	Eritrea	T8	Palau	5A	Libya
J5	Guinea-Bissau	TJ	Cameroon	5R	Madagascar
KHO	Mariana Is.	TL	Central African Republic	5T	Mauritania
KH1	Baker & Howland Is.	TN	Congo	5U	Niger
KH4	Midway Island	TT	Chad	5V	Togo
KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Is.	TY	Benin	70,4W	Yemen
KH7K	Kure Island	V6	Micronesia	7P	Lesotho
KH8	American Samoa	VP2E	Anguilla	7Q	Malawi
KH9	Wake Island	VP2M	Montserrat	8Q	Maldives
KP1	Navassa Island	XU	Kampuchea	9N	Nepal
KP5	Desecheo Island	XW	Laos	9U	Burundi
P5	North Korea	XZ, 1Z	Myanmar (Burma)	9X	Rwanda
SO	Western Sahara	YA, T6	Afghanistan		
S7	Seychelles	ZD9	Tristan da Cunha		
S9	Sao Tome & Principe	ZK1	North & South Cook Is.		

Countries that currently restrict the forwarding of QSL cards to anyone other than members of that country's national radio society include the following:

Denmark France Germany Greece Hungary Italy Japan Monaco Morocco Norway Poland
Portugal South Africa Zambia

Additional Information:

We no longer hold cards for countries with no Incoming Bureau. Only cards indicating a QSL Manager for a station in these particular countries will be forwarded.

When sending cards to Foreign QSL Managers, make sure to sort these cards using the Manager's callsign, rather than the station's callsign.

SWL cards can be forwarded through the QSL Service.

The Outgoing QSL Service **CANNOT** forward stamps, IRCs or "green stamps" (cash) to the foreign QSL bureaus.

Please direct any questions or comments to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington CT, 06111-1494. Inquires via email may be sent to buro@arrl.org

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