

# Sparks

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## The Prez says.

**T**he Prez says was not sent to me in time in a file format that my computer could read, so it will not be in this month's sparks.

KD7DEY

Tim

The PARS Calendar



THIS IS WHAT WE DO.

PARS Meeting  
Thursday October  
21, 1999  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Place : Bellevue  
Senior Center. 4063  
148th Ave. NE.,  
Bellevue, WA

Dinner at Coco's  
5:30 PM

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I plan to try to operate 20m SSB QRP from the ship as I go around the world. I will try to be between 14.280 and 14.320 MHz, depending on where I can get a clear channel, and also where I might get into QSO's with other hams as I survey the band. Since I will be in every time zone at some time during this trip, and I have no idea what our schedule on the ship will be, it's a little hard to predict what times I'll be on with any certainty. The following is a tentative schedule as best as I can predict at this time.

Nov. 20-29 2100-  
2200 UTC.

Nov. 30-Dec. 17 2300-  
0200 UTC

Dec. 18- Jan. 5 no radio work  
 Jan 6-10 2400-0100 UTC  
 Jan 11-16 0200-0400 UTC  
 Jan 17-20 0300-0400 UTC  
 Jan 21-27 0400-0500 UTC  
 Jan 28-Feb 11 no radio time likely  
 Feb 12-16 1000-1200 UTC (not likely to be on)  
 Feb 18-19 1200-1400 UTC  
 Feb 21-28 1500-1600 UTC  
 Mar 1-2 1700-1800 UTC  
 Mar 3-18 1800-1900 UTC (again not real likely to be on)

We should be home March 20 if all goes well. I hope that I get to talk at least some of you somewhere along the line.

.....  
 .....73  
 de Jim KC7FEH

November' 99 minutes

Meeting started at the normal time.

We have about \$2000

Trailer report: The mosely is ready to rock and roll.

The trailer has been cleaned up a little bit.

The new 486 the I donated is up and running.

For the sweeps we used a free-ware program that allowed us to keep track of the calls we have made.

Contests: We will be doing the Phone sweeps this year and are hoping to be doing much better.

Hamfest is still looking for donations.

SO Please donate lots of stuff.

We will do consignments again this year.

Fox hunt still needs a committee head.

Nat. fox hunt day some time in April.

Maybe a project to build DF gear.

Field day committee head is still open too.

Plan so far is to go to Downtown park in Bellevue.

Who will Tow the trailer to where we need it?

New Business

Seattle Marathon needs Hams.

73 KD7DEY

The Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club will conduct a 3 day weekend class, beginning on a Friday, and ending on a Sunday for the Element 3B General Class of License. Anyone wishing to sign up should have a Technician Class and or Technician Plus Class of License. At the end of the class on Sunday a VE Exam team will conduct testing. Although not required for the course, students should procure their own ARRL General Class License Manual to study prior to taking the class.

These are available from your local

Ham Radio Stores. There will be printout material supplied to be used for the class. Cost is yet to be determined, but estimated to be under \$45.

Sign-up will take place at the next club meeting, and or by

Mail to:

Chuck Benefiel, P.O. Box 166, Sumner, WA 98390.

Please supply your Name, Address, Phone, e-mail address, Call sign, and a check made out to "Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club."

If you would like to participate as a student in this class, and wish to be notified of the date, prior to registering, send an e-mail to:

<  
cbenefiel@sprynet.com  
>,

and I will notify you of the date, location and times, along with a registration form, by e-mail.

If you don't have e-mail please see me or Harry Lewis, at the next meeting or call me:

Chuck Benefiel N7STR at 253 312-5341, or call: Harry Lewis W7JWJ at 206-523-9117. Chuck N7STR

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 30, 1999--Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. The FCC today issued its long-awaited *Report and Order* in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97--more commonly known as "license restructuring." The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said. Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators,

technicians, and electronic experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the *Report and Order*, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and subbands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands will remain and not be "refarmed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not refarm these subbands because there

was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. "If documentation is needed to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination, we may request the documentation from that licensee or the VECs," the FCC said.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 WPM code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. "After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide

emergency communications," the FCC said.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra--especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements also means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass

the Morse code examination due to physical handicap. The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Tech Plus and Advanced class licensees. Between now and April 15, current Advanced licensees who pass or hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for the existing Element 4B, will meet the new requirements for Amateur Extra when the new rules become effective. Likewise, current Tech Plus licensees who pass or hold a CSCE for Element 3B will be poised to upgrade to General class when the new rules go into effect April 15. Any CSCEs must be dated on or after April 17, 1999, to be valid April 15, 2000.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. "We believe that in light of ongoing discussions concerning implementation of new and more modern communications technologies within the amateur service community, we should accord the amateur service community an opportunity to complete such discussions and possibly reach a consensus regarding implementation of new technologies before we undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the amateur service operating privileges

and frequencies," the FCC said in its *Report and Order*.

In its amendments to Part 97, the FCC's *Report and Order* refers to a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator," something that does not exist under the current rules and which was not explained in the *R&O* itself. An FCC spokesperson said the Commission plans to issue a *Public Notice* soon to explain the program and to solicit qualified entities to serve as call sign administrators for club station applications.