

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

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<http://www.arrl.org>

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Requirement Entirely

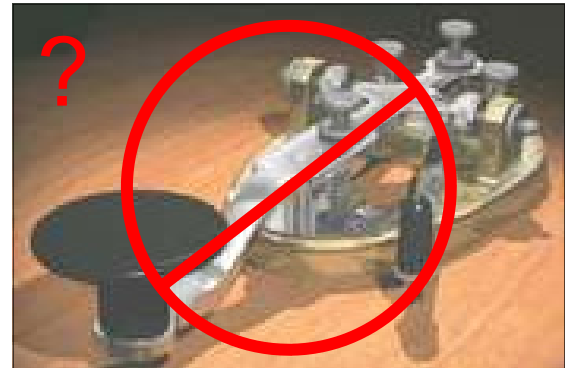
ARRL Bulletin 18 - July 21, 2005

(Newington CT July 21, 2005) The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that had proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's NPRM.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the interna-



tional Radio Regulations adopted at World Radio-communication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM

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Words from the President

The FCC's proposal to drop the Morse code examination element, Element 1, from all exams and as a requirement for any class amateur license has created quite a furor in the ham chat rooms and other ham radio related Internet group websites. I personally have mixed feelings about the proposal. I understand that being able to send and receive 5 wpm of CW is a major obstacle for many potential hams. For me, code was never a problem for any examination, Novice through Extra class. I think that anyone can learn to copy 5 wpm, if they diligently practice and have the right study guides that are available on the Net. Today, I can copy 20 wpm comfortably, but have extreme difficulty copying 20-35 wpm during contest situations. RTTY and other digital modes are much easier because the text is right in front of me on the screen!

A major fear of the "old timers" is that opening up HF to new amateurs without passing a code test will create a CB type atmosphere. I'm not concerned about that because we have many in our ranks who came to this hobby from CB and have proven to be excellent hams. This was apparent during our last Field Day operation. The GOTA station was ably manned and their operating techniques were excellent.

A bigger concern for me is that the present license exams are easier than the past. Memorization of sample questions and answers, rather

than an understanding of the theory, makes obtaining a license as simple as taking a driver's license exam. I thought that the Advanced class theory exam I took in 1974 was much more difficult than the Extra I passed in 2004. I know several Extra class hams that know nothing about the concepts and theory they memorized to get their ticket. Of course, I am not one of them. HI!

Well, we can wait and see how things sort out. It is obvious that the proposal will pass and the USA will join many other major countries that have dropped the code requirement for their amateur radio licenses.

Club Picnic

The club picnic scheduled for August 9th was a wash out! Thunderstorms and heavy rain which moved into the area an hour before the picnic was about to begin, prompted Tom, W8JWN, to make a call on the repeater, canceling the event. Follow-up phone calls were made to participants not responding to the repeater call.

Pop purchased for the picnic will be kept for a future event.

September Club Activities

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:00 PM Central Time every Sunday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.85MHz.)

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 6th, 20th and 27th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.85.) Dennis, KD8AIT, is our Net Control Operator.

Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 13th at 6:30 PM at the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway. The meeting room is upstairs next to the sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 17th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.
mikebray@chartermi.net

VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their Club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, dmwaters@ironriver.tv, (906) 265-4240

VEC Testing at Houghton

Effective with the October 8, 2005 exam in Houghton the new location for the ham exams is: Wadsworth Hall, located at the East end of the Michigan Technological University Campus. Use the middle door, go downstairs, turn right, walk 50 feet, and you will arrive at Room G22. (It's directly opposite the campus radio station, WMTU) All applicants should arrive NLT 8:30 AM in order to fill out the necessary paperwork. If you have questions, please call George Thurner at (906)337-2542 or mobile: (906)369-2542.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 ARES	5	6 Tnn	7	8	9	10
11 ARES	12	13 Meeting	14	15	16	17 Breakfast
18 ARES	19	20 Tnn	21	22	23	24
25 ARES	26	27 Tnn	28	29	30	

N8LT's Workbench

I WISH I COULD BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW...

KNOWING

"I can't do that, I don't know how....," "I don't know anything about it..." , "I'm not an Engineer..." , Excuses, excuses! None of us were born knowing anything. Everything you have ever done required learning first. Some thrive on it, others loath it, but face it, you spend the first 1/4 to 1/3 of your life in school learning. Know what? It isn't nearly enough, plan on spending the rest of your life learning more. Funny how some people won't pick up a book to learn something but have no problem spending hours trying to learn the hard way. Know it or not, one of the things that attracts us to a new activity is learning new things. At first everything is a learning experience, learning is easy and fun because it's an adventure and you're learning simple things. As you become more knowledgeable, learning slows and becomes more difficult. Many quit learning, get bored, and move on to something else. They never know the satisfaction, confidence, and flexibility that comes with developing a little expertise. You can become knowledgeable too, it's your choice.

LEARNING

I seem to be doing it constantly, if it's not learning something new it's relearning something I once knew but have forgotten.

There are some things that can only be learned by doing, there are other things that can only be learned by studying. Knowledge can be divided into two broad categories: How and Why. If you want to do something you need to know "How". If you want to understand something you need to know "Why". The trades and apprenticeships focus on "How"; schools tend to focus on "Why" (especially at the college level). If you only wish to accomplish some end, and don't care why something is done the way it is, "How" may be all you need. However, if you're curious, wish to adapt an idea, or "invent" your own, you will also need some "Why".

There are many ways to learn. There's plenty of "How-tos" out there; how-to books, magazines, classes, published plans and articles, etc. Sometimes, you can find classes that teach theory and/or practice. There are correspondence courses, many of which supply components to provide hands on experience building things; there are "packaged" courses which come with a book and a supply of parts that build a learning program around the construction of a piece of equipment; there are "kits" which provide parts and assembly instructions to allow you to build something. Another option is to work with someone that already knows what you wish to learn. While all of these options are useful, they are seldom available just when you need them. That leaves us pretty much on our own most of the time.

A term we used to hear a lot, years ago, and rarely hear today, is "self taught". It means a knowledgeable or capable person

learned something through their own initiative with little or no help from others and without the benefit of "formal" instruction. We all do it to a small degree nearly every day, like learning to use a new appliance, computer program, etc. Much of what we learn in Amateur Radio is either by example or self study, with too much of the former and not enough of the latter. (Learning by example we learn wrong along with right and bad habits along with good.) Self learning is what we must fall back on most of the time, in fact, any course that requires study is little more than guided self learning anyway. Fortunately there are many publications (including videos) made for that purpose. Sometimes we can learn a great deal just by trying something, but how useful such efforts prove to be depends upon our ability to observe and analyze the reasons for our failures. "Yea, well I don't have a college degree you know." Or "I never could learn from books." So what? Those excuses, and others even if they're true, don't mean you can't learn. It simply means it may take you longer and be more difficult for you, but it doesn't mean that you can't learn. How'd you pass your driver's test? It wasn't by riding around with someone else. How'd you pass your Amateur License test? It wasn't by watching someone operate.

Some people look for classes to make learning easy, effortless, and painless; just show up, sit through the sessions, and learn through sheer exposure, as if by absorption through the skin. We don't learn that way. Classes can be nice, the presence of others provides support, encouragement, and a desire to persevere. They can make learning easier, and force you to make time to study regularly. Having a teacher available can also help as a ready source of information and explanation, someone who can supplement, rephrase, or express in a different way, an idea or concept which you are having trouble understanding. When you encounter something you don't understand in a book or magazine while self learning it can sometimes be a time consuming and frustrating thing to overcome. On the other hand, classes set the pace. If you get hung up on something that you're having trouble grasping you'll likely fall behind if you stop to dwell on it; a class can't slow down to let you catch up. But if you brush it aside that will reduce the value of the rest of your class time since each successive class meeting builds upon the preceding one. Conversely, if you're grasping the material quickly or already know some of it you're apt to become bored; but the class can't speed up to satisfy you either. Courses specifically targeting what you want to learn are few and far between, if you wait until one comes along on the subject you're interested in, you may wait forever.

LEARN TO READ

No, I'm not saying you can't read, but have you learned to turn

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I WISH I COULD BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW...

(Continued from page 3)

to reading? Most of the world's knowledge can be found in writing. Archaeologists would still be stuck on square one if ancient peoples hadn't written things down. We know the least, nearly nothing, about those whose "writings" haven't survived or been found.

With the greatest wealth of knowledge ever assembled on earth available to us today, never easier to access, it is incredible that the average person today rarely considers tapping it. "But I can't learn from books, I need hands on..." Well, 'guess those subjects like 'rithmetic, English, History, Geography, etc. must have flunked you out of school then, huh. What's that? You think that knowledgeable people are all quick studies? They're all super smart, they just read it and know it? "It's easy for 'them' to learn complicated stuff." No one that I know of! I'm no quick study, but I've managed to learn a few things despite my handicap, mostly from books and magazines. Books and magazines have some big advantages. First is availability, you can just pick them up anytime. Second, breadth; just about anything you want to know has been put in print, many times over. Then there's convenience, you can "rewind and re-play" (reread) as often as necessary, anytime you want to. And, magazines and new books are the most current sources of information on what's new. To take advantage of all that you must learn, think of reading as one of your first resources.

LEARN TO STUDY

You don't "read" technical material like a novel or mystery story, you study it. If there is a secret to studying, it's not the mundane "use good lighting" or "sit with good posture while reading" (ugh, I like to read lying down) or any of those mechanics (other than being comfortable). The secret is what goes on in your head. Reading alone teaches you nothing. If you want practice reading, read fiction. At least you will get some enjoyment out of it.

First, locate the article, section, or chapter pertaining to the subject matter you're interested in. It isn't necessary to start at page 1 and read everything preceding. This is particularly true for handbooks. For example, in an antenna book you don't have to read the chapter on transmission lines if you're interested in the chapter on loop antennas, unless you need to know about transmission lines too. Books that focus on one subject usually have information in some preceding chapters that may be necessary to understand some of the information presented in later chapters. Study it only if you need to.

Studying only begins with reading. First, read through the material of interest to get what you can from it and get an overview of what's presented and covered. Then go back and start to read it again. As you read a sentence or paragraph you must be thinking about what it means. You may have to read portions more than once to grasp the thought or idea being presented. Science and technology require understanding, they

cannot be memorized. Being able to parrot what you've read means nothing. If you cannot explain what you've read to someone else, or to yourself, using your own words, you don't really understand it! Recognizing that is the first essential step to learning. No one completely understands anything new on the first reading. Read in manageable portions, a sentence, paragraph, or topic as appropriate. If the content is not clear ask yourself why, what is it you don't understand? It is human nature to disregard and skip over that which we don't understand and focus on that which we do, that includes ignoring and skipping over unfamiliar words while we are reading. It may work with fiction but it can be disastrous with technical literature. Search through each sentence for those words you may have ignored in the first reading and find out what they mean. To fully grasp what's being presented you must grasp the intended meaning of all the words. Look them up somewhere if necessary. If there are many such words you may be in over your head and it will be necessary for you to acquire pertinent additional knowledge before you tackle the material your presently reading. Learning takes time. An hour or two at a time spent studying is not necessarily better than a few minutes at a time spent over a period of days. It takes more to learn than just time; you must absorb and digest ideas. It requires study, reflection, and the revisiting of ideas over and over again until they seem intuitive, until you have a "feel" for them. (Feel, as used here, means an intuitive sense of correctness or reasonableness. For example, if someone just calculated the mileage for their SUV and announced that they were getting 160 miles per gallon you would intuitively know that was wrong and think that perhaps the person may have slipped the decimal since your "feel" for vehicle mileage would be suggesting that 16 miles per gallon might be more like it.) You may never fully grasp all of the implications of what you study but that does not make what you have learned any less useful.

BUILD A LIBRARY

A good library is invaluable. A few carefully selected books can cover nearly all of your needs. For example, the ARRL Handbook is a good all around technical reference that will take you from "What is Electricity" and "how semiconductors work" to beyond what most Amateurs will ever need (which is good, there's little more frustrating than an information resource that comes up short). The "Handbook" undergoes minor revision every year and a major revision every few years to stay abreast of new technology. No, you don't have to buy a new copy every year, my latest edition is 10 years old. Don't overlook older editions if you run across them, and don't discard them when you get a new one, new editions tend to drop some of the older, but still useful, information found in the older additions. There are also books available such as the ARRL's Operating Manual which cover operating procedures for all modes and useful operating techniques for making contacts, working DX, operating activities, propagation, band characteristics, and a great deal of other useful information for the operator. There are many other books for more specialized interests such as special modes of operation like packet and other digital modes, slow scan television, or technical topics such as antenna or equipment building.

Don't forget magazines. Amateur Radio magazines such as QST, QEX, CQ, and World Radio cover many topics of both general and special interest including operating and technical issues. A year's subscription to most magazines costs as much as a good book yet people routinely toss them away after "reading" them with the excuse that there is nothing "interesting" in them. Yet, they will keep a book they never use and cost no more, until it becomes a collectors item (which is good) then toss it away!

Magazines are a wealth and never ending stream of up to date useful information including the most recent technical topics and construction projects; keep them all. If you think it only pays to keep magazines that have something of interest to you today remember that what is interesting today won't be tomorrow, and what you have no interest in today may be very useful tomorrow. Current articles often reference articles in past issues leaving you wanting if you don't have them. As an encyclopedic reference library a good collection of magazines is invaluable. Consider just the example of antennas. Articles about them have been appearing in amateur radio literature since its beginning, and those old antenna designs and ideas still work just fine today. If you really, really don't have room to store magazines, many are available on CD-ROM including early issues. For example, the entire run of magazines like Ham Radio, Communications Quarterly, and QST (first edition through last year) are available.

A WORD ABOUT MATHEMATICS

Technological knowledge falls into two general categories, Qualitative and Quantitative. The qualitative portion provides understanding of how things work and why they work that way. The preponderance of technical knowledge required in Amateur Radio is qualitative in nature. It is generally expressed in English rather than the language of mathematics, though it would be hard to discuss the relationships between voltage, current, and resistance without at least mentioning Ohm's Law.

Loosely paraphrased, Lord Kelvin (1824-1907) once said: "If you can't put numbers to something, you don't know much about it." He was talking about having quantitative knowledge. Putting numbers to things becomes essential when we attempt to do something with technology as opposed to merely understanding it. "How" really encompasses not only the method but also "how much". Ever notice that electronic parts not only come in different types but in a multitude of "sizes and values"? Try to build a dipole antenna for an HF band if all you know is that 80 meter dipoles are long, 10 meter dipoles are short, and the rest are in between!

Any study or use of Science or Technology requires some knowledge of mathematics. Anyone that has gone on to higher education in any field of technology has had to develop some skills in mathematics, however feeble they may have felt those skills were. If you've struggled with basic math it's more likely due to a bad experience, negative attitude, or avoidance of the subject as much as possible in school, than a lack of aptitude.

Some basic math is taught in many radio, reference, and technical books. My 1995 ARRL Handbook devotes a 19 page chapter to it. The chapter is brief and concise, perhaps most suitable for review, but may be a good place to start if you already have a Handbook. If you feel you need more than that there are a number of publications aimed at simplifying and teaching mathematics such as the "... Made Simple" series like "Mathematics Made Simple", "Algebra Made Simple", etc., found in many book stores. And, don't forget the local library.

You don't need to be a mathematician. Most practical work requires little more than the ability to use tables, read graphs, or substitute numbers in basic formulas. Knowing more can deepen your understanding and increase your skills. What you want or try to do will usually determine how much you really need to know.

USE IT

You can study and learn all you want but unless you're merely satisfying your curiosity you need to put what you learn to use before you can be truly knowledgeable. And, doing so tremendously helps you reinforce and remember what you've learned. Perhaps one of the best ways to learn is to concentrate on learning that which you can put to use right now. Putting knowledge to use is the payoff for learning in the first place.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME...

If you don't have time to learn, not even a few minutes here and there, you obviously won't have time to use the knowledge either and are doomed to just dreaming about; ...if you can find the time. But of course you do really have some time, we all do. We all have the same amount of time, 24 hours a day, it's what you do with it that counts. "Easy for you to say, but I have to work six days a week!" Which is part of what we do with our time; we spend a lot of it sleeping too. But if you really never have any discretionary time how do you find the time for boating, fishing, golfing, 4-wheeling, or snowmobiling? Or sitting in front of the TV watching football, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, fishing, movies, sitcoms, and (most of all) commercials? Just think, you could be reading, learning, and doing the things you'd really like to do but "don't know how" "'cause you don't have time!". It's really all a matter of priority, isn't it. Those who have less available time will take longer to reach a goal than those with plenty. Those lacking energy will take longer than those who are "hyper" and can't sit still. But, everyone can accomplish something they would like to do, the secret is to recognize your circumstances, have realistic expectations, patience, and (the real secret) work at it regularly for however little time you can manage. Break your goal up into a series of manageable steps and you will eventually get where you want to be. (No, I'm not going to quote that "...1000 mile journey...single step" thing, no matter how true it is.) But to wait "until you have time" is to wait forever (something we've all learned from experience).

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I Wish I Could But ...

(Continued from page 5)

Probably nothing lends itself better to "a minute here and a minute there" than the learning process. My favorite time for reading is just before I go to bed. No sleeping pill can put you to sleep faster than a good technical book. I often wake up moments later to find my head resting on the book. None of this "just one more page" or "just one more chapter" stuff you get with good fiction. But it's not fool proof, sometimes, before you know it, couple of hours can go by. But then at least, you've learned something useful or interesting as a consolation. (Caution! Sometimes you can wind up dreaming about it too.)

There's another resource you may have been missing out on. QST magazine has been running a series of tutorials for over a year now called "Hands-On Radio" covering many aspects of basic electronics in two-page size bites complete with simple experiments for those who would prefer to have some hands on experience rather than just reading about it. Topics covered have included basic test equipment, fundamentals of transistor amplifiers, power supply components and circuits, filters, Op Amps, timers, attenuators, L networks, and on and on. The August issue (Experiment #31) covers the "Multivibrator", one of the most fundamental building blocks of digital circuits. No schedule of future topics has been published but there's a lot that hasn't been covered yet including antennas, transmission lines, digital electronics, receivers, transmitters, and enough other topics to keep the column going for years. These articles are easy reading and are written for those that have little or no technical knowledge. Too bad you didn't keep those back issues huh? Fortunately, It's not too late, at least not for ARRL members who can download past articles from the "members only" portion of the ARRL web site.

Knowledge is an enabler, lifting you from the world of guessing, trial and error, bad luck, helplessness, and frustration to the land of ability, can do, skill, and accomplishment. It takes time to learn, not minutes or hours, but days, weeks, and years. Start now if you want to know more tomorrow than you know today. One little bit at a time, it will get you where you'd like to be. It's the only way to get there.

N8LT

Packet Racket

Packet Testing at Pine Mountain

On July 22, AB9FT of Sheboygan Wisconsin attempted to drop mail in my mailbox three times without success. After switching from MIIMT to N9NBN's digipeater, he was finally able to leave the message. I told Josh that I've been more successful using MIIMTB than MIIMT and we subsequently had a nice half hour, or so, keyboard to keyboard QSO using MIIMTB. During the QSO, the connection between us was dropped three times somewhere along the way, but we had no problem immediately reconnecting and continuing the QSO. Josh has been doing packet since he was licensed 10 years ago and he has offered to help update the Wisconsin portion of my UP/Wisconsin packet diagram. If anyone would like a copy of the diagram, please send a packet message or email to me. Please let me know how the MIIMT node is working for you.

If you have any packet news, please send it to me via packet (K8DDB-1) or via email (mikebray@chartermi.net)

K8DDB

Why Not Use UTC?

KH6BB, the club station on the Battleship *Missouri*, gets a lot of QSLs. While virtually all of them use UT for the date and time, a surprising number don't do the conversion correctly. In a recent batch of 135 QSLs, only 95 (70%) had the right date and time. Of the remaining 40 cards, 27 had the wrong date, usually forgetting that after 0000Z it's a new day. Three had the wrong time—the minutes were correct but the hour was off by one or two hours. Eight cards had both a wrong date and a wrong time, and two cards we couldn't find in the log at all.

Please, folks, if you want replies to your QSLs, make sure that the date and time are in UT and are accurate. Not all QSL managers will take the time to dig around in their logs to verify a contact that isn't where the incoming card says it should be.

NED CONKLIN, KH7JJ
Honolulu, Hawaii

*Taken from the September 2005 issue of QST.
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There is a good explanation of UTC in the February 2004 issue of Mich-A-Con RF.

K8DDB

Club Equipment List

Please take the time to look through your "stuff" and see if you have anything belonging to the club.

Here's what we have so far:

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of :

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors
- Tri-band beam antenna
- Club banner

Pat, KC8EMF, has custody of a light 40 foot tower (condition is not known.)

Mike, K8DDB, has custody of the following:

- Lafayette 80-10 meter tube type VFO and Operating Manual.
- J-38 Morse key

The list can be accessed by a link on the Membership page of our web site:

<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: mikebray@chartermi.net
or
Phone (906) 563-7020



FCC Morse code decision would *not* affect CW sub-bands, privileges

(Aug 18, 2005) -- Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have **no impact** on either the current HF CW sub-bands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. The FCC is currently accepting comments on its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes. "There seems to be a lot of confusion on these points, judging by the questions I've been getting," said John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch. He emphasizes that the proceeding does *not* put forward or recommend any changes in CW allocations or privileges. He further notes that the FCC also has not proposed to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. The Commission's *NPRM&O* suggests that in a no Morse requirement regime, such Technician licensees would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination. To file on-line comments on the FCC *NPRM&O* in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). An FCC *Report and Order* in this proceeding is not likely until early 2006.

What the Heck Is an Affiliated Club Coordinator?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator
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There are many positions within the ARRL Field Organization, and generally people are unaware of them. Some of us may have gotten a notice from an Official Observer (OO), or know the Emergency Coordinator because they are part of an ARES or RACES group. Many, however, are not familiar with the Affiliated Club Coordinator, or ACC. According to the ARRL, the ACC is the primary contact and resource person for Amateur Radio clubs in a section. The ACC is appointed by, and reports to, the Section Manager, and must be a full member of the ARRL. The ARRL's official job description includes the following:

1. Get to know the Amateur Radio clubs' members and officers in his or her section. Learn their needs, strengths and interests and work with them to make clubs effective resources in their communities and more enjoyable for their members.
2. Help clubs get started and encourage new clubs to become ARRL affiliated.
3. Encourage clubs in the section to become more active and, if the club is already healthy and effective, to apply for Special Service Club (SSC) status.
4. Approve SSC application forms and pass them to the SM.
5. Work with other section leadership officials (Section Emergency Coordinator, Public Information Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, State Government Liaison, etc.) to ensure that clubs are involved in the mainstream of ARRL Field Organization activities.
6. Ensure that clubs file annual reports (updates officers, liaison mailing addresses etc.) and keep their information up to date.

Basically, my job is to do whatever I can to make clubs stronger in our state.

I got interested in becoming ACC about four years ago. At that time, ARROW Communications Association (www.w8pgw.org), our club here in Ann Arbor was going through some tough times. Aside from running a repeater—

and that was really the job of a single person—ARROW was nearly inactive. In fact, we didn't really know how many members we had because the guy who was treasurer at the time wasn't processing membership applications and cashing membership checks! To be honest, I don't know how ARROW stayed in business.

Fortunately, we somehow attracted some new blood into the club. I became the treasurer, and I convinced my bicycling buddy, Mark, W8FSA, to join the club. He became the first elected president in many years.

Sam, KC8QCZ, became our activities coordinator. We joined Tim, KT8K, the club trustee, and Tom, N8AMX, the technical coordinator, and were able to breathe some new life into ARROW. We began sponsoring interesting meetings and activities and attracted a bunch of new members. My experience with ARROW led me to believe that I could also help other clubs in Michigan.

I believe that clubs are a very important part of amateur radio. Clubs are where the action is. Good clubs bring people into the hobby and turn them into active amateur radio operators. Bad clubs turn people away from amateur radio and foster bad stereotypes about amateur radio and amateur radio operators.

I also think that the amateur radio community must provide better support for clubs. For example, one program I am working on is a seminar on leadership training for club officers. The model for this seminar is the training that the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) makes to its section officers. Since it's nearly summertime already, I'm shooting to hold this seminar sometime in the fall.

Another thing I'm working on is collecting information that will make it easier for a club to obtain 501c3 status, should they decide to do so. Here in Ann Arbor, there is an organization called Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW). They publish a manual that includes all the forms an organization needs to file for 501c3 status. My idea is to loan this manual to interested clubs and then help them fill out and file

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Affiliated Club Coordinator

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them.

A third program that we've started to discuss is a website specifically for clubs in the Michigan section. There are a number of things we could do with such a website, including posting PDFs of club newsletters, list club events all around the state, and share information among clubs in our section. If any of you might be interested in working on this website, please feel free to call me or e-mail me.

Finally, here's a partly-baked idea that we've been tossing around—establishing District Club Coordinators (DCCs) in the same way that we have District Emergency Coordinators.

Michigan is a big state, and it's really impossible for me to cover it by myself. The idea would then be to have DCCs that would do many of the same things that I do, but specifically for their district. I'd like to hear what you think about this idea, especially if you'd be interested in becoming a DCC.

Well, that's my story. I hope this article has given you some insight into what an Affiliated Club Coordinator is supposed to do, and specifically what I'm doing here in Michigan. Comments, compliments, questions, and complaints are always welcome.

73!

Dan KB6NU

Chuck Adams' Code Course

Chuck Adams', K7QO, code course is a rousing success! Thousands of CD have been distributed through FISTS as well as downloaded from his web page. Chuck has started a "Book of the Month" program—entire novels on CD (in MP3 format) in Morse code. I've been listening to the first book, and trust me, it's excellent code practice as well as being fun! It is a real workout for your brain, I can feel those neurons firing away as I listen. It is guaranteed to break you of the "writing everything down" habit and it is perfect for practicing head copying. Here are the basics: The first book is "Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz" by L. Frank Baum. Each book is \$5 (MO) and you must include a mailing label. Chuck furnishes

the mailer, postage, disc, and a label on the disc. He has eliminated the ; , ' " - and -- and ! From the text, so it will be an easy "read". These instructions are subject to change as this project evolves, books generally start at 20 WPM, but for extra cost, lower speeds may be available. Chuck's address is Chuck Adams, PO Box 11840, Prescott, AZ 86304-1840. Contact Chuck with questions; NOT ME!

Nancy Kott, WZ8C

This article was taken from The Keynote, Issue 5, 2005 copyright FISTS CW Club.

Chuck has made a few more "books" available, at speeds from 10 to 30+ WPM depending upon the book. Check out his website at: <http://www.k7qo.net/>

K8DDB

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Code Requirement Entirely

and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140 already addresses some of the other issues petitioners raised.

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails
408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
812 West B Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a SASE along with your payment.



Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please remit dues to:
Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 _____ * Family \$30 _____ * Repeater-Only - \$10 _____**

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

* The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

**If you are an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Nov 5, 2005
Exam Date: Feb 4, 2006
Exam Date: May 6, 2006
Exam Date: Aug 5, 2006

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo id (usually a driver's license) and 1 other id. (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee (2005 fee is \$14).

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

Repeaters

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:

<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.

The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@netnet.net

Secretary:

Mike Bray, K8DDB
(906) 563-7020
mikebray@chartermi.net

Treasurer (Pro Tem):

Tom Martin, W8JWN
Mike Bray, K8DDB
(Shared responsibility)

Reminders

The monthly meeting for September is on TUESDAY the 13th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Please support the club, its repeaters and packet system by becoming an active, dues-paying member. We can do more with your help!

Help to make us a better and closer knit club by becoming involved in club activities!