

SMOKE SIGNALS

Official Newsletter for the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

Jan/Feb 2004

Inside this issue:

Presidents Corner	1
From the Editor	
ITARS Repeater	2
Hamfest Info	3
ARRL Proposed Changes	4
ARRL Proposed Changes	5
Training opportunities	
Club Information	6

Special Points of Interest!

- *Sweeping changes proposed by the ARRL has many excited over the changes.*
- *ITARS Repeater information from Bill, NI5X*
- *Hamfest Information and ARRL Conventions in our area*

President's Corner

By Bill Griffin, NI5X

Future home of 147.825/225 KD5SDJ repeater.

The repeater has done an excellent job now for several weeks, running 24/7, but only occasional usage. I have Belden 7810A, equivalent to LMR-400 coax.

This is super low loss, double shielded, actually meant for the wireless industry up to 6GHz.

We do still need an antenna, something with very good gain if possible if someone can come up with one. Or we need to build or modify one.

Now that the primary season is over, (Monica and I have been working as volunteers on the presidential primary for several months) I will try and devote more time to the club and come up with interesting ideas for meetings.

Any and all suggestions are welcome. We should offer classes for entry level licensees. If anyone has attended such classes, please email or call me, I need some ideas on how to conduct these classes and volunteers to teach or help out.

We also need to come



Bill, NI5X

up with a location.

Remember, the meetings are now on Tuesdays, so the next one will be February 10th at the cafe in Mounds. Hope to see a good turnout with the upcoming storm season not far off.

73, Bill, NI5X

Editor's Corner

By Dave Lugo, W5TAZ

Well, it's that time of year again. The National Weather Service out of Tulsa is coming to Okmulgee County to provide Storm Spotter

training on Feb 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Beggs, Fire Department. Take highway 75 to 16, west on 16 for 3 miles to Alt. 75 and turn north.

The fire Station and city hall is on the east side of the road.

Don't forget the club meeting this month we are very close to getting the repeater put up at it's permanent location.

147.225 Repeater Site

Any time you pass through the northern part of Okmulgee county, you can look to the town of Beggs and notice their water tower. Located 2 blocks west of the downtown area it towers

over most other objects in the landscape horizon.

Thanks to the effort of Joel Meeks, KD5UGY, we have been fortunate enough to be offered a

spot on it for our repeater.

The road to getting a repeater up in the area has been a long and arduous one. Being a small club has its advantages but it also has its disadvantages!

A used repeater was donated to the club by Jim, NS5U. Bill, NI5X has been putting it together and it has had a few problems along the way.

The latest was the controller needed rebuilt. Bill rebuilt it and we are proud to say the repeater has been on the air trouble free for several weeks now.

Beggs has informed us that they are ready to put the antenna up now and we are inching our way closer to achieving our club dream of a repeater in our area.

It will be a proud day indeed when the 147.225 repeater hits the air in its permanent location. It has been a laborious deed for those who have spent their time, money and energy on this project, but a labor of love that will enrich the lives and communications of northern Okmulgee County! **Thanks for your effort!**

DE W5TAZ



Hamfest's and ARRL Conventions

Oklahoma Section Convention, 19-20 Mar 2004, in Claremore, OK. For more information check: <http://www.greencountryhamfest.org/> I plan on attending this convention this year.

West Texas Section Convention, 20-21 Mar 2004, in Midland, TX. For more information check: <http://www.w5qgg.org> Since I will be at the Oklahoma Section Convention, I've asked Vice Director, Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, to represent the division.

OTHER ARRL SANCTIONED HAM-FESTS

1 Feb 04, Williamson County ARC, Georgetown, TX <http://www.wcarr.com>
21 Feb 04, Bastrop County ARC, Smithville, TX <http://www.austinhams.org/bcarr>

28 Feb 04, El Paso ARC, El Paso, TX <http://www.qsl.net/w5es>

28 Feb 04, Orange ARC & Jefferson County ARC, Orange, TX E-mail: WA5LFS@pnx.com

28 Feb 04, Brazos Valley ARC, Sugar Land, TX <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

6 Mar 04, West Central Oklahoma ARC, Elk City, OK E-mail:

n5new@dobsonteleco.com

13 Mar 04, Irving ARC, Irving TX <http://www.irvingarc.org/>

20 Mar 04, Brenham ARC, Brenham, TX <http://www.alpha1.net/~barc>

27 Mar 04, ARC of Parker County, Weatherford, TX E-mail: ad5kg@arrl.net

DIVISION CONVENTION

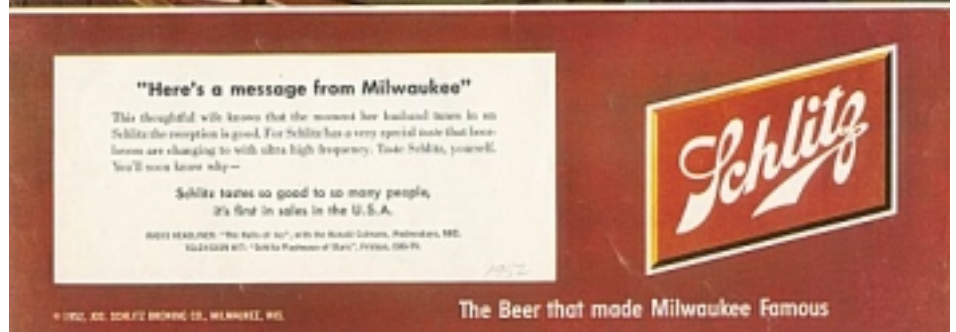
This the big even of the year for the division. The West Gulf Division Convention will be held at Ham-Com 2004 in Arlington, TX June 18-19. More on this later but check their web site at: <http://www.hamcom.org/>

This old beer advertisement shows a National NC-183 Receiver.

Take note of the QSL cards on the wall, and the Radio Amateur's handbook on the desk. No self respecting shack should be without one!

Thanks to

Larry N5LW for submitting this photo.



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 <[announce/regulatory/WT98-143ro.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/regulatory/WT98-143ro.pdf)>) 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 plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

The "New" Novice

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 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 on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters

and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

"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. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. 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.

Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

Technicians and Generals

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for

Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413 <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?Na_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513084388>, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra

At the top rung, 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 exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it."

Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license."

"On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

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

Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location."

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."

Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-10413 <<http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?na>

[tive or pdf=pdf&id document=6513084388](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?na)>). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters.

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

Proposed Phone/Image HF Subbands (Includes Novice Refarming Proposal) 80 Meters

Extra: 3.725-4.000 MHz (gain of 25 kHz) General: 3.800-4.000 MHz (gain of 50 kHz) Novice: 3.900-4.000 MHz (new)

40 meters

Extra: 7.125-7.300 MHz (gain of 25

kHz) General: 7.175-7.300 MHz (gain of 50 kHz) Novice: 7.200-7.300 MHz (new)

15 meters

Extra: 21.200-21.450 MHz (no change) General: 21.275-21.450 MHz (gain of 25 kHz) Novice: 21.350-21.450 MHz (new)

10 meters

Extra and General: 28.300-29.700 MHz (no change) Novice: 28.300-28.500 MHz (no change)

Proposed CW/Data-Exclusive HF Subbands (Includes Novice Refarming Proposal) 80 meters

Extra: 3.500-3.725 MHz General: 3.525-3.725 MHz Novice: 3.550-3.700 MHz

40 meters

Extra: 7.000-7.125 MHz General: 7.025-7.125 MHz Novice: 7.050-7.125 MHz

15 meters

Extra: 21.000-21.200 MHz General: 21.025-21.200 MHz Novice: 21.050-21.200 MHz

10 meters

Extra/General: 28.000-28.300 MHz Novice: 28.050-28.300 MHz

Training Opportunities

Well, it's almost storm season in Oklahoma! we have set a record since last season, the most day's since recorded history without a tornado in Oklahoma! I hope it will last forever but I fear it will not.

I'm sure that those of you who are ARRL members have seen this information but if not, I thought I would give it out on more time so you can plan for your training this season.

The ARRL is to sponsor an emergency communications seminar in Oklahoma. In conjunction with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Network (SATERN) Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications seminar Saturday, February 21.

The seminar will not include the Level I course itself. A PowerPoint presentation will include background information, group discussion of multiple disaster scenarios as well as testimony from emergency communications leaders, ARECC mentors and students, discussion about the ARRL emergency communications courses and a quiz to determine personal preparedness.

The seminar will be facilitated by Dan Miller-K3UGF of League HQ and will be held in OKC at the Salvation Army Citadel, 2808 SE 44th. The Ada Hamfest is set for February 14. Hope to see many of you there

Spotter training by the National Weather Service is underway in the OK Section. Many sites and training opportunities exist. Please visit the Section web site, <http://www.qsl.net/wb5syt/> for training dates which are sponsored by the Tulsa and Norman NWS offices. Also, on March 4-6 a National Severe Weather Workshop is planned for Norman. The workshop will feature the nation's premier severe weather experts. <http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2004/workshop.html>

Storm Spotter training for the Okmulgee County area will be presented by the National Weather Service out of Tulsa. It will be presented on February 9th at 7:00 p.m. in Beggs Oklahoma at the Beggs Fire Department. The Fire Station is located at Alternate 75 and highway 16, Take highway 75 to highway 16, go west 3 miles. The Fire station is on the North East corner of the intersection.

Hope to see you there!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE
INDIAN TERRITORY AMATEUR
RADIO SOCIETY

INDIAN TERRITORY AMATEUR
RADIO SOCIETY



ITARS
PO Box 548
Beggs Oklahoma
74421

Club E-Mail
Email: KD5SDJ@QSL.NET

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
VISIT US AT
WWW.QSL.NET/KD5SDJ

The Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society Monthly Club meeting is February 10th at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Sunshine Café located in Mounds Oklahoma . Everyone is welcome to attend!

Smoke Signals is the Official Newsletter for the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society. All articles printed in Smoke Signals must have prior permission from the author in order to be re-printed. All articles submitted for or suggested to be ran must do so before the end of the prior month of running in this publication. All articles placed in Smoke Signals will be edited for content, space and grammar. All articles will become property of the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society.