



The Airwaves Journal

Volume 23

Issue 04a

December, 2006

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings / Dates

December 25th – Christmas Santa bringing all those fancy new toys..

January 5th – IARC Meeting..

Supplemental Issue

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Articles submitted to this newsletter may be edited for length and/or content prior to publication.

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Ohio ARRL *Approved Hamfests for 2006..

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| Dates | Type | Event and Contact | Location |
|----------------|------|---|---|
| 13 Jan 2007 | * | Southwest Ohio Digital & Technical Symposium Dial Radio Club http://www.swohdigi.org Talk-In: 146.01/146.61 Contact: Jay Slough, K4ZLE 8183 Woodward Drive West Chester, OH 45069 Phone: 513-779-1747 Email: k4zle@arrl.net | Middletown, OH Miami University Middletown Campus (Center for Chemistry Ed) 4200 East University Blvd. Div: Great Lakes Sect: Ohio |
| 14 Jan 2007 | + | 11th Annual S.C.A.R.F. Hamfest Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation http://www.scarfclub.org/ Talk-In: 147.15+ Contact: Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ 5000 Angel Ridge Road Athens, OH 45701 Phone: 740-593-3451 Email: KC8QDQ@hughes.net | Nelsonville, OH Tri-County Career Center 15676 State Route 691 Div: Great Lakes Sect: Ohio |

IARC Board of Directors

| |
|--|
| President Phil Ackerman, N8PA |
| Vice President Rob Ruth, KD8AZQ |
| Secretary Cathy Swank, KC8SNP |
| Treasurer Dean Wrasse, KB8MG |
| Board Member 1 year John Lehman, WA8MHO |
| Board Member 2 years Henry Koenig, WD8Q* |
| Board Member 3 years John Hudson, KC8GNO |
| Club License Trustee (Appointed) Harry Frietchen, K8HF* |
| Repeater Trustees (Appointed) |
| Dick Hensel, N8WLC* |
| Jack Weeks, K8RT* |
| Bill Reese, W8WER* |
| Corporate Agent (Appointed) Scott Yonally, N8SY |

* Denotes repeater trustee

Ohio ARRL V.E. Testing Locations..

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| Date | Contact Person | Telephone | City |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 14-Jan | GARY S DEWEY | (216)642-8705 | INDEPENDENCE |
| 16-Jan | LUTHER T GANTZ | (419)684-7864 | SANDUSKY |
| 18-Jan | JAMES T VIELE | (330)534-1394 | YOUNGSTOWN |
| 20-Jan | RICHARD E FLETCHER | (419)886-2463 | MANSFIELD |
| 3-Feb | SCOTT FARNHAM | (440)256-0320 | KIRTLAND |
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Murphy's Technology Laws

1. You can never tell which way the train went by looking at the track.
2. Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.
3. Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers

something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition.

4. Technology is dominated by those who manage what they do not understand.
5. If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.
6. The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm.
7. The attention span of a computer is only as long as it electrical cord.
8. An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.
9. Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch to be sure.
10. All great discoveries are made by mistake.

Membership Information

Interested in joining? Here's How...

You now can pay your dues on-line.. The IARC utilizes PayPal services which allow you to pay your dues instantly with any major credit card.. Membership is open to anyone that is interested. Membership for the upcoming year is now just \$12.00 per member, this includes repeater privileges, member web pages, web based email boxes, email forwarding and a monthly newsletter (sent to your email).

Belonging to IARC is fun for the entire family, whether you're a ham or not.

For more information contact:

John Hudson, KC8GNO

1948 HOUT RD

MANSFIELD OH 44905

There is a small handling fee to use PayPal.

Club Email..

Interested in obtaining one of those fancy xxxx@iarc.ws emails? Interested in a way of not having to change your email address with a million people when you change ISP's??

As a member of IARC you have that privilege if you wish. We have obtained enough email boxes for every member. These emails aren't like the Yahoo's and so forth. They are a real web based email address and you can receive up to 1 gigabyte. No foolin', a whopping GIGABYTE of space for each box!! That ain't hay, that's a lot of space. What makes these mailboxes so special is that you can access them from anywhere in the world. You don't have to have any special access to an ISP. You can access your mail from anywhere you can get on the internet from, even the library!

Now if that doesn't rock your boat, then maybe this will. We now have an unlimited forwarding capability. This means that you can have your emails forwarded to your regular email address without having to give your address out to everyone. This is the same type of feature that the ARRL is offering for their membership as well. The forwarding has a definite advantage for you. It keeps your real email address a secret to all. You also get the prestige of having an email address with the xxxx@iarc.ws..

Now here is another member service being offered. Simply put, the club is offering space on their web server to allow you your own personal web page. There are a just a few simple rules that need to be understood before you start. That's it.. It's painless and a lot of fun. If you are interested contact: n8sy@iarc.ws

Remember, these services are what your dues are helping pay for!!! Please, if you aren't a member of IARC, now is the perfect time to become one.

*Intercity Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes..*

December 1, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Phil Ackerman N8PA. A round of self-introductions was made.

Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Mark KC8MKL and seconded by Jerry N8GJ.

The treasurer's report was read by Dean KB8MG. Motion to accept was made by Bruce and seconded by Pat Harris.

Pat Harris thanked everyone that helped with the VE testing this past year. The testing schedule for this coming year is Jan. 20, Feb. 11, April 21, and Oct. 20. One will be scheduled for July 14th if there is a need.

Phil N8PA reported that Health and Welfare sent out three cards this past month.

Scott N8SY reported that the web site had 129,218 hits this past month.

Old Business - Jerry N8GJ made the motion to accept the new by-laws presented by the by-law committee. Seconded by Mark KC8MKL. Motion carried.

New Business – Henry WD8Q announced that the Ohio Slow net moved to 3.596 at 6:10 pm

Meeting was adjourned to do "Peel and Stick". A big thanks to Jack for preparing the coney sauce and to Jim KA8WSE and Pat N8JOZ for cooking and serving them.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Swank KC8SNP



Lets Talk..
From Phil Ackerman, N8PA

Well, the excuse is gone, or will be shortly. CW as a requirement is no more. This can be a plus or maybe not.

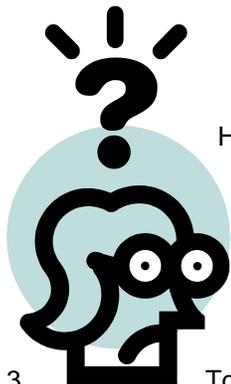
Let's look at it as a plus, and that the chance of more individuals becoming new amateur operators will be a good thing. The number of upgrades should jump almost over night. Which in turn means the bands should become busier. It will not happen automatically, we still have to promote it. If we don't promote amateur radio, we will soon find that there was no benefit to the change.

Those who operate CW will find that if they want to keep the space they have, they to will have to promote the use of CW. The advantage now is that its not a requirement, people can learn it because it there to learn. It certainly can become a case of "use it or lose it".

We now must make every attempt to use all of the HF band width we have. If we don't, don't be surprised when it starts to dry up

I for one have always been in favor of keeping CW as a requirement, now that it is history; I am in favor of making the most of it. Not taking any chances of losing any band width or the mode of CW. Maybe, we will have to get on the repeaters and verbalize in CW; like dit dit dit dit, dit, dit dah dit dit, dit dah dah dit, dit dah dit dah dit dah dit, dah dah dit dit, dit dah dah dit, dit dah

Phil Ackerman



How's about a little trivia..
From Pat Robertson, N8JOZ

How many of these did you know about?

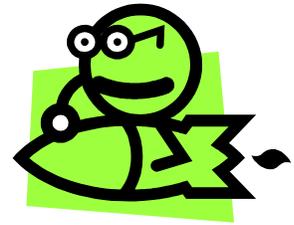
1. Use empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.
2. For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dish washing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze.
3. To remove old wax from glass candle holder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. then take the candle holder out and turn it upside down. The wax will fall out.
4. Rayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully. A damp ray, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is).
5. Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE) rubbing alcohol on paper towels.

Equipment Donated..

The InterCity Amateur Radio Club would like to personally thank Jim Billman, WB8MWE on behalf of the Kenneth Thornton, KA8BYY estate for the very generous donation of equipment. Jim was responsible for finding a club, or individual, to donate an HF rig with power supply as well as a 2-meter rig and SWR/watt meter to. We accepted this equipment to be used to help a new ham get started in the wonderful world of Amateur Radio, which were the wishes of Mr. Thornton's widow. Jim found us through our web site.. And we're glad he did..

Thanks so much..

*"ECHO-Link"..
by David Spain, KC8GNU*



Okay, everybody, let's tread where many amateur radio operators won't go, the world of ECHO-Link, or more commonly referred to as the poor man's "xmit and receive". All right now, be nice! I heard that, and it's not standing up on a mountain yelling to hear an echo.

If you don't know about it, ECHO-Link is a free computer program that lets a licensed ham radio operator communicate with 2-meter and "440" repeaters all over the world, and you don't need a fancy name brand radio to do it. All you need is your "ham" ticket, a keyboard and screen, and the little microphone that comes with the 'puter. Just run a query for "ECHO-Link", properly install it, follow specific directions to get "on the air", so to speak, and then have at it. Don't ask me "how" it does it all, cause I don't have the slightest idea. I think I read where there are approximately three thousand "stations" in the ECHO-Link net.

Now let's clear the air, I like ECHO-Link, especially because it can connect you with the true common man of so many of the world's countries. Aw c'mon Dave, what do you mean by that? Well, catch this. I was surf'ing ECHO-Link one day and I saw a repeater "open" in Pusan, Korea. No idea where in Pusan, just Pusan. I was in the Air Force and stationed in Korea many moons ago, and I had a buddy down in Pusan, and he said the place wasn't all that bad. The little island I was on, Paeng-Yong-Do in the Yellow Sea, was a great place, and I remember that going down into the village and visiting with some of the Koreans who lived there was really enjoyable, especially once we somehow got past the language barrier.

Anyway, I clicked on "Pusan", hit the right buttons, and the next thing I know a Korean's voice came on the computer speaker. "Ania hash im neeka" I said, and I got the customary, "ania ha sayo". Then I said, ever so slowly, "Hello, this K-C-8-G-N-U in America USA". There was a pause, then chatter, chatter and more chatter directed at me in Korean. I could make out an urgent set of words in Korean that would imply, "wait, wait". I immediately thought, someone is trying to find a person who can speak some English.

After a few minutes a voice comes on and says, ever so meekly, "Hello", and it was priceless. I had connected with some Korean folks who quite possibly had never been on anything but VHF or UHF, no DX to the US of A, quite possibly had never talked to an American, we were about to have a QSO, and we did. We struggled a little here and there with the words, it only lasted for a few minutes, but it was a QSO, and we parted as friends. There were pauses, and I presume the operator on the other end was interpreting our conversation to some folks in the room with him.

When it was over, I thought to myself that during this day, this 24-hours, out of nowhere, I just talked in English from my house on Donnanwood Drive to a guy in Pusan, Korea, who may have relayed my words to others in the room in Korean. Those folks in Korea may have experienced a true treasure in their lives, cause I know I did, and it was mind boggling.

Another time, I clicked a repeater in South Africa, and I got a white English speaking guy who lives in the back country on a farm. I think they call themselves "Afrikaners". Gosh, talk about interesting, his 2-meter radio was his life-line to civilization. He didn't have a car to drive to town, he had a plane to fly there, cause it was that far away. He couldn't believe that we were having a QSO, and I couldn't either. I mean, what a treat. He told me about his place, his life there, and I wish I would have written it all down for a special article for you guys to read, maybe with a picture or two he would send to me. I think his name was "John".

Do you get what I'm trying to say? ECHO-Link provides a chance to verbally touch the life of another ham radio operator in another country, and at a time when it can come as a sudden, wonderful and totally unexpected surprise for folks all over the world. No offense meant to HF- DX, but ECHO-Link is something special. It's another aspect of ham radio that makes this hobby truly unique and interesting. Give it a try sometime, and let me know what you experience.

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"ECHO-Link"..*Continued from page 6*

Oh, by the way, those Hartman radios we talked about in my previous article, the ones in Randy McMillen's collection, well they were made down at the old Hartman Electric Company on North Diamond Street in Mansfield (Ohio). Sorry that important bit of trivia wasn't in the article, and thanks to Randy and some other ham's who took the time to email the information to me.

Hey, now that I mentioned the word, if you have an interesting ham radio tale, be it witty, sad, embarrassing, or somewhere in between, "email" me about it. I'll save them up, and put them into a common article or two, or three plus, here in the newsletter. Don't be bashful now. It's yobi589@aol.com, and I hope I haven't open up a big can of worms. Just kidding!

7-3 from David Spain KC8GNU

From Me..

Hi Gang,

Well, it's almost Christmas!!! Have you been a good little girl or boy? Remember, Santa is always watching.

Just one item to discuss.. It has been observed by many that we have been publishing Airwaves twice a month.. This has been by design because of all the news that has been released lately. I will continue to publish Airwaves twice a month as long as we have something to publish.. This means that I will need more help from you if you wish this to continue.. You've all heard me say for years, articles.. articles.. articles.. You all have an article in you.. You really do. It really doesn't take much. Also, I have printed pictures in the past when they've been available. How's about sending me something..

With all this said, I do want to be sure and wish all of you a Blessed Christmas. Remember, this very special day was God's present to all of us.



End of an Era: FCC Drops Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes!!
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NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 15, 2006 -- In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted a *Report and Order* (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. In a break from typical practice, the FCC only issued a [public notice](#) at or about the close of business and not the actual *Report & Order*, so some details -- including the effective date of the R&O -- remain uncertain. Also today, the FCC also adopted an *Order on Reconsideration*, in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding -- agreeing to modify the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. The Commission said it will carve out the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations. Prior to the long-awaited action on the Morse code issue, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. The Commission said today's R&O eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants.

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*End of an Era:
Continued from page 7*

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirement across the board, however, and it held to that decision in today's R&O.

Perhaps more important, the FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the R&O goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they've passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the R&O in the Morse code docket would eliminate a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees. Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained," the FCC said in its public notice. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall. A number of countries, including Canada, no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. The list has been increasing regularly.

The FCC said today's R&O in WT Docket 05-235 comports with revisions to the international *Radio Regulations* resulting from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. Typically, the effective date of an FCC Order is 30 days after it appears in the *Federal Register*. That would mean the Morse requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely not go into effect until late January 2007.

Egon Loeckel, N8EL now a Silent Key..

It is with a very sad heart that I report one of our members past away recently. Egon Loeckel, N8EL was an icon in our area. He taught the art of radio to many of us who otherwise wouldn't have understood the difference between a grid and a plate. He had forgotten more about radio than most of us will EVER remember.



Egon is a past "Ham of the Year" for not only IARC (1968) but was also awarded the "Ham of the Year" at the Dayton Hamvention in the middle '50's as well. Egon was instrumental as a parliamentarian. Many of the clubs rules and rituals have Egon's name still on them.

We will greatly miss his humor and candor..

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