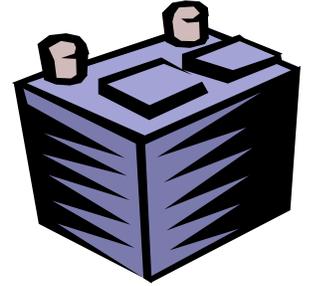




The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

Editor: Joe Prokop KC8RAN

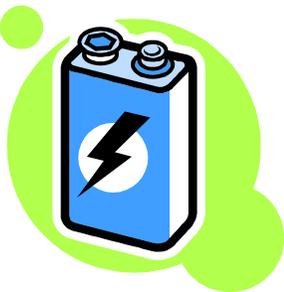
Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW

This Month's Meeting — January 30, 2007

Bulldog Battery Returns!

Richard Price at Bull Dog Battery to be our Jan. featured meeting speaker. He of course will be speaking to us about the wonderful world of batteries. Richard has been with us in the past and his presentation was well received. With so many devices besides HT's TV remotes and the like being powered by portable sources, this is one presentation you will want to attend.

The meeting will be held at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, Ohio (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center, just west of Broadview Road). Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the formal meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but reservations are required if you do wish to eat.

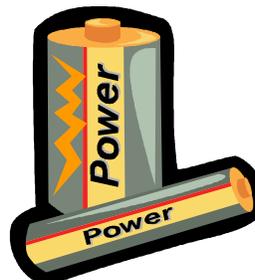


Restaurant service is available only for those who purchase dinner. If you are attending the meeting only, kindly purchase beverages at the bar and bring them to your table.

The dinner menu will consist of Steak, Broiled Boston Scrod, or Chicken Parmigiana for \$16. Also available is a vegetable and pasta dish for those who prefer a meatless dinner. The dinner includes a salad, main course, dessert, ice tea or coffee, and gratuity (please note, bar service and soft drinks are not included).

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY 11:00 AM OF THE MEETING DATE. Please call in your reservation and your menu choice to Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at 440-248-0031. You can also visit leara.org and make your reservation through the club's website.

See you on the 30th!



January 2007

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POINTS OF CONTACT

Don Raith "Sunshine" Radio Officer	N8DJG 216-921-7546
Mike Cegelski Radio Officer	K8EHP
Bryan Torok Radio Officer	N8OOF 440-871-5456

Trustees and officers can be emailed at callsign@leara.org

The *Spirit of '76 & '88* is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 1st of the month.

Minister of Propaganda:

Joe Prokop, KC8RAN

de N8AUC

Well Happy New Year, and oh crap I did it again. This time, big time. This is what I get for enjoying our "December off". See, if the newsletter editor doesn't have to publish a newsletter, then the president doesn't have to write this column. And since there is no newsletter in December, I didn't have to write a column in December. Well, here's a news flash, it ain't December any more, it's January. So I'm blissfully sailing along, not writing a column, and I get to

work this morning and find an email from the Minister of Propoganda, indicating that I need to get my column in YESTERDAY. What complicates this is that I didn't check my email yesterday, because I was doing a "return your daughter to college road trip".

I hope Santa-Ham was good to all of you over the holidays. Hopefully we'll be hearing tales of new rigs and other new gear at the next LEARA meeting. I'm going to have to acquire a new mobile antenna. Mainly because a new driver in our household had a slight (yeah - right) mishap driving her mother's van. Slight as in the van was totalled. But the van was almost ready for social security, so it didn't take much damage tototal it. Still, she did an admirable job wrecking the van, and it ended up being not drivable, and definitely too expensive to repair. So....momma got my van (the one with the radio installed and the nice NMO mount drilled into the roof), and I ended up getting a "new to us" car. Now this car is pretty nice, but it's sorely lacking in the ham radio department. As soon as I get the memorandum title, (or the payment book whichever comes first), then it's off to AES for an antenna and NMO mount. Maybe I can parlay this into a new rig to go with the new antenna? Hmmm. Probably not, but we'll see.

Has anyone else noticed that winter is late arriving this year? You have? Good! Then it's not just me, and I'm really not imagining things. It was almost 60 degrees the other day, and this is January in Cleveland? You do know that we will end up paying for this nice weather, don't you? Does anyone besides me remember what the weather was like the day before the great blizzard of '78? Yeah - that's right, 68 degrees and rainy. Now I hope that doesn't happen this year, but if it does, remember where you heard it first.

(Continued on page 3)

LEARA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and to Public Service. Club information packets and applications for membership are available from **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, 440-248-0031**, or may be downloaded from our web site at www.leara.org. Annual membership is \$18.00. LEARA's address is: LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

LEARA is an ARRL-affiliated club. When you join or renew the ARRL, LEARA benefits monetarily if you so through the club. Send ARRL Applications/renewals to Club Treasurer Dave Foran WB8APD, 5439 Nan Linn Dr. Willoughby, OH 44094-4365. Make the check payable to LEARA, not the ARRL.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except December at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center, just west of Broadview Road). Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but **reservations are required** if you do wish to eat. Call **Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031** to leave a message.

Trustees' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m. at the Parma-Snow Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2121 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (opposite the Mid-Town Shopping Center). Meetings are open to all current members of LEARA.

Association News

(Continued from page 2)

January's LEARA meeting is one you won't want to miss. Our guest speaker is one we've had before, but it's been a number of years. The program for the January meeting is "Everything you always wanted to know about batteries", and the speaker will be Richard Price from Bulldog Battery. Richard is extremely knowledgeable, and odds are you WILL learn something new about the care and feeding of batteries. Despite what Richard would tell you himself, he really is a good speaker. And if you ever end up needing batteries go to Bulldog and pay them a visit. They can fix your old HT battery packs, or battery packs from cordless power tools, motorcycles, even cars, RV's and trucks. I got my Field Day batteries from Richard, and he's rebuilt a few HT packs for me over the years. So, make it a point to join us for dinner and batteries at Dimitri's on January 30th!

Until then....73 de N8AUC (da prez - again)

Coming Attractions

February Meeting

At the February 27th. LEARA meeting, Bill Hertzell (N8HUQ) will present a talk and video slide show of an insiders view of the Network side of the Cell Telephone industry. Cellular radio equipment is very similar to our home radio stations, only so much bigger that most sense of comparison is lost. If you would be interested in viewing 300 foot self supporting towers up close, Coax the size of your forearm, and power supplies capable of over 3000 DC amps, then this is the meeting for you.

March Meeting

The annual Skywarn training meeting is scheduled for the March meeting. Stay tuned for details on this widely attended meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

Jan 30: Bulldog Battery

Feb 27: Insider's View of Cellphone Network

Mar 10: Trustees Meeting

Mar 27: Skywarn

Apr 24: Ham Radio Promotion Project (tentative)

Note: Have any ideas for club meeting topics? Contact Tom W8TAB (w8tab@leara.org). Club meetings, with the exception of the June Field Day and picnic meetings, are held at Dimitri's in the MidTown Shopping Center. Trustees Meetings are open to all members in good standing and are held at the Snow Rd. Library across from Dimitri's at 9:00 AM.

LEARA "On The Air" Club Net Information

Club Net:

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's weekly net is held every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the 146.760 (- offset, 110.9 PL) repeater. This is an open and informal net intended to provide the opportunity to test radio equipment, promote fellowship among local amateur radio operators, and develop radio traffic handling skills.

SSTV Net:

LEARA is sponsoring an informal SSTV net on Saturdays on the "88" machine. This net is open to anyone and everyone. Refer to the January 06 newsletter for hints on how to get started, or check in and we'll get you on the way to exchanging pictures. Check ins are open to anyone, whether sending pictures, receiving pictures only, or just listening in, let us know you are out there!

Net Control Operators Needed... Any member of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association interested in trying their hand at directing the weekly net or the SSTV net are encouraged to contact Joe KC8RAN (kc8ran@leara.org) or as listed on page 2. It's a good opportunity to be prepared for emergencies or just to upgrade your operating skills.

See you Thursdays on "76" and Saturday Nights on "88"!

Remember... Check your expiration date on the mailing label. If it shows your membership as expired, send in your renewal...
(E-mail subscribers can contact Marv W8AZO if you are unsure)

Association News

Trustee's Meeting 1/13/07

All trustees were present. Alex WD8JMM and Bill K8SGX also were in attendance.

The minutes from November were corrected to identify W8TAB and N8XDO as VP's elected. Bob W2THU moved and John KC8FOC seconded to accept the minutes as modified.

Two trustee seats were vacated by Tom, N8QXA and Steve, KB8UTA. Each of the candidates seeking election to the open seats were given an opportunity to address the trustees. Tom seat is a full three-year term, Gary WA8TJL was elected to this seat. Steve's seat is a two-year term, Ron K2RJ was elected to this seat.

LEARA has received from Icom an RP1D and an RP1VS repeater components (no charge to the club). Ron K2RJ made a motion that we put this on the air under Bryan's call sign. The equipment belongs to LEARA and will not be "put on the air" under LEARA's callsign until taken to the membership. Jim N8XDO seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ham Radio Promotion Project: Volunteers from the room were coordinated and our involvement is to provide elmers on an as needed basis.

Volunteers For 2007 ARRL GLD Convention: Eric solicited volunteers from the crowd and explained the event details. The estimated cost per person is \$40-50 including the banquet. This cost has not been finalized.

Bryan N8OOF moved to investigate linking repeaters dynamically. John KC8FOC seconded the motion. There was no financial aspect in the motion. This is a controller function that would be limited to miniop codes, not for public access. Links would be on-demand for nets, emergency and public service activity only. The motion passed 12-1.

Holiday Party Prize Winners

50/50: Ron K2RJ
LEARA Buck Jessie
KD8ACJ



Bingo Winners
\$150 AES Gift Certificate:
David N8IRI

\$100 AES Gift Certificate
Ian G8NXJ

Simple Soundcard Interface

The following is reprinted for those interested in joining the SSTV net, or to utilize other sound card programs on the air...

The circuit below is from the Digipan help files. It's a simple way to connect your rig to the computer's sound card. There is no automatic switching between your headphones, microphone and PTT switching connections. You can design your own using switches or more complex circuitry if you wish. Or you can build or obtain an adaptor cable. There are also "wye" cables to use for the PTT and headphone connections. I don't recommend using a "wye" cable for the microphone input. Rather, just unplug the microphone and plug in the interface when switching to the sound card audio. **It is recommended that isolation transformers are used between the computer and radio in for the transmit section of the interface (transformers are not shown in the drawing).**

For HT's that use a resistor connecting to ground to switch to transmit mode, a more complex interface is needed. Two important things: Make sure you do not overdrive your audio in to the transmitter. Your signal will be distorted. For SSB rigs, cut back on the output power as some transmissions are continuous audio for anywhere from a few seconds to many minutes. Some transmitters, especially those with solid state finals, may overheat with a duty cycle of 100% over an extended period of time. Remember, FCC regulations state that output power should be kept at the level required to make a contact. It's not necessary to run full power if a lower power level will be sufficient to make the contact.

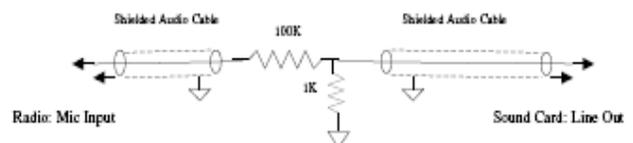
Receive Interface-Shielded Audio Cable (various versions and adapters available at Radio Shack)



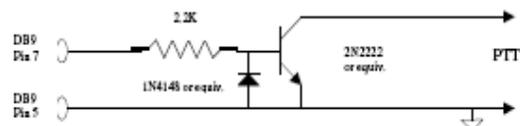
Radio: Audio Out

Sound Card: Line In

Transmit Audio Interface- All components available at Radio Shack



Transmit/Receive Control



In Case You Missed It...

FCC Releases Report and Order in "Morse Code" Proceeding

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- The FCC has issued the complete Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The R&O follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The R&O also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future - who have not passed a Morse code test.

No Effective Date Yet

Today's R&O spells out the specific Part 97 changes going into place once the new rules go on the books and indicates that the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the Federal Register. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going into effect in February.

Reprising the History the Morse Decision

Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) effectively eliminated the international requirement to demonstrate Morse proficiency to gain access to HF bands, the FCC recounted in discussing how it reached its decision in the Morse issue. A dozen and a half petitions for rule making -- most calling on the Commission to simply eliminate the Morse requirement -- in the wake of WRC-03 gave rise to the "Morse code" proceeding. A flurry of comments followed.

No Special Advantage to Retaining the Morse Requirement

In today's R&O, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse code requirement would help in keeping out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. "As a result, we concur with the observation that 'maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does.'" The Commission further reiterated its belief that the ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency doesn't necessarily indicate an applicant's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

Eliminating the Technician Disparity

The FCC also reviewed how it changed its mind regarding requests to eliminate the distinction between Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse

credit) licensees. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in the proceeding, the FCC said it wanted to maintain the status quo. The League was among those asking the Commission to reconsider.

"Based on our review of our rules, we agree," the FCC explained in its R&O. "Consistent with our decision herein to eliminate the Morse code requirement, we are eliminating this disparity by amending Section 97.301(e) to afford Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

The rule revision will mean Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees will get voice and telegraphy privileges in four HF bands that are identical to those of Novice class licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

No Additional Changes

The FCC again denied requests -- including one from the ARRL -- to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license along the lines of the old Novice ticket. Pointing out that the rules it's adopted grant Technician licensees additional operating privileges in four HF bands, the Commission said it didn't see any need for additional changes. The FCC also declined the League's request to grant Novice and Technician licensees voice and image privileges in certain segments 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

"Our action today giving Technician class licensees the same privileges as Technician Plus class licensees does effectively provide some of the relief ARRL seeks because Technician class licensees now have voice and digital privileges in the 10 meter HF band," the FCC said.

The Commission expressed concern that giving Novice and Technician holders voice privileges on other HF bands "would be a disincentive for these licensees to improve their knowledge and skills and attain a higher class license."

Editor's note:

With the changes in requirements mentioned above for General and Extra Class licenses, there is an expected surge in demand for VE testing. In order to accommodate those planning to upgrade, or to take their test for the first time, the listings for VE testing will be expanded to 3 months out covering Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, and Lorain counties.

At this time, the "elmer@leara.org" feature on the website is disabled due to excessive spam emails. If you need help in your quest for the new ticket or upgrade, send your request to "kc8ran@leara.org and I will forward your request.

ARRL News

ARRL Board of Directors to Meet

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 11, 2007 -- The ARRL Board of Directors will meet Friday and Saturday, January 19 and 20, in Windsor, Connecticut, for its first meeting of the new year. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will preside at the gathering.

Among the agenda highlights, the Board will receive and consider recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC), chaired by ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN. The Board established the ad hoc panel at its January 2006 meeting "to appropriately prepare for future large-scale disasters."

The Board charged the committee with developing a comprehensive recommendation for ARRL responses to national, regional and international disasters. The 12-member committee includes ARRL section managers and section emergency coordinators.

Among other things, the NERPC has been evaluating responses and actions of the ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) during Hurricane Katrina, including lessons learned. Given the unprecedented scope and devastation of the 2005 hurricane season in general and of Hurricane Katrina in particular, ARRL Headquarters was placed into a leadership coordination role through national-level requests for help from served agencies such as the American Red Cross. The NERPC recently invited input from clubs or groups on their emergency communications vehicle capabilities.

The Board's January 2006 resolution establishing the committee noted that the emergency communications resources and organization needed for national and international disasters "are markedly different" from what's required at the regional and local level.

The Board will also consider its roster of legislative objectives for the 110th Congress. Past ARRL legislative initiatives have addressed the issues of deed covenants, conditions and restrictions and the replacement of lost or compromised Amateur Radio spectrum.

FCC Suspends Vanity Call Sign Processing

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 12, 2007 -- The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign. The FCC is still processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

"The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications," says a brief announcement on the FCC's Universal Li-

censing System (ULS) Web page. "However, these applications will not be processed until software changes in accordance with the recent rule making have been fully implemented." Just when that might happen is not known.

As revised in the FCC's recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140, §97.19(d)(1) stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. "Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted," the rule concludes.

The FCC says that when processing is resumed, it will process all pending applications for new vanity call signs "consistent with the date order in which they were received."

This suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied. The FCC granted the last Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15.

The FCC adopted the "omnibus" R&O in WT Docket 04-140 in October, and it was published in The Federal Register the following month. Nonetheless, it was only after an applicant unwittingly submitted 30 applications for the same call sign three days after the new rule became effective that the FCC halted vanity processing.

All vanity call sign renewal applications, including those for club stations, must be filed via the ULS. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

CALIFORNIA RADIO AMATEUR HAS ROLE IN RESCUE AT SEA

A radio amateur from California played a significant part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch *Privateer* was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, *Polar Pesca 1*, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiancée, Cathy Chambers, offering to see if he could make radio contact with Chile.

"She mentioned that the satellite telephone was dying on

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



him over there, so their communication was 30 to 60 seconds at a time," Morales recounted. "I was lucky enough, I got in touch with some of the Charlie Echo [CE-prefix] stations until I got to someone in Punta Arenas, and then Polar Pesca, the vessel that did the rescue." Morales speaks fluent Spanish and has visited Chile

and knew "the way things operate down there." As a result, he says, he was able to obtain credible reports via his 10-meter contacts as to what was happening.

Morales said he gathered information from the Polar Pesca 1 via his Chilean ham radio contacts. "I . . . relayed information as to when he [Barnes] was going to be rescued, the latitude and longitude he was at that particular time." Morales said he felt it was important for the family to know Barnes's situation and how the rescue plans were playing out.

Barnes, who's 47, left Long Beach, California, late last October, hoping to be the first person to sail around the world from the West Coast. A severe storm dismasted and badly damaged the vessel and soaked his supplies.

Morales maintains the Chilean Navy wasn't eager to send a military vessel to retrieve Barnes because of the potential costs involved, and, in any case, wanted to put off the rescue until January 7. Even so, the Chilean Navy did dispatch one of the CP3 Orion aircraft Chile uses to patrol its 200-mile-offshore territorial claim. The plane spotted the foundering vessel, photographed it and even attempted to drop a life raft that missed its mark. The Chilean Navy coordinated the operation and recruited the Polar Pesca 1 to undertake the actual rescue, although the US Coast Guard reportedly has agreed to cover the expense, Morales says. At that point he was able to pass along news to the family that the trawler was en route to Barnes's location.

"The main thing is, Ken Barnes is back, is alive," Morales said. "What I did was on behalf of the US ham radio community, I believe. That's what you're there for."

Barnes returned home to California this week, and Morales was among those on hand to welcome him. The City of Riverside has announced plans to honor Morales, who says he's "a very low-key type of person" and not fond of being in the media spotlight. Barnes's family and friends, armed with information

Morales provided, tipped off the news media, and Morales was interviewed, photographed and videotaped by reporters from the Los Angeles Times, ABC, CBS, NBC and Tele-mundo.

CW Nets

de Jim Weaver, K8JE (Director of ARRL Great Lakes Div)

I want to reiterate that ARRL and I stand squarely with the NTS and nets in it -- whether these use CW, SSB, RTTY, high-speed digital or native drum. It is difficult to conceive of a form of net in NTS that does not potentially enhance the standing of Amateur Radio within the community and does not increase and maintain Amateur Radio's ability to communicate during emergency and disaster situations. As non-technical as CW is relative to high speed multimedia or even RTTY and SSB, CW continues to provide yeoman service in disasters when professional, highly-technical systems fail. CW's low-tech (in this high-tech era) is actually a great plus in many instances.

Keeping this in mind, I continue to urge all net operators to recognize that the great glory days of NTS are past. Just as the typical automobile no longer has a standard, shifter transmission, and just as the crank telephone connected by hard lines has given way to push button phones -- and for many people to cell phones, and just as hand-turning the propeller to start airplane engines has given way to electric starters and increasingly to jet engines, NTS must continue to evolve in a manner that makes it most useful. The role NTS can find most useful in filling today is as an arm of ARES operation.



This does not mean that NTS is dying or should die. It does not mean that ARRL is attempting to cast NTS into the deepest part of the dungeon, never to be heard of again. It only means that to maintain and even regain much of the luster it had in days past, NTS must adapt. Among others, I urge local, regional and national NTS leaders to look deeply into the situation the service faces today and to guide it to be able to perform still greater service in the future than it has ever performed in "bygone years"; I, as well as others, are encouraging our F&ES leaders to help us in the field see where adaptation will be most valuable and how it can best be accomplished.

As you may know, my prime operating mode on HF is CW. I enjoy it. It is a nice tool. For me, it helps keep my mind sharp. Having said this, I do not feel that the FCC sold Amateur Radio down the river with its Report & Order to abolish code testing as a requirement for obtaining a ham license. As shocking as this may sound to some members . . . and non-members, as well . . . I've never thought Amateur Radio was all about Morse code testing or even Morse code.

Morse code has been -- and will remain for quite some time -- a valuable tool in radio, including Amateur Radio. And, contrary to an oft-stated popular belief, the US military has not totally abandoned Morse code. It is still found hiding in the nooks and crannies of military communication. It will continue to be a useful and well-used mode for many amateurs.

(Continued from page 7)

Many decades ago, the argument was over spark gap. Today, many hams don't know what spark gap is and couldn't care less. Back then, to be a "real" amateur, one had to use spark gap, not the new-fangled continuous wave (CW) stuff. Then we "moved on" to the "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you 'talk' over the air" debate. Using code was "the only way to go." After this it became "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you use this noise-polluting, Donald Duck-sounding SSB garbage."

My message is that we all are Amateur Radio operators. This applies whether our license is a no code Tech or a 20 wpm Extra. We all are hams. Moreover, we don't have such huge numbers of people in Amateur Radio and we haven't captivated the public imagination sufficiently with our miraculous deeds that we can afford to be snobbish over how long we each have been licensed . . . or over differences in the requirements that were in place when we took our exams . . . or over how we like to spend our time on the air. We can't afford to divide one ham from another.

We need to work together to develop a great new Amateur Radio that recaptures and surpasses its gloried past. We will never be able to accomplish this task if we don't respect each other and work together.

ARRL Ohio Section OO Coordinator to speak Feb. 12th

Richard Swain, KK8O, the ARRL Official Observer Coordinator for Ohio will be the special guest speaker Monday, February 12th, at the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road. Sponsored by the Indian Hills Radio Club, the presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is open to Radio Amateurs in the Cleveland area.

A veteran OO, Swain was first appointed in 1976 while stationed in Upper Michigan. He has served as the Ohio Official Observer Coordinator since 2004.

His presentation will provide an overview of the ARRL OO/FCC Auxiliary program, how to become certified, what OOs do and don't do, and an open question and answer period. Rick has promised to share a few amusing stories from his experience as an OO. He will also introduce a local OO during his talk.

Cleveland Marathon

It might be a little early, but two annual events are just around the corner - The Dayton Hamfest and the Cleveland Marathon, both on Sunday, May 20th. I'm just putting out feelers to see what kind of interest there would be on volunteering for the event. Like the past years, we would be doing the communications for the medical support by manning checkpoints, keeping an eye out for injured runners, and watching out for other happenings.

Please let me know.

Thanks,

Jerry Steele K8CMI

Gdsteele@yahoo.com

"Freeze Your Acorns Off"

**Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
Second Annual "Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station
Operating Time: 10am - 6pm EST**

We will be active in the General areas of the 15, 20 and 40 meter bands (and anything else we can get working).

Club Call Sign KD8CKP

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas. A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you send your QSL card and a large SASE to the club call trustee:

Al Atkins KB8VJL
12433 Chamberlain Rd.
Aurora, OH 44202

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org

(tnx to Steve KB8UTA for the heads up!)

OHIO ARES DISTRICTS REALIGNED

By Frank Piper, KI8GW

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

The realignment of the Ohio ARES map, which has been discussed the past year, has been finalized. The changes are effective, January 1, 2007. A realignment proposal was first introduced by former SEC John Chapman, WB8INY during the 2006 Ohio Section ARES conference. The new Ohio map of ARES districts is available on the Ohio Section Web Site >www.iarc.ws/ohio>. It shows that we are changing the district boundaries to align with the Lead Volunteer Centers of the Ohio Citizen Corps and the Regional Medical Response System, while still supporting existing SKYWARN reporting plans. This new plan also falls in agreement with the National Incident Management System, maintaining 8 to 11 counties per District Emergency Coordinator.

Districts of local interest:

District 1--WB8HHZ/DEC

Cuyahoga-Erie-Hancock-Huron-Lorain-Lucas-Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca-Wood

District 5--KB8WPZ/DEC Ashtabula-Carroll-Columbiana-Geauga-Lake-Mahoning-Portage-Stark-Summit-Trumbull- Tuscarawas

Hamfest Listing

1/28/07
 Tusco ARC
 Wallick Auction House
 965 North Wooster Avenue
 Strasburg, OH
<http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm>
 Talk-In: 146.730 (PL 71.9)
 Contact: Gary Green, K8WFN
 32210 Norris Road
 Tippecanoe, OH 44699
 Phone: 740-922-4454
 Email: tuscofest07@hotmail.com

2/4/07
 Winter HAM Fest
 Gargus Hall
 1965 North Ridge Road
 Lorain, OH
 Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.noars.net>
 Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater)
 Contact: Tom Porter, W8KYZ
 161 Hermann Drive
 Avon Lake, OH 44012
 Phone: 440-930-9115
 Email: tporter161@oh.rr.com

2/11/07
 Mid-Winter Hamfest
 Richland County Fairgrounds
 750 North Home Road
 Mansfield, OH
 InterCity ARC
<http://www.iarc.ws>
 Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9)
 Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG
 1094 Beal Road
 Mansfield, OH 44905
 Phone: 419-589-2415
 Email: deanwrasse@yahoo.com

5/18-20/07
Dayton Hamvention
Dayton, Ohio

9/22 Great Lakes Div Convention
Cleveland, Ohio

Notice to Subscribers:

If you receive the newsletter by mail, you are missing the "web subscribers bonus" article in the area occupied by the mailing label.

By subscribing electronically, you not only save the club some postage, you get a little more content.

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

(from the ARRL website)

21-Jan-2007
 Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES S HALL
 (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
 WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

03-Feb-2007
 Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA
 Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM
 (440)256-0320
 Email: SCOTTFARNHAM@ADELPHIA.NET
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: KIRTLAND LIBRARY
 9267 CHILLICOTHE ROAD
 ROUTE 306
 1.7 MI S OF I-90
 KIRTLAND, OH 44094

18-Feb-2007
 Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES S HALL
 (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
 WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

06-Mar-2007
 Sponsor: CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: BRUCE M FERRY
 (330)929-2766
 Contact: SEE WEB PAGE
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: STOW-MUNROE FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY
 3512 DARROW RD
 HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE
 STOW, OH 44224

11-Mar-2007
 Sponsor: CUYAHOGA ARS
 Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: GARY S DEWEY
 (216)642-8705
 Email: GDEWEY@EN.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: TOWN HALL
 6652 BRECKSVILLE RD

STATE ROUTE 21
 INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131

18-Mar-2007
 Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES S HALL
 (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
 WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

07-Apr-2007
 Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA
 Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM
 (440)256-0320
 Email: SCOTTFARNHAM@ADELPHIA.NET
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: KIRTLAND LIBRARY
 9267 CHILLICOTHE ROAD
 ROUTE 306
 1.7 MI S OF I-90
 KIRTLAND, OH 44094

14-Apr-2007
 Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS
 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: BRUCE M FERRY
 (330)929-2766
 Contact: SEE WEB PAGE
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 501 W MARKET ST
 HTTP://WWW.AK8B.US/VE
 AKRON, OH 44303

15-Apr-2007
 Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Contact: CHARLES S HALL
 (216)433-3036
 Email: VE@W8HF.COM
 VEC: ARRL/VEC
 Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 2929 W RIVER RD N
 WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)
 ELYRIA, OH 44035

Web Subscribers Bonus Articles

Portugal reported to be BPL-free

(Dec 20, 2006) -- Citing news media accounts in his country, Carlos Mourato, CT4RK, in Portugal says the telecommunications corporation Oni withdrawn its investment in broadband over power line (BPL), known in Europe as PLC (power line carrier or power line communications). "With this fantastic news we are proud to proclaim Portugal a free BPL/PLC country!" Mourato exclaimed. Oni reportedly has said its decision was not a matter of technology but strictly a matter of good business.

The company says BPL/PLC performed well but failed to attract the customer base the company felt it needed in the face of competition from other broadband services. Utility EDP, which closely cooperated with Oni in the BPL/PLC effort, now has severed its fiscal relationship with the company. A news report Mourato cited called BPL/PLC in Portugal an "elite" choice of no more than 500 customers in two particular affluent districts of Lisbon. Oni is inviting current customers to sign on with asynchronous digital subscriber line (ADSL) service as an alternative. The company conducted a commercial pilot program in Lisbon for a year after spending almost two years evaluating the technology. Two years ago, Oni President Pedro Norton de Matos said his company was planning to extend BPL/PLC accessibility to up to 10 million customers in Portugal by the end of 2004, news reports said.

Dutch pull plug on free analog TV

(From the Associated Press as reported on circuitnet.com website) The Netherlands ended transmission of "free to air" analog television, becoming the first nation to switch completely to digital signals. Few Dutch consumers noticed, because the overwhelming majority get TV via cable. Only around 74,000 households relied primarily on the old-fashioned TV antennas in this country of 16 million, although 220,000 people had an "occasional use" set somewhere such as in a vacation house, camper or boat, according to government figures.

The bandwidth formerly used by analog has been licensed through 2017 by former telecommunications company Royal KPN NV, which will use it to broadcast digital television. Under its agreement with the government, KPN bore the cost of building digital broadcasting masts and must continue to broadcast three state-supported channels and several regional public broadcasters free of charge. In return, it can use the rest of the open bandwidth to charge around \$18.50 a month for a package of other channels that is comparable with cable.

KPN spokesman Jan Davids said the switch occurred between midnight and 2 a.m. without any reported problems. "Then we broke out the champagne," he said. And "when 94 percent of the market is served by cable, more competition is healthy," said Economic Affairs ministry spokeswoman Judith Thompson.

Cable here faces minor but growing competition from satellite and more recently, television via high-speed Internet connections with the service known as IPTV.

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

VOICE REPEATERS:

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 53.230/R- | • Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone) |
| 146.76/R- | • Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby) |
| 146.88/R- | • Lakewood (Requires 110.9 Hz tone) |
| 224.90/R- | • Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone) |
| 444.40/R+ | • Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone) |
| 444.70/R+ | • Lakewood (131.8 Hz tone) |
- (.76, .88, .90 and .70 offer emergency and member-only autopatch lines.)

PACKET NODES: CLE1 145.01 MHz: CLE5 145.05 MHz: CLEV220 223.70 MHz

These nodes are part of the Cleveland Net Cluster in K8EIW's backbone system.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| GENERAL: NBRY | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE) |
| NBRYX | • 145.07 MHz ⇔ 223.70 MHz Gateway |
| LEARA | • 145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz PBBS |

INTERNET:

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Northern Ohio



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