

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

January 2007



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

TOD GLEN, N7WD

Changes. It's a new year and change is in the air. First I like to say thank you to our outgoing

president Dave White, WA7YFF for a great year, and to welcome our new and returning officers.

This year marks a real significant change to our hobby. As most of you know, the FCC as finally posted official notification of the elimination of the code requirement for all license classes. In addition, there have been some changes to the bands.

Many hams have expressed concern and even disappointment at the removal of the code requirement. There is concern that this will have a negative impact on the hobby and the sort of people getting licenses. Regardless out how you feel about the change, it is going to happen and we need to look at this as an opportunity.

The reality is that amateur radio is a graying hobby. The average age of hams is somewhere in the 50s or 60s. In a decade or two our hobby is going to be gone, with plenty of commercial concerns slathering over our frequencies, unless we bring more young people into the hobby. With the removal of the Morse

requirements, this is a perfect opportunity to bring new people into amateur radio who might otherwise have been frightened away by the code requirement.

For the coming year, one of my goals is going to be raise the exposure of amateur radio and try to get more people interested. I hope that you all will join with me and help new comers, serving as elmers or just as proponents of amateur radio. It's a great hobby that also serves a real role in our community.

And make no mistake. CW is not going away. At the same time that the Morse requirement is going away, there is renewed interest in CW, with groups like the SKCC enjoying much



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Board of Directors

President:

Tod Glen, N7WD

Vice President:

Blake Running, KE7EWN

Secretary:

Rich Weddle, N7GC

Treasurer:

John Geach, KS7R

Newsletter

Editor: John McDougall, K7JM

Training:

John Geach, KS7R

Technical: Don

Heide, W7MRI

Volunteer Exam Team Leader:

John Geach, KS7R

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popularity.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

73

Tod N7WD



GLASS AT LEAST HALF FULL!

JIM, WB5UDE

(This article originally appeared on the QRP-L mail list on Dec. 24 2006. Editor)

Folks, we seem to be missing a lot of good fortune we've come by in recent FCC rulings. Yes, those who've wanted to eliminate CW testing are celebrating, but there's more for *all* of us to be thankful for.

+ Newcomers (technicians) are no longer segregated on the VHF bands, away from the "heart and soul" of amateur radio, on HF.

+ We pretty much got the more-Novice-like entry-level license that a lot of us were hoping for. It's still called "technician" but it now involves (expanded) Novice privileges on HF.

+ The segregated Novice bands, which had become an often difficult place to make contacts, have been integrated with mainstream CW. It should be easier to attract and mentor many would-be CW ops.

There are many opportunities to enhance the experience and choices an amateur radio newcomer will face in this new environment. We can now encourage

newcomers to consider starting off on HF rather than (or in addition to) VHF/repeaters. We can encourage people who've avoided CW/HF because they dreaded testing, to try out CW without the pressure of a looming test.

Who knows... some clever individual may even come up with a way that the amateur/CW community can offer incentives to learning CW to replace those that will no longer be part of the licensing structure.

It seems to me that, aside from the disappointment some feel over losing the CW testing requirement, there is something for all of us to celebrate, no matter what our preferences may be. (...except, of course, for the "no change!" contingent!)

73,

Jim WB5UDE



FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

Happy New Year! This year brings some major changes to our great Ham Radio hobby. First, there is the farming of the old Novice Bands. When you operate on HF, be sure to check the new band plans so you won't transmit outside your privileged areas. Second, is the dropping of CW testing for all classes of licenses.

The dropping of CW testing has some immediate advantages. With it comes an automatic upgrade to all Technician Class licenses that allow HF CW privileges. This is kind of a strange thing, since the abandonment of the CW test, gives Tech's

CW privileges! We must wait though, until the changes actually come into effect, which will probably be in February sometime. So, Tech's, brush up on the code, and very soon, we will be able to practice and learn it ON THE AIR!

In other news, the Radio Shack of K7JM is emitting RF! My two year adventure is nearly over! If you don't know what I am talking about, I moved into my home a little over two years ago. It had some extra space that we planned on remodeling into a family room, a spare bed room, and workshops for my wife and me. I have been updating our readers of the progress for the past two years and my hopes and dreams were that my shack would be done before Christmas.

RF emitted from my shack on Christmas Eve. I still have some work to do on it, like trimming out the windows, and hanging closet doors, but the bulk of it is done. I have been emptying boxes like crazy and trying to make order of

all my junk. It will definitely be a process and take some time. In the mean time, I threw up a quick dipole and am on the air!

My shack has a U shaped operating position, a workbench for my building and experimenting, some good counter space for parts cabinets and such, and quite a bit of storage area. My wife told me that it looks like I have been in there for 15 years! My goodness, its already that messy! Check out the pictures, and I hope to see you on the air!



K7JM's New Operating Position



K7JM's new Radio Shack's Work Bench

I also hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and may you have a Blessed Happy New Year!

73,
John, K7JM – Editor



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BEING SO EASILY OFFENDED (AND NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS)

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

I generally don't make New Year resolutions. This year, I think I will make an exception; and I invite you to join me in it. Have you noticed how "other people" get so mad and offended so easily? I began to look at this situation, and realized that those "other people" include me! I get mad at my kids for the smallest thing. Then there are bosses and co-workers. And of course, since this newsletter is for a radio club; how do fellow members get on my nerves?

I have come to the realization that NO ONE can MAKE me mad and offended. I choose to get mad or offended because of a situation. I think society as a whole, has become one big offended group; and of course, since our radio club is made of people from all walks of life and is a general cross section of the population, there are going to be offended people in our club.

This is my resolution... I resolve to not be easily offended. I CHOOSE not to be easily offended. You CAN'T make me offended; and I WON'T be offended... at my kids, my wife, my co-workers, my FELLOW RADIO OPERATORS! Will you join me in this resolution? Will you CHOOSE not to be easily offended? Let's forgive those that have already done so, and let us be forgiven by those that we have offended. After all, we are all imperfect broken humans. Let's choose to get along!

FCC MOVES TO ELIMINATE MORSE CODE (CW) REQUIREMENT

JOHN GEACH, KS7R

On December 19th, the FCC released WT Docket 05-235 proposing to drop the "Morse code" (CW) requirement for all Amateur Radio License classes. It is anticipated this action will become effective sometime in February 2007. At that time, Amateurs holding both Technician and Technician Plus licenses will have the same HF operating privileges, including being able to operate 10 meter Single Side Band (SSB) in the Technician Sub-band and CW on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters in the Novice CW Sub-bands.

In releasing WT Docket 05-235, the FCC stated "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". "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

In addition, CW will no longer be required for any Amateur License. The FCC stated, "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,"

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, now would be a good time to think about upgrading your license and begin enjoying the HF bands. I've always found the winter months to be the best time to study for Amateur exams since there are

normally less conflicts with other activities that tax our valuable time.

I think this would be a good year to have a General Class License course to help those wanting to upgrade. We normally start our classes in February and meet weekly for about six weeks for the General Class study course. If you are interested in taking the course or in helping to teach the course, please give me a call at 442-7107. John KS7R.

CCARC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Capital City Amateur Radio Club has elected officers for the 2007 year. Tod Glen (N7WD) was elected as President, Blake Running (KE7EWN) was elected as Vice President, Rich Weddle (N7GC), John Geach (KS7R) and John McDougall (K7JM) were re-elected as Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor respectively.

It was a pleasure working with Dave White WA7YFF during 2006 and we are looking forward to working with Tod this year. Congratulations!



2007 DUES

Dues are due for 2007. Use the handy form below as a reminder to "get em in early."



Capital City Amateur Radio Club
W7TCK
 Helena Montana USA
www.w7tck.org



Membership Application

(Fill out and give to Treasurer or mail to P.O Box 1112, Helena, MT 59624)

Date: (Month\ Day\ Year) _____ \ _____ \ _____

Name: _____

Call: _____ License Class: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

E-Mail address: _____

ARRL Member?(Check One) Yes , No (See www.arrl.org)

Dues: \$20 per year. See treasurer for mid year proration of first year. Amount Paid _____

Membership type:(Check one) New , Renewal

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W7TCK
Helena Montana USA
www.w7tck.org



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P.O. Box 1112
Helena, MT 59624

CCARC Web Page: www.w7tck.org
Editor's E-Mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

CCARC Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Salvation Army Church 1905 Henderson.

VE exams are offered monthly, just prior to the regular CCARC meeting, but on an appointment only basis. If no appointments are made, VE exams will not be scheduled for that month. Those wishing to take an exam should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 at least two days prior to the CCARC meeting to schedule an exam.

W7MRI Repeater: 147.82 (-offset)
Net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm local time on the 147.82 (-offset) repeater.

**JANUARY 2007
MEETING MONDAY,
JANUARY 8
Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson**

7:00 PM



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Jefferson City, MT 59638**

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All expressions of opinions and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of CCARC.

Biscuits and Gravy

Come to Hardee's on Saturday. Every Saturday morning between 9:30 and 11:00, as many as twenty hams show up for "EYEBALL" QSOs.

COME JOIN THE FUN!

First Class Mail