

SINE WAVES

Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 752
Clarksburg, WV 26302-0752

December 17, 2006

SJARA *Christmas Newsletter*



Christmas 2006

Raymon's : Site of the SJARA Christmas Party
Thursday, 14 December 2006

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

Season's Greetings to all WV Hams! Make no mistake about it, this Politically Correct phrase means Merry Christmas! We'll give a nod and best wishes to any of you celebrating Hanukkah but if you'd please start showing up at the club meeting we could better appreciate and acknowledge your cultural affinity. Kwanza starts 26 December and I have not seen any of those celebrants attending the club meeting lately either. As our newest made up Holiday, best wishes to the Kwanzians!

DUES ARE DUE !

We're still only paying a dollar a month after all of these years or \$18 a year for your entire family. Some of you make up for this by breaking bread with us on Field Day alone! Pay Dick K8TPH. Next meeting is 18 January at St. Marks's Lutheran Church.

Speaking of Field Day!

SJARA came in #1 in West Virginia this year!

SJARA came in #19 in the United States of America for our class!

Speaking of trying to do better in Field Day next year, we tried holding a "Contest Workshop" to coach/mentor/encourage those of you with HF microphone fright to get on HF during the Sweep Stakes contest. The idea was not to enter the contest but to give a private "embarrassment-free" experience to those of you who do not operate the radios during Field Day in the hopes that we could build up your confidence and interest in HF Radio skills and competition. At least a dozen people indicated that they would partake in the event by a show of hands during the several months of club meetings preceding the workshop. Several hours were spent in preparation for the event including setting up a 1500 Watt station and buying food and beverages to support the event. Well, none of you showed-up! As you'll read later on in this newsletter, you are all now eligible to upgrade to a HF license without a Morse Code test. You've missed an opportunity to learn a lot about your hobby. I assume SJARA will therefore go back to being a 2-event Club this coming year – Field Day and the Christmas Party.

SJARA Christmas Dinner – A Good time for All!

Thursday's evening dinner was attended by approximately 22 members and their spouses. Raymon's was an excellent venue for providing SJARA members with a private dining room separate from the rest of their facility. The atmosphere encouraged mingling among ourselves for those of us who wished to socialize. The room had an intimate setting and easily accommodated conversations among the tables.







FCC Provides TWO Christmas GIFTS that will Forever change the Life of Amateur Radio! Drops Morse Code Requirement and Expands SSB Voice on HF

End of an Era: FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes

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, but hasn't yet released, the long-awaited *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding. Also today, the FCC adopted an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding -- modifying 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 designate the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations, although the

segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data as it has been. In a break from what's been the usual practice in Amateur Radio proceedings, the FCC only issued a [public notice](#) at or about the close of business today and not the actual *Report & Order*, so some details -- including the effective dates of the two orders -- remain uncertain. Currently, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. Today's *R&O* will eliminate that requirement all around.

"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 -- something the ARRL also has asked the Commission to correct following the release of its July 2005 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 05-235.

"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."

Technician licensees without Element 1 credit (ie, Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. Tech Pluses or Technicians with Element 1 credit have limited HF privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Under the Part 97 rules the Commission proposed last year in its *NPRM* in WT Docket 05-235, current Technicians lacking Morse credit after the new rules went into effect would have had to upgrade to General to earn any HF 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 -- especially since the FCC instituted an across-the-board 5 WPM Morse requirement effective April 15, 2000, in the most-recent major Amateur Radio licensing restructuring ([WT Docket 98-143](#)).

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.

The list of countries dropping the Morse requirement has been growing steadily since WRC-03. A number of countries, including Canada, the UK and several European nations, now no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. Following WRC-03, the FCC received several petitions for rule making asking it to eliminate the Morse requirement in the US.

Typically, the effective date of an FCC *Order* is 30 days after it appears in the *Federal Register*. If that's the case, the Morse requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely not go into effect until late January or early February 2007. That's not clear from the public notice, however. The FCC can order its decision effective upon release.

The ARRL will provide any additional information on these important Part 97 rule revisions as it becomes available.

FCC Second Gift is an expansion of the SSB Phone Bands!

The Amateur Radio phone band changes affect only the 80/75, 40 and 15-meter bands. The Amateur Radio [frequency allocation chart](#) and the [ARRL Band Plans](#) on the ARRL Web site have been updated to reflect the changes.

On 75 meters, Generals may operate on phone from 3800 to 4000 kHz -- an increase of 50 kHz, Advanced class licensees from 3700 to 4000 kHz -- an increase of 75 kHz, and Amateur Extras from 3600 to 4000 kHz -- a substantial increase of 150 kHz.

On 40 meters, the Advanced and Extra class phone band spans 7125 to 7300 kHz -- an increase of 25 kHz, while Generals now may operate phone from 7175 to 7300 kHz -- an increase of 50 kHz.

On 15 meters, Generals now have phone privileges from 21,275 to 21,450 kHz -- an increase of 25 kHz.

In addition, Novice and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees now may operate in the former General exclusive-CW allocations on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Novice/Tech Plus licensees still may run no more than 200 W PEP on those HF CW segments, but the FCC did away with similar power limitations on HF segments for

higher-class licensees, with the exception of the 200 W PEP power limitation already in place on 30 meters and the 50 W ERP restriction on 60 meters.

NET CONTROL

Weekly SJARA NET meets at 2100 EST on 147.210 MHZ, using PL Tone 103.5

TUESDAY, December 19, 2006 Bill K8WWW

TUESDAY, December 26, 2006 Bill KB8QIN

TUESDAY, January 2, 2007 Tom KB8WRZ

TUESDAY, January 9, 2007 Dave WD8NSC

TUESDAY, January 16, 2007 Dick K8TPH

TUESDAY, January 23, 2007