

License Restructuring Proposal Would Create Three License Classes and Allow HF Operation Without CW Testing

A proposal has been submitted to the FCC by the ARRL to restructure the Amateur Service and eliminate the Morse Code requirement from all but the Extra Class license. Under the proposal there would be three license classes, Novice, General and Extra. The current Technician, Tech Plus, and General classes would be merged into the new no-code General class. Advanced and Extra class licensees would be merged into the new nearly no-code (5 wpm) Extra class and a new Novice class would be created with extensive HF, VHF and UHF privileges. A graphic of the new band plan can be found near the back of the Zero Beat.

The following information came from the ARRL via Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE.

"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) and continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago, but left unfinished, in Docket

98-143."

"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 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

(See 'Restructuring' on page 3)

QCWA News From W8UKQ

Our next meeting will be February 21, at NOON, at the Old Country Buffet on Whipple Avenue. Circuit City is nearby. The program is by Perry Ballinger W8AU about his recent service aboard the LST 325. He spent several weeks restoring WWII radio equipment.

Last July, several members of QCWA, Canton, Ohio, Chapter 21, visited LST 325 in Jeffersonville, IN. LST 325 was acquired recently by The USS LST Ship Memorial, Inc. from Greece. The 2003 river cruise on the Missis-

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Ye Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, February 4th, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM, and are an excellent opportunity for eyeball QSO's. Directions can be found on the K8LTG Repeater (145.370) See you there!

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Editorial

One of the things about Amateur Radio that many people feel makes it a worthwhile hobby is the sense of accomplishment they got from working for their license. Some people found the technical material a challenge while others found the code to be the big hurdle, and some struggled with both. Most of us realize that it has been getting easier and easier to get a license in recent years, and many feel they are losing some of that sense of accomplishment they had because of this. Mr. Harrison of the ARRL denies this. He says the question pool hasn't changed much over the years, and it's true that what's left of it is very similar to what was in place 20 years ago, but look at what has been eliminated recently. No code test to get a Tech license and only one written test with 35 questions instead of two tests totaling 65 questions (or 55 if we go back before the RF safety group was added). No 13 wpm code test to get General. No Advanced class test at all and that was 50 questions. No 20 wpm code test for Extra. And if we go back a bit further...

I've got my old Novice study guide from back in the '60s. I learned some serious electronics from that book, and there isn't any question pool in it because the FCC didn't make it public. There were study guides that had sample questions in them, but the tests weren't all multiple guess. You had to draw diagrams and write out answers.

Those of us who already have our license aren't really losing anything, but cheapening it makes it seem like a loss. The real losers are those future hams who don't get the challenge we had. That's my opinion, anyway. What's your feeling?

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in is on 145.37 @. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd like to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:

w8lky@qsl.net

Our club home page is:

[Http://www.qsl.net/w8lky](http://www.qsl.net/w8lky)

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat either electronically, to ke8ve@raex.com, in person, or via snail mail. I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, or Microsoft Word format.

January Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

January 7, 2004

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on January 7, 2004, at 7:30 P. M., with Robert Steele K8RLS, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 16 members present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the regular meeting for December were published in the newsletter. The total of the treasury balance was reported for the month. The report was approved upon motion by Jerry K8CAT, seconded by Joe KC8TAC.

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by George K3GP, seconded by Howard KC8YIF.

.Old Business: The Christmas Party was a success.

Don K8OMO will check on scheduling a program for March.

Old Business: Jack W8WEN reported his activity on SKN.

The Tusco Hamfest is January

25; Mansfield February 8; Skywarn program March 24, 7 PM.

Purchasing a generator for the club was discussed. Upon discussion, this item is tabled until later.

After discussion by the club, Larry AA8NV moved that up to \$* be spent for a power supply for the club. The motion was seconded by Jerry K8CAT, and was approved upon a vote. Joe KC8TAC will arrange to get it.

An e-mail was received from John Hulse N8WPX that an intruder has been heard on 14.009 MHz on December 24 and 25 at 7 PM using the name Ron AA8RZ. We are asked to monitor for this intruder to make a note of it for reporting to authorities.

A Morse Code character for @ is being considered as AC sent together.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Dianna.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P. M. upon motion by Jerry K8CAT, seconded by Jim N8XTJ.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary

Restructuring

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than is available to current Technicians while retaining motivation to move up to the other two license classes.

...Current Novice licensees, 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. Generals would gain additional phone privileges as proposed the ARRL in 2002 in its RM-10413 petition, which has not yet been acted on by the FCC.

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THE WAYBACK MACHINE -- ISSUE #2

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY Reprinted with permission

Monday, April 15, 1912, 12:30 AM. "The Wayback Machine" is over the North Atlantic, at 41 degrees 46' North, and 50 degrees 14' West. Down below is a majestic ship, the largest and most luxurious ship in the world, on its maiden voyage. In the wireless room is a 5 kW Marconi station, and before it sit two tired operators, who make \$20 per month, not as employees of the shipping line, but rather as employees of the Marconi Company. The "in" basket is still full of messages, everything from personal telegrams to stock market quotations. They are so busy working Cape Race, Newfoundland, that they didn't even notice the slight grinding jar 30 minutes earlier. As the two wireless operators, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride, passed the routine traffic, the Captain came in, said the ship had struck an iceberg, and told them to send a distress call at once. The blue spark jumped across the gap as Phillips sent "CQD" (come quick danger). "Send S.O.S." Bride said, "It's the new call and it may be your last chance to send it".

Thus began the moment in history that changed radio. Two hours later, Jack Phillips and over 1500 others were dead, the "Titanic" lay at the bottom of the ocean, and 713 survivors huddled in half filled lifeboats waiting to be rescued. The tragic errors in the story of the "Titanic" pointed out the need for wireless regulation.

The first ship to answer the distress call was the German Liner, the "Frankfurt". While the

"Frankfurt" wireless operator was informing his captain, the "Carpathia" and Cape Race chimed in. When the "Frankfurt" operator came back to get more information, Phillips tapped back "SHUT UP, SHUT UP, YOU FOOL. STAND BY AND KEEP OUT". While this would seem bizarre by our standards, it made perfect sense to the operators of 1912. The "Titanic", "Carpathia", and Cape Race were equipped with Marconi operators and stations, while the "Frankfurt" utilized the services of Marconi's German competitor, Telefunken. This commercial war was extended down to the individual operators. No routine traffic would EVER pass from a Marconi station to a rival, and, even in an emergency, if Marconi stations were available, the others would be shut out.

The wireless controversy would continue after the "Carpathia" picked up the survivors. A wireless message was received, allegedly from the "Carpathia", which said "ALL PASSENGERS OF LINER "TITANIC" SAFELY TRANSFERRED TO THIS SHIP AND "S. S. PARISIAN". SEA CALM. "TITANIC" BEING TOWED BY ALLEN LINER "VIRGINIAN" TO PORT". Other wireless messages appeared, also stating that ALL passengers were safe, and the ship was being towed in. There was just one problem--these messages were not coming from the "Carpathia". For one thing, her wireless had a maximum range of 150 miles. For another, the "Carpathia" wireless operator had made only a few transmissions to the "Olympic" (sister ship of the "Titanic" and another

Marconi operation), in which he tapped out the list of survivors, some coded messages from Bruce Ismay, President of White Star Lines, then shut down his station. So complete was the radio silence from the "Carpathia", that they refused to answer the calls from Navy cruisers sent to the scene by President Taft.

The White Star Line, owners of the "Titanic", were still insisting that everyone was safe and the ship had not sunk. But even as they made these claims, they had all the horrific details from the "Olympic". And so would the rest of the world, thanks to a 21 year old operator named David Sarnoff, who managed to detect the faint signals of the "Olympic", and broke the story. Faced with the truth, and hounded by thousands of reporters and outraged relatives of passengers, the White Star Liner officials finally broke down and revealed all.

Meanwhile, the "Carpathia" steamed towards New York City. When she passed within range of shore stations, there were "frenzied attempts by amateur wireless operators which formed a hissing mixture from which scarcely a complete sentence was intelligible". It didn't matter, because the radio silence continued.

At the Port of New York, the "Carpathia" was met by Senator William A. Smith of Michigan, a no-nonsense Populist who was the Chairman of the committee investigating the shipwreck. He immediately slapped subpoenas on everyone possible, including Harold Bride and Harold Cottam, wireless

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Z e r o B e a t

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operator on the "Carpathia". Marconi himself, who was in the U.S. at the time, (and had planned on taking the "Titanic" back to England), was also summoned to appear.

The hearings revealed the information given above, plus the disturbing fact that the "Californian" was just 10 miles from the "Titanic". Not only did the "Californian" not have a full time wireless operation, but the ship's captain ignored the eight distress rockets sent up by the "Titanic". As to the origin of the false messages concerning the saving of the ship and passengers, no answer was ever found. However, Senator Smith sarcastically noted that, in the interim, the "Titanic" was quickly reinsured, and stock in the Marconi Company jumped from \$55 to \$225 per share. The Senator DID find out the cause of the "Carpathia" radio silence--it was Marconi himself. He had sent wireless messages to Bride and Cottam stating "MARCONI COMPANY TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU--KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT--HOLD YOUR STORY--YOU WILL GET BIG MONEY--NOW CLEAR". It turned out that Marconi had an agreement with the New York Times for an exclusive story. Thus, essential information for desperate relatives and official inquiries from the President took a back seat to Marconi's interest.

When Marconi got on the stand, Senator Smith pounced on him with astonishing vehemence. Marconi had been lionized by the nation, and now the Senator was treating him like any other entrepreneur who put profit above the

public. Senator Smith was warned that his attack on a man as popular as Marconi was political suicide, but he didn't care. In his obsession with his belief that the unregulated wireless spectrum was partly to blame in the "Titanic" disaster, he painted Marconi as a man willing to subordinate the public good to his goal of a complete wireless equipment AND spectrum monopoly. Senator Smith used the "Titanic" hearings to condemn the laissez-faire status of the wireless, and appeal for the international regulation of radio.

On May 18, 1912, Senator Smith introduced a bill in the Senate. Among its provisions: 1) ships carrying 50 passengers or more must have a wireless set with a minimum range of 100 miles; 2) wireless sets must have an auxiliary power supply which can operate until the wireless room itself was under water or otherwise destroyed; and 3) two or more operators provide continuous service day and night. In response to the interference generated over the years, and especially when the "Carpathia" was within range, a provision was added that "private stations could not use wavelengths in excess of 200 meters, except by special permission". To avoid "ownership" of the spectrum by the Marconi Company, licenses would be required, issued by the Secretary of Commerce. Each Government, Marine, or Commercial station would be authorized a specific wavelength, power level, and hours of operation.

The initial legislation had considered the elimination of all private, non-commercial (i.e., amateur) stations, but Congress realized that would be difficult and expensive to enforce. Therefore, since it was a

"well known fact" that long wavelengths were the best, and anything below 250 meters was useless, except for local communication, it was decided to compromise and give the amateurs 200 meters, where they could work 25 miles maximum and would die out of their own accord in a few years.

How the amateurs coped with 200 meters will be our focus next time. Hope you'll join us then for another trip on "The Wayback Machine."

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QCWA

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Mississippi and Ohio Rivers was to raise funds for its restoration. Chapter 21 president, Perry Ballinger W8AU, was the LST 325 radio officer for three weeks on the river cruise. Other interested members were Joseph Vignos W1FEZ, a radioman on LST 744 in the Pacific, Nelson Caley W8EAR, a radioman on a Liberty Ship, similar to the S. S. John W. Brown, and David Glass W8UKQ, a technician with Squadron VX-3. XYLs and family accompanied the members on the visit.

You can find more information and pictures if you visit:
www.cmh.net/qcwa

Open gatherings for any and all hams: First Wednesday each month at Tim's Tavern about 1215 - 1230 start. Every Saturday morning at Perkins on Everhard at 0900, spouses included. QCWA, Canton, Ohio, Chapter 21, NET: Thursdays, 1930 L, 145.11-W8GSK repeater. Also open to anyone.

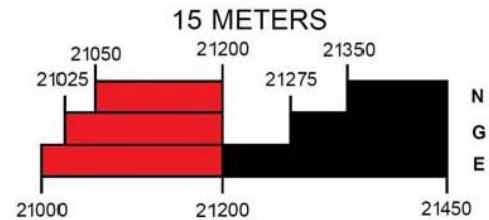
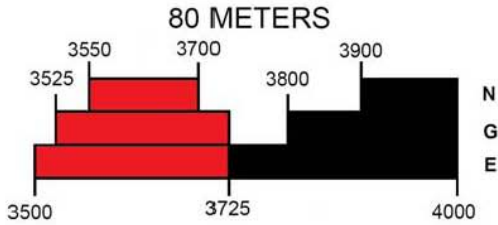
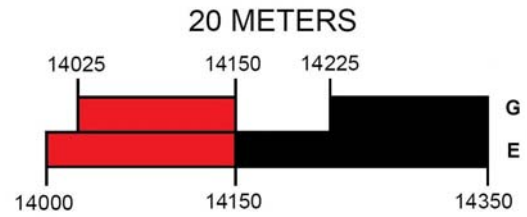
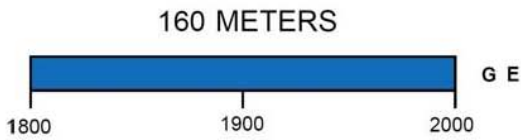
February 2004

Happy Birthday to: KA8LKQ, AB8KV, N8FCL, W8WEN

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1 North American Sprint, CW Northern Ohio ARS Hamfest, Lorain, OH	2 COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM	3 STARK COUNTY ARES NET 7PM 147.120 NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	4 AARC Meeting 7:30 CARROLL COUNTY NET 9:00PM 147.075	5 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	6	7 10-10 Inter. Winter Contest, SSB Delaware QSO Party Mexico RTTY Inter. Contest Minnesota QSO Party New Hampshire QSO Party Vermont QSO Party																																																																																				
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29 High Speed Club CW Contest North Carolina QSO Party	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>January</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>March</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
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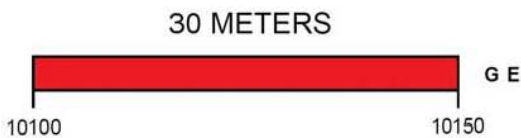
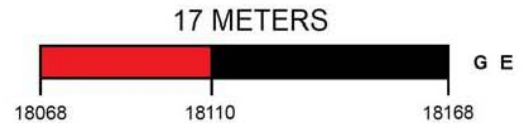
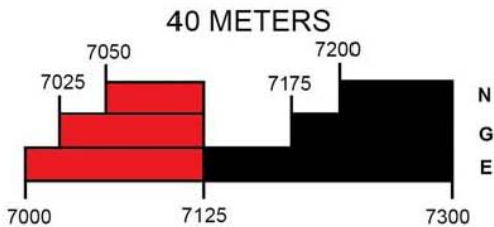
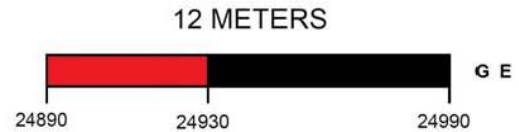
Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

New ARRL Proposal for HF Bands – **NOT EFFECTIVE – ONLY A PROPOSAL** Three License Classes: Novice, General, Amateur Extra -Refer to the ARRL web site for further information – 23 January 2004



60 METERS

General and Amateur Extra licensees may use the following five channels on a secondary basis with a maximum effective radiated power of 50 W PEP relative to a half wave dipole. Only upper sideband suppressed carrier voice transmissions may be used. The frequencies are 5330.5, 5346.5, 5366.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz. The occupied bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz respectively.

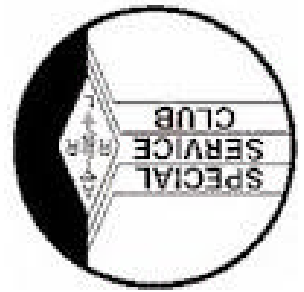


KEY

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image

- E = AMATEUR EXTRA
- G = GENERAL
- N = NOVICE

Novice:
100 Watt Maximum on 80, 40, 15 Meters
50 Watt Maximum on 10 Meters



Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

Restructuring

(Continued from page 3)

Morse Code Retained for Extra

At the top rung, the Board saw no need to change the requirements for an Extra class license. 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. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees would 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."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, 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; 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." 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 could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a way that's appropriate for the 21st Century."