

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

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March, 2004

Skywarn training

It's that time again! Spring is on its way and that means the danger of tornadoes and other types of severe weather. Once again the WARA will be sponsoring a Skywarn Training session for all interested hams and non-hams as well. This year the Skywarn Training will be held at K.S.U. Trumbull Campus Lecture Hall A at 7.00 PM on Tuesday March 16. Note that this is the date of the club's second meeting of the month, and note the change in venue and time. This meeting will take the place of our regular meeting. Whether you have attended past Skywarn training or not, you should make every effort to attend this year. Skywarn training is offered by the National Weather Service and hosted by the WARA at about this time every year.

Sunshine and sick

Our sympathies go out to Steve Ruman, KC8YDS, on the loss of his grandfather recently. Steve is one of our newer and younger members and it's great to see him coming to meetings on a regular basis. Our thoughts and prayers go with you, Steve.

On a brighter note, Chuck Simpkins, KA8FUP, is on the mend at home after a fall on icy stairs resulted in a broken hip. Chuck is hoping to be back at meetings within three or four weeks.

Happy birthday

March is a good birthday month for club members. We have a number of members celebrating their special day in March. So, to the following members we say "Happy Birthday" with wishes for many more healthy and happy ones.

3/4 Wendell Chapman W6VIF

3/3 Dick Brem WB8JCS

3/5 Miranda Walker KB8WGJ

3/7 Dennis Alexander KC8LMC

3/7 Roger Phillips KZ8W

3/8 Steven Ruman KC8YDS

3/9 Mike Yakopec KA8WMF

3/10 George Syrko KB8PXP

3/12 Kenny List KB8NNA

3/12 Mike Salcone N8XXY

3/15 James Werner WD8NUS

3/15 Tom Finta K8TF

3/16 Alicia White KB8ULL

3/17 Chris Walker KC8NLR

3/19 Sara Kozup KB8RHG

3/19 David Metzendorf KD8JJ

3/19 Don Gadd N8MGT

3/28 Nancy Leeper KB8OMO

3/29 Richard Alexander W8TWO

3/29 Lee Right WD8JRC

3/30 Anne Gerlt ASSOC.

To each of these we extend a hearty ARL FORTY-SIX and best wishes for an enjoyable day.

Wednesday night net

The weekly Wednesday night net is continuing to go along strongly. If you haven't checked in lately you should try it out and you could be in for a big Wednesday night net (cont. . .) surprise. Here is the net control schedule for March and April.

March 3 – Bob, KC8PVB
 March 10 – Pete, K8OUA
 March 17 – Andy, N8YR
 March 24 – Fred, N9BSO
 March 31 – Bob, KC8PVB
 April 7 – Pete, K8OUA
 April 14 – Andy, N8YR
 April 21 – Fred, N9BSO
 April 28 – Bob, KC8PVB

As we do each month, we invite anyone interested in trying out the Net Control spot to contact Fred Olver, N9BSO, (email to creacher@onecom.com) and letting him know that you're interested in being a Net Control Station for the net. I can guarantee that you'll enjoy it. If you do try it out and don't enjoy it I'll be glad to buy you an "807" (if you can tell me what that bit of AR history refers to!!).

Ohio section news

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see QST page 16); ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; SEC: John Chapman, WB8INY, Gahanna; ACC: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, Toledo; TC: Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City; PIC: Scott Yonally, N8SY, Mansfield; OOC: Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark; SGL: Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia.

MARCH SECTION NEWS - Gilmour Academy's Amateur Radio Club (Cleveland) made contact early in January with the International Space Station which was flying overhead at 17,500 mph. Known as ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), this exciting marriage of ham radio and grade students is occurring mainly unnoticed by most of our membership. ISS Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, up there told the Gilmour students down here about life

beyond our atmosphere. Certainly a lifelong memory about ham radio for those kids. Thanks to Ken Kane, KG8DN, of the Gilmour Academy and member of Lake Erie ARA, who organized the contact while 50 people watch.

OHIO NET NEWS - During OSSBN semi-annual meeting at the Mansfield Hamfest, ASM Connie Hamilton, N8IO, Marietta, received the Life Membership award. The net has 165 active members making it one of the nation's largest traffic net membership. New net formed called the Tri-County Traffic training net started on January 9 and meets three times a week (M,F,Sn) at 9:30 pm on the 147.015 repeater in Newbury Ohio with the purpose of training new traffic handlers and to pass traffic.

OHIO CLUB NEWS - Mound ARA (Miamisburg; Montgomery County) officers For 2004; Mike Carter, WD8BSI President; Tom Stine, KC8TZW Vice President; Rick Gore, AA8GV Treasurer; Ted White, N8TW Secretary and Steve Gibson, N8DNG Trustee

OHIO SECTION REMINDER - The FCC is about to announce a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) comment period on BPL. Just like a Chicago election, vote early and vote often. Be sure to be fully informed on the horrors of BPL and then write the FCC. This is a must in defense of our frequencies. Dayton Hamvention web site is under new management and is more reader friendly. Try it at www.hamvention.org for the latest on the 2004 show which is May 14 - 16.

OHIO SECT CONGRATS (A) TO Tom Ohio section news (cont. . .) Parkinson, KB8UUZ, Portage County,

for drawing the frequency spectrum map of ARRL proposed changes. Many Ohio newsletters published it last month but forgot to credit Tom. In fact I am aware of only the Milford ARC (Clermont County) newsletter who did credit Tom; (B) TO Bud Green, K8MSF, for his editorial about hams getting on the air more often, published in the Ashland Area ARC newsletter "The Informer;" (C) TO Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City, the Ohio Section TC for taking on the flea market chairmanship for Hamvention; (D) TO Ken Massie, WN8F, Editor of the award winning "Hello Radio" for 10 years as newsletter editor to the Lawrence County (Ironton) ARES. Ken announced last month his intention to retire the editorship.

OHIO SECTION MARCH HAMFESTS...

(21) Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest at Maumee. For more info: see <www.tmrahamradio.org> or write <wd8mxr@arrl.net>; (28) Lake County ARA Hamfest at Madison. For more info, see <www.lcara.org> or write <k8bl@ameritech.net>.

Now for the January 2003 traffic reports.

	QNI	QT C	SESSIONS	FREQ	NM
BN (E)	173	11 6	31	3.577	WA8ZG L
BN (L)	159	33	31	3.577	NY8V
OSN	190	59	31	3.708	N8RAK
OSSBN	2281	71 3	93	3.9725	KC8OKJ

Ohio Section PSHR Reports: JAN. 2004
W8MMN 25, 3, 0, 80, 10, 0, TOTAL = 118

AD8NI 40, 40, 30, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 110

N8IO 40, 40, 20, 10, 0, 0, TOTAL = 110

WA8SSI 40, 40, 20, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL =

100

KC8VIF 40, 40, 0, 15, 0, 0, TOTAL = 95

KC8UIL 40, 40, 10, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 90

WD8Q 40, 40, 0, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 80

N8DD 40, 26, 10, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 76

Member Traffic Reports: JAN. 2004

KD8HB-379, KX8B-277, KC8UTL-183,

W8QIW-170, N8BV-148, KC8TKB-88,

N8IO-86, WA8EYQ- 84, N8TNV-76,

WA8SSI-74, WD8Q-72, NS8C-70,

N8CW-68, W8STX-64, WB8HHZ-49,

W8RPS-48, AB8SK-44, N8DD-37,

KA8WQL-37, WB8PMG-34, KI8IM-29,

K8PJ-29, KC4IYD-28, N8IBR-26, KD9K-

23, W8RG-22, NY8V-20, WB8SRN-16,

KF8LE-15, K8QX-13, N8GP-12,

KC8KYP-9, KC8YJW-7, KC8HTP-6,

WB8SIQ-4, K8DST-2, K8QIP-1, N8RAK-

1, K8WC-0,

Echo satellite launch

QST Magazine reports that a new amateur satellite is to be launched in March. The satellite is *Project Echo*, a project of AMSAT/NA, and, according to QST, is significant because of the multiband array of receivers and transmitters. It offers FM voice capabilities in three different uplink and downlink combinations, PSK-31, and high speed digital communications. The satellite transmitters will have a maximum output of 8 watts, making it readable with a handheld transceiver and rubber duck antenna. For more information on *Project Echo* check the March issue of QST on page 95.

Pennsylvania profiles

Thanks to Karl Gerlt, KF8MG, for the copy of "Pennsylvania Profiles" on the next page. This bit of radio history describes how the first radio station in Pennsylvania profiles (cont. . .) the U.S. was born thanks to the efforts of a

number of ham radio operators. Thanks, Karl, for the interesting bit of ham radio history.

Email problems

About a week before tonight (that is, last Wednesday night), I sent an email to a number of members who could be expected to contribute information to this issue. I heard from only one of the members who had been emailed. As I was wondering why I had received so few responses to my email, I started to phone around to find out if anyone had emailed me. I found sev-eral interesting things. Some people never received my email. Other people received it and did email me stuff back, stuff that I never received. Others are not home on Monday nights (or don't answer their phones on Monday nights) and can not be reached by phone!! Anyhow, my point is that I believe that I am still having some email problems, and with the number of viruses going around that doesn't surprise me one bit. So, if you did email me and don't find your item in this issue of the *Q-match*, please excuse me. It wasn't intentional. Perhaps in the future it might be an idea to follow up your email with a call to my home phone to let me know that you've emailed me. The home phone number is 330 395-0975.

It seems to us – restruct-uring ii

The following is the editorial in the March issue of *QST*. It gives the ARRL's view of restructuring the amateur license structure in the U.S. As many (most??) of our members are not ARRL members and therefore may not read *QST*, I have decided to reprint the editorial here as

the restructuring will affect most of us in one way or another. It follows below.

At its mid-January meeting the ARRL Board of Directors agreed on a proposal for additional restructuring of amateur licensing in the United States. This resumes a process that was begun by the FCC in 1998 but only partly completed by the Commission's decision, effective on April 15, 2000, to offer only three classes of amateur license and to reduce the maximum Morse code examination requirement to 5 words per minute.

Long before the FCC opened its 1998 proceeding, known as WT Docket 98-143, it was clear that the Novice license was no longer functioning as the normal entry point into Amateur Radio. That role had been supplanted in 1991, when Morse code was removed from the qualifications for a Technician license. Under the international Radio Regulations, a license for operation below 30 MHz could only be granted to an applicant who had demonstrated Morse code ability. As a result, new Technicians are restricted to VHF and higher bands. The Technician license offers full privileges above 50 MHz, so the written examination must cover a broad range of material--much of which is irrelevant to a beginner.

Typically, new Technicians obtain an FM transceiver for two meters (and perhaps one or two other bands) and listen to their local repeaters until they build up enough courage to hit the push-to-talk switch. Depending on the local situation, this may--or may not--be very rewarding. Hundreds of local clubs and informal groups throughout the country
It seems to us (cont. . .)

do a great job of welcoming newcomers, helping them discover how to enjoy Amateur Radio and improve their skills. New hams often are eager to volunteer for public service opportunities, which can lead to involvement in other local activities. Of course, if they're fortunate enough to have friends or family members who are hams the process is a whole lot less intimidating.

But the story doesn't always have a happy ending. At least one-fourth of new Technicians *never* get on the air. Of those who do, many don't feel welcome or don't find anything to hold their interest and quickly join the inactive ranks without considering upgrading. Putting more emphasis on mentoring can help, and the ARRL Board is setting out to do that. But new amateurs also should have more opportunities to connect to the wider world of Amateur Radio outside their local area, as many of us did as Novices.

The Board's answer is a new entry-level amateur license with enough privileges to be interesting, without requiring a more difficult exam or reducing the motivation to upgrade. As a result of WRC-03, amateur licenses without a Morse requirement now can include HF privileges. At the same time, it is counterproductive at the entry level to include privileges that are inappropriate or unattractive; this needlessly expands the exam syllabus, shifting the focus away from things a newcomer should know. When you're just getting started in Amateur Radio you don't need to run 1500 watts, be able to operate in the microwave bands or control satellites--all things that Technicians can do.

At the other end of the licensing continuum, the requirements for the

present Amateur Extra license seem to be serving their purpose and the Board found no compelling reason to change them. This may disappoint those who regard the Morse code as obsolete. However, it reflects a rather widely held belief that in view of CW's continuing popularity, the most accomplished radio amateurs should possess at least basic Morse capability in their portfolio of operating skills.

If there are to be three classes of amateur license, one at the entry level and one at the Amateur Extra level, it logically follows that the existing classes of license must be mapped into the new structure. The FCC chose not to do that in Docket 98-143, leaving "legacy" license classes in place indefinitely--presumably, until the last license-holder passes away 70 or 80 years from now. This unnecessarily complicates the FCC regulations and serves no useful purpose for the future.

The Board proposes converting existing Novices--the smallest and least active group of amateurs--into the new entry-level license, which is being called "Novice" until someone comes up with a better name that can fit into the FCC's computer program. This is a change from the ARRL's position on Docket 98-143, when the Board proposed merging the Novice license into General.

When it was available, the Advanced license had a 13-WPM Morse requirement and a written exam on par with the Extra; since the privileges one gains on going from Advanced to Extra are mostly in the CW bands, it makes little sense to withhold them from Advanced licensees when the Morse

It seems to us (cont. . .)

exam for the Extra is now 5 WPM. So the Board concluded, as it did five years ago, that the Advanced should be merged into Extra.

The middle step is the General license, into which the present Technician and Tech Plus licenses would be merged. The short-term impact is that no one loses any privileges, while Technician and Tech Plus licensees would gain new privileges. In the longer term, Amateur Radio will gain a straightforward three-step licensing structure with a close match between requirements and desired privileges while retaining incentives to improve one's skills. More details, including how the Board's proposals mesh with the earlier ARRL petition to make better use of the existing Novice bands, RM-10413, are in the article on pages 42-45. Any licensing proposal is bound to be controversial. Plenty of controversy was stirred up by more than a dozen petitions filed with the FCC by groups and individuals after WRC-03. Responding to membership input requested after last July's Board meeting, the ARRL Board correctly saw the issue of licensing requirements as involving more than just the Morse code. Using where the FCC left off in Docket 98-143 as the starting point for a more holistic approach, the Board has developed a solid base for a healthy Amateur Radio Service for the next decade and beyond.

Editor's note – There you have it, what do you think? It might be an idea to let the leadership of the ARRL know your feelings. Contact Joe Phillips, K8QOE, our Section Manager to let him know your views. He can be reached by email at k8qoe@arrl.org, by snail mail at 2800

Jupiter Dr., Fairfield, OH 45014, or by phone at 513 874-0006.

March calendar

- 3/1 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 3/1 Spartan Sprint CW 1st Mon. of each month – see Mar QST pg 100
- 3/1-7 US Peace Corps ARC Sp Ev Stn KA9NLX founding of Peace Corps— See Mar QST pg 101
- 3/2 WARA mtg Grace Baptist Church in Champion 7.30 PM
- 3/3 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 3/6 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 3/6-7 ARRL DX Contest Phone see Mar QST pg 100 (www.arrl.org/contests/)
- 3/8 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 3/10 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 3/13-14 YL Int'l SSB System QSO Party see Feb QST pg 104 or www.qsl.net/yl-issb/
- 3/15 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 3/16 Skywarn Trng Sessn 7PM KSUTC Lec Hall A; see article this Q-Match
- 3/17 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 3/20 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 3/20-22 Russian DX Contest see Mar QST pg 100 or www.rdsc.org
- 3/22 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 3/24 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 3/27 Lunch Covered Bridge Rest Newton Falls 12 N
- 3/27-28 CQ WW SSB WPX Contest See Mar QST pg 100 or www.cqwps.com
- 3/28 Lake Co. Hamfest Madison see Mar QST pg99 or www.lcara.org
- 3/29 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 3/31 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM

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