

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

December 2006



PRES SAYS...

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

Oh, if only life didn't get in the way of the hobbies! As I sit here to write this, I am listening to

the Maritime Mobile Net on 14.300 USB. The current Net Control Operator is Keith 6Y5RP. He has a heavy Scandinavian accent and is out of the island of Jamaica. Since I have started working full time, I haven't had the opportunity to monitor 20m like I have in the past. I envy you retired folks with all that time on your hands with nothing else to do but play on the radio. Right?

Once again I am surprised at how quickly another year has gone by. Before I had this full time job, I was planning on spending more time next year on EmComm preparedness/training. I still intend to do that, it will just be more of a challenge. So many of us would like more time to engage in this hobby. Too many fun aspects and angles, contesting to EmComm, CW to SSTV, digital this and analogue that. When you do make a 'break though' and get that rare CW contact, when you do figure out how to integrate the computer with the radio with the Internet with the repeater, when you do get the antenna system to work, be sure

to let the rest of us know. Visit on Saturday morning coffees. Attend the meetings and the gab sessions that follow. Volunteer to give a presentation to the club. Write that article. Share the knowledge and experience.

Just a few short years ago, this club had 156 paid members on the role. We are now down to around 40. Many factors have played into this decline, but what they all boil down to is that about a 100 people thought 'it wasn't worth it'. There may not be anyone or anything that can force us to 'join a club, but there are some compelling reasons. From my point of view, they are; Public Service, Emergency



(See PRES P. 2)

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WA7YFF

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(Cont. from PRES P. 1)

Service, and service to other hams. Did you notice the word ‘service’? When we concentrate inward, on ourselves, our world becomes extremely small, narrow, and boring. When we lift our eyes to see others, our world becomes infinite with possibilities and opportunities. Knowledge, experience and excitement quickly follow. This is my hope and prayer for our club and every one of its members and future members.

There are numerous ways to be involved with the club, both on an individual level as well as a group level. A few years ago we had 45 people, the most ever, involved in the public service of the Governor’s Cup. A few weeks ago we had twenty people show up for an ARES meeting.

Individuals have donated time and much effort to fixing up the MCU, running Tuesday night nets, drafting by-laws, and giving classes. I would like to thank, once again, all those involved in these and many other projects. Lots has been done and there is always lots to do.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your president for this past year. I look forward to returning to the rank and file to continue my support to the club and community.

73,

Dave White, WA7YFF



Merry Christmas

FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

Merry Christmas to all. Yes, it is that time of year and yes, I am wishing you all a very Merry Christmas. I know, I am being bold, and not politically correct, but I am going against the flow. I am not saying “happy holiday”, or “happy winter festival”, or any other non-name for Christmas, but I am daring to say... “**Merry Christmas!**” I guess the first amendment still stands as long as you don’t work for the Post Office or Target. And while I am editorializing, I must say a big **Thank You** to the Salvation

Army who kindly allows us to meet in their facility, and no thanks to Target who won’t allow Salvation Army’s Bell Ringers to collect donations in front of their stores.

I am now completing my fourth year as your Newsletter Editor. Thank **you** for entrusting me with such an honor to serve you this way. I truly enjoy putting this newsletter together, and all of your many contributions help immensely. A big thank you to all who have contributed in the last four years; and if I am elected to serve another term, I look forward to reading all of your wonderful submissions yet to be written. I have another meeting during our December club meeting so I won’t know if I will continue having the privilege of serving you another year until sometime after Monday night.

On the “home front”, my Ham Shack is progressing nicely. I have gotten a lot done on it in the last month, and I hope “**I HOPE**” to have a Ham Shack by



Christmas! That is Christmas 2006, this year! I want to get it done so bad, I can taste it. What a great Christmas present. I've waited two long years for this, I will let you know if it becomes a reality by Christmas.

On the "club front", 2007 dues are due. Please, support your club and get them in early, and get involved. It's fun! Also, elections will be held at December's meeting. Please, try to attend this important event in our Radio Club.

On the "FCC front", the old Novice bands have been re-farmed. Our new band plan takes effect on December 15. Check out the new band plans, and be careful where you transmit to make sure you are within your frequency allocations.

That's about it for this month. I hope you all have a blessed Christmas season and I hope you remember His great gift given to you many years ago.

73 and God bless you all,

John, K7JM – Editor



WHY ARE YOU A HAM?

JOHN GEACH, KS7R

What attracted you to our diverse and exciting hobby? Was it the lure to talk to people in far away places? Was it to assist your community with emergency communications? Was it the thrill of the technical aspect of our hobby; learning electronics, building your own equipment or working exciting modes such as satellites, ATV, Amtor, PSK31? Or is it a combination of the above or some I haven't listed?

Whatever it was, have you reached your

goal? Have you gotten everything out of our hobby you were hoping for? Or have you been stopped from reaching your goal by "The Code"?

Have you had the attitude, "I'll learn the code because I need it to upgrade, I'll never use it after that"? I had that attitude at first and I think it gave me a mental block for learning the code. Code practice was not fun it was a drudgery, it was not something I wanted to do, it was something I had to do. Because of that, my CW practices were too few and far in between.

I first became interested in Ham Radio in 1965 while in highschool and I finally got my Novice license in 1977. I like to tell people my CW students "It only took me 12 years to learn the code and get my license. I'll share with you the secret to learning the code and save you 12 years! " The secret is to first open your mind to learning the code. Approach it as something new and fun to learn like a new hobby or skill. Then, faithfully study and practice your CW on a daily basis. Daily practice is the most important factor, you need the constant repetition of hearing the code to train your brain to automatically recognize each letter or character when it hears the sound.

If you will faithfully practice daily, you should be able to master the code to a point you can pass your 5 WPM CW test in about 10 weeks. If you have enough self discipline to practice on a daily basis without becoming discouraged, you can learn the code on your own without any other help. However, for many people that is hard and it's easy to slack off or become frustrated. To overcome that, it's good to study code with a partner or in a group. CI, WU7R has just such a CW group that meets on Saturday mornings at Hardees.

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Capital City
Amateur Radio
Club

Over the years of giving VE Exams, I've noticed many people get their Technician License, never upgrade and eventually lose interest altogether in Amateur Radio. I find that sad and feel they somehow didn't find what they were looking for when they first became interested in Ham Radio.

So ask yourself, "Why did I become a Ham?". If the answer is to do more than your current license allows, maybe it's time to upgrade before you become disillusioned and non-active also. If upgrading requires leaning CW, think about approaching it in a new light. If you've already passed your CW test but want to get your proficiency up so that you can get on the air and try this fun and rewarding mode, think about studying the code again. CW classes are a fun and exhilarating way to help you learn the code. Let Ci or me know if you'd be interested in taking a CW class after the first of the year.



"OMNIBUS" AMATEUR RADIO REPORT AND ORDER TAKES EFFECT DECEMBER 15

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 27 ARLB027

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT November 22, 2006

To all radio amateurs

Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order Takes Effect December 15

With publication in the Federal Register November 15, the long-awaited changes to the amateur rules are set to take effect 30 days later, at 12:01 AM EST December 15. The so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes.

The highlights:

- For Amateur Extra class licensees, the 75 meter phone band will start at 3600 kHz, while Advanced class licensees start at 3700 kHz and Generals at 3800 kHz. The high end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band is now 3600 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).
- On 40 meters, Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees will be able to operate phone beginning at 7125 kHz, while Generals start at 7175 kHz. The top end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band will be 7125 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).
- There are no changes to the 20 meter band.
- On 15 meters, the General class phone band now starts at 21275 kHz.
- On 10 meters, Novice and Technician Plus licensees can now operate CW/RTTY/Digital from 28000 kHz to 28300 kHz.

In addition, Novices and Tech Plus licensees can use CW only on the same frequencies as General and Advanced licensees on the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands: 3525 kHz-3600 kHz; 7025 kHz-7125 kHz and 21025 kHz-21200 kHz.

The Report&Order as published in the Federal Register clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released October 10: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7075-7100 kHz band.

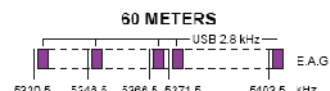
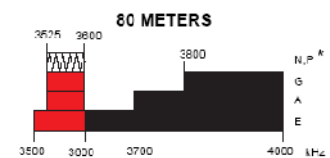
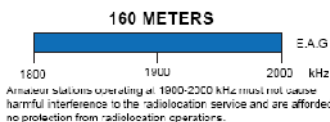
Several controversial aspects of the proceeding are still to be resolved, although the FCC is working on an erratum for the inadvertent elimination of J2D emissions of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. The Commission intends to release the erratum by the December 15 effective date.

NEW BAND PLANS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15

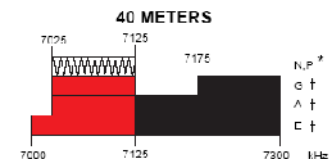
US Amateur Bands

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

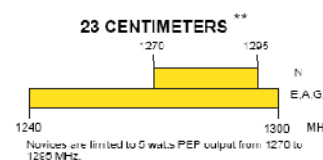
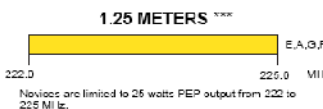
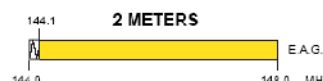
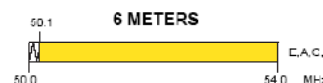
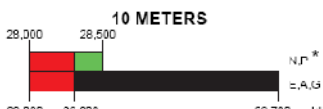
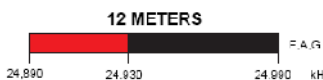
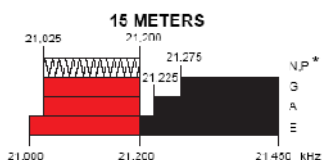
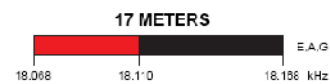
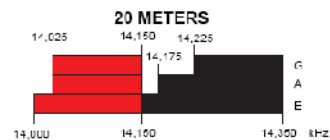
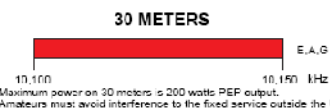
Effective Date December 15, 2006



General, Advanced, 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, 5349.5, 5366.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz. The occupied bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz centered on 5330, 5349, 5369, 5373 and 5405 kHz respectively.



Phone and image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(f)(11). Novice and Technician Plus licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.



US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications. Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum power output is 1500 W. Power for all license classes is limited to 200 W in the 10, 100-10, 150 kHz band. Novices and Technicians are restricted to 200 W below 26.5 MHz. In addition, Novices are restricted to 25 W in the 222-225 MHz band and 5 W in the 1270-1295 MHz subband.

- KEY**
- = CW, RTTY and data
 - = CW, RTTY, data, MUF, test, phone and image
 - = CW, phone and image
 - = CW and SSB phone
 - = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
 - = CW only
 - = USB Phone only
- E = AMATEUR EXTRA
A = ADVANCED
G = GENERAL
P = TECHNICIAN PLUS
T = TECHNICIAN
N = NOVICE

* Technicians who have passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam are indicated as "P".

** Geographical and power restrictions apply to all bands with frequencies above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL FCC Rule Book* for more information about your area.

*** 219-220 MHz allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis for fixed digital message forwarding systems only and can be operated by all licensees except Novices.

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

- 2300-2310 MHz
- 2390-2450 MHz
- 3300-3500 MHz
- 5650-5925 MHz
- 10.0-10.5 GHz
- 24.0-24.25 GHz
- 47.0-47.2 GHz
- 76.0-81.0 GHz
- 122.25-123.0 GHz
- 134-141 GHz
- 241-250 GHz
- All above 275 GHz



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Capital City Amateur Radio Club

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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.

**DECEMBER 2006
MEETING MONDAY,
DECEMBER 4
Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson**

7:00 PM



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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