

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

February 2007



From The President...

Tod Glen, N7WD

Sharing the Knowledge

In times past, there was a well known practice of experienced ham operators helping newcomers to the hobby – a practice known as ‘Elmering’. Old timers would adopt a new ham, show them how to get on the air, set up their own station and teach them about the hobby, as well as sharing their own experience with and enjoyment of the hobby. Sadly, the practice seems to be disappearing.

As everyone knows, the hobby is in decline. The average age of amateur radio licensees is somewhere between 50 and 60, if not older. In part this is due to other hobbies that have attracted those younger people who would have traditionally been drawn into ham radio. The Internet and computers have largely replaced amateur radio. Part of this is due to the natural progression of technology, but it is also a failure of hams to involve the next generation.

We now have a great opportunity to revitalize the hobby. With the elimination of the Morse code requirement effective 23 February 2007, many people who might have been put off by the requirement now see the possibility of

getting that elusive HF license. In addition, the renewed interest in emergency preparedness along with the stellar performance of hams during recent disasters has renewed interest in the hobby. Many people who have participated in disaster training such as CERT have even gone so far as to get their first ham license.

Unfortunately, for many, their participation in amateur radio has gone no farther. What is needed now is mentoring to bring these new hams and would be hams into the radio community. A highly technical hobby like amateur radio is very forbidding to the new comer, and unless he or she is given help and



(See PRES P. 2)

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encouragement, the new ham is likely lose interest. In addition, the exams that grant a ham their new license don't do anything to turn that person into a radio operator – or even prepare them for that first contact. Those skills can only come from tutelage under someone with experience.

Therefore, I encourage every experienced operator to adopt a new ham. Whether that person is a code buddy, someone do chat with via SSB once a week, or someone to invite over to show your station to and let them get on the air, let's all find someone to 'elmer'. Just by this one act, we could double the number of active hams and revitalize the hobby.

As a start, this year I hope to hold more group activities. We are going to cut down on the time spent on business during the monthly meeting, with more time to be given over for training and even operating. The Salvation Army has given us the OK to install antenna at their facility, which means that we can set up operational stations and have some real on-air time. For the March meeting, we are going to send out invitations to all the local hams licensed in the last year and have them join us for a chance to meet other hams and even to try their hand at operating.

I hope that you will all join me in this attempt to bring more people into ham radio, get new licensee involved in the hobby, and pass on all that knowledge and experience we have within the club.

As always, your help and suggestions are welcome.

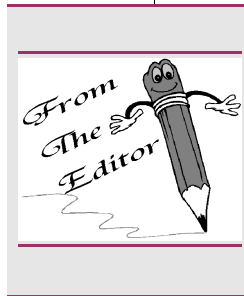
73

Tod N7WD

From The Editor

John McDougall, K7JM

Welcome to February. February is typically supposed to bring cold and snow. We will see; but we certainly need the moisture, so pray for snow! How is your winter ham activities going for you. Are you getting on the air, or preparing to get on the air? If you are a Technician Class licensee, your time has come to get on HF. We will see you on the CW bands which will be opening up for you this month! If you are for or against the whole CW abandonment thing, we will all probably agree, that things will be a bit different. I, personally, love CW and operate mostly with that mode. With that said, however, I believe all you Technicians should



upgrade to General now and get a taste of HF. Once you do, you will see what we are talking about when we talk about all of the fun we have down on the High Frequency bands. I'm sure, many of you will be caught by the CW bug too! It is extremely exciting and exhilarating to make that first CW contact with someone around the block or around the World. I guarantee it; it just can't be explained, you have to experience the rush. I mean a rush in the most literal sense. I imagine it like jumping out of an airplane or bungee jumping (neither of which I have ever done); it is a total rush with adrenaline pumping, cold sweats, nervousness, the whole bit. I kid you not. Ask ANY Ham that has had a CW contact. Just do it.

In other news, my hard disk crashed on my computer. Fortunately, I had everything backed up. Almost everything that is. I, some how, did not save my CD burning

software. But, other than that, I am still in the process of restoring my files and installing programs. Since I had a clean slate to play with, I decided to play with LINUX. Yes, that mysterious operating system that is NOT WINDOZE! Do I dare venture into this uncharted territory? Well, I am doing it in a safe way. I configured my computer to have the option of either booting up in Windows, or to Ubuntu Linux. Ubuntu Linux is a fairly new distribution of Linux and it is hitting the World like a storm. They will send you a free Ubuntu LIVE CD that you can just pop into you CD drive and boot it up without touching your existing operating system or files. This way you can test it out to see if it is something you like before making the plunge. Check it out at ubuntu.com I took the plunge. I had some difficulty partitioning the new hard drive, but once I figured out how to do that, the process was very much easier than installing Windows. I still do not have Internet up and running on Ubuntu so I still need to rely on Windows for that. Way out here in Jefferson City, about the only way to access the Internet is by phone, and my ISP (Internet Service Provider) has their own proprietary dialing software, that is not very friendly with Linux so, that will be my project for the next while. That will be my main deciding factor whether or not to completely dive into Ubuntu Linux. By the way, I am doing this very newsletter on Ubuntu. You should see no difference in the looks of it as I have been using an open source word processor called OpenOffice.org for many months now, and it is very Linux friendly, works on wither Windows or Linux, and is FREE! Check it out at OpenOffice.org.

On the Ham Shack front, you may have seen a glimpse of my new Ham Shack in last month's CCARC News. I am continuing to unpack, put away, throw

away, and organize the shack. I have been on the air and have over a page of contacts in the ole' log book. Yes, I still use a paper log. My quickly thrown up dipole is about a couple of feet off the ground in one spot, not tuned to resonance and is sloping along the side of a mountain, but I am HAVING FUN and I am ON THE AIR. I even managed to work a few DX stations, including South Africa on 80 Meters! WOW! I have never had such a contact on 80 Meters. So, what is keeping you off the air? I hope to see you on the air.

73 and God bless you all,

John, K7JM

P.S. Who are you still offended by? Don't know what I mean? Read last month's CCARC News.



Announcement From the President

Tod Glen, N7WD

The club meeting for 5 March will be an open meeting. We are going to send out invitation to all local ham licensed within the last year. This is a chance to meet all those new hams who got their licenses but really haven't done much else. I would like to have a very short meeting, followed by a 'meet and greet'. I am looking for assistance and ideas. I'd like to have a couple of short presentations about ham radio - one on the hobby in general, and one on ARES. I'd like to have a couple of operational stations set up: SSB, CW and perhaps a digital station (PSK31, RTTY, etc). I'd also like to have some simple refreshments as well - coffee, punch, cookies, etc.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me n7wd@cordite.com

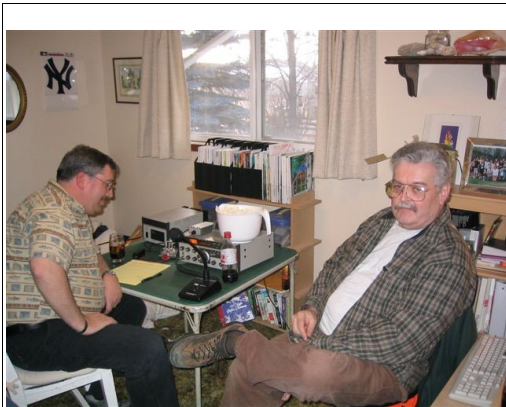
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**Capital City
 Amateur Radio
 Club**

A New Club Event is Born

Ci Jones, WU7R

The weekend of January 13-14, the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) held its Winter Field Day. President Tod Glenn, N7WD search around for a place to hold this event using the CCARC call, W7TCK. He found Ci (WU7R) and Ashby (KE7IMF) were willing to host this event.



Club President, Tod, N7WD and new member, Lynn Wagner, KE7EON, making SSB contacts on a Ten Tec Corsair II.

Participation by our members was a bit sketchy, but the event was held, and contacts were made. About ten PSK-31 QSO's, about eight CW QSO's, and one SSB QSO's were the results—all made on Ten Tec radios at 100 watts. Since several different contests were being held, W7TCK will show up in several various contest results.

Those who were there had a good time, and vowed to follow up with a quarterly event that will help get people on the air using the various modes our hobby utilizes. Be sure to participate in the next announced event.

Ci Jones, WU7R

Morse Code Requirement Ends

ARRL web site: www.arrl.org

It's Official! Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 24, 2007 -- Circle Friday, February

23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235.

Beginning at 12:00 AM local time on February 23 (ie, after midnight Thursday), applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination.

Publication of the new rules in the January 24 Federal Register started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.



Soldersmoke Co Host KL7R Killed

(This is an announcement from Bill M0HBR from the Soldersmoke Podcast. Soldersmoke has been a regular audio series hosted by Bill, M0HBR in London and Mike, KL7R in Juneau, Alaska. Their podcast has always consisted of very interesting technical discussions concerning Amateur Radio. Check out the website at www.soldersmoke.com. Ed



Two amateur radio experimenters discuss workbench radio projects

About us:

Bill - M0HBR's homepage is

<http://www.gadgeteer.us>

Mike - KL7R's homepage is

<http://kl7r.ham-radio.ch>

For more information on items discussed in the programs, check out:

GADGETEER NEWS and SolderSmoke Bookmarks

January 24, 2007

TERRIBLE NEWS

I found out this morning that our friend Mike Caughran, KL7R, was killed in a car accident on Monday. He and his family were on vacation in Hawaii.

Mike's wife and son were in the car, but the newspaper reports indicate that they were treated at the local hospital and released.

Mike was a wonderful person and a great friend. I know all of you guys are as shocked and saddened as I am by this terrible news.



New Q Signals

From the QRP-L mail list

The guys who invented the old ones are probably dead so they won't mind a few new ones being added to the list.. I am proposing the following new Q Signals (no sacred cows here QSC):

QPS - You have Poor Spacing, your letter/word spacing is poor, please don't send Farnsworth; or you are running your letters together, it makes copy difficult.

QPR - You have Poor Ratio, your dot to dash ratio is poor, it makes copy difficult.

QZB - Zero Beat me (this is better than QNZ when you are not in a net)

QMS - Merry Christmas

QHS - Happy Easter

QUP - listening UP in frequency

QDN - listening DOWN in frequency

QRA - Please give your call sign

QSS - Send Slower

QSF - Send Faster

QLO - i am Listening On #### kHz

QTO - i am Transmitting On #### kHz

QWS - Working Split frequencies

SOS - Since there are no more Ship SOS's we can use SOS instead of QRRR.

QFY - have a fine year

QBT - please stop Brag Tape

QFU - my code cert is Faster than Urs

QPM - but your code cert is Prettier than Mine

QRP - how 'bout runnin' some Real Power

QST - act now and pay no State Tax

QBA? - How big is your antenna?

QBA - I have a big antenna.

QDR - dinner is ready

QU8? Have you eaten yet??

QI8 - Yes, I've eaten!!

QGD - Great Dissertation

QRT? - could you Repeat That?

QWW - please adjust Word Wrap!



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



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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.

**February 2007
Meeting Monday,
February, 5
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