

The Inverted-V

The Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club Newsletter
Please take an active role in your Local Club!

Volume 1 Number 1

April 2004

SkyWarn Class Set

The Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a SkyWarn spotter class for May 3rd 2004 6:00 PM at the Lawrence county Courthouse in-place of our May 2004 meeting. We ask that all interested Hams, there families and friends please attend.



April Meeting Agenda

We need to finalize plans for our spring picnic during our April meeting, please attend so that we can get your input on what day during May or June would work best for our members. We always have a good time at our spring picnics with fun, food, and fellowship. Please remember all attending parties please bring your own food, we will have a grill you can do your cooking on. Se you at our April meeting.

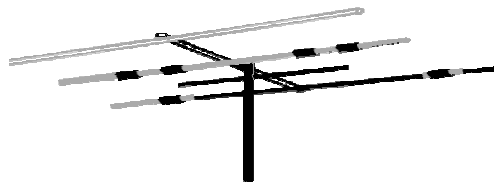
AR Section ARES News

In Arkansas Section news, Due to the fact that Easter Sunday is on April 11 this year, our Arkansas Section ARES/RACES quarterly meeting has be move to the next Sunday. Take a family day and spend Easter with them, and then make it a point to join me in Conway on April 18 the following Sunday. Spring is here, so now is the time many Groups and Clubs setup activities, drop me a line and tell me about the events going on in your area.

Terry Busby W5ARS AR SEC

LCARC Net Reminder

We would like to remind everyone of the Lawrence County Amateur Radio Clubs Weather and Information net, we meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 8 PM on the 147.045 repeater. Arkansas also holds nets at the following times and frequinices:



Net	Day and Time <i>(Listed in Central Time)</i>	Frequency
Arkansas Phone Net	Mon-Sat 6:00 a.m.	3987.5 Khz
Mockingbird Net	Mon-Fri 4:30 p.m.	3928 Khz
Razorback Net	Mon-Sun 6:30 p.m.	3987.5 Khz
QZK CW	Mon-Sun 7:00 p.m.	3592 Khz
Arkansas ARES/RACES Net	Mon at 7:00 PM & Sun 7:00 AM	3987.5 Khz

FCC invites comments on Amateur Radio restructuring plans

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technicians automatically would gain General privileges without additional testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.

A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html.

An "unincorporated grassroots organization," the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF), has filed a petition designated as RM-10868. Its wide-ranging filing asks the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow restricted HF phone, data, image and CW privileges. The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and all Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras or Technicians licensed more than two years to request vanity call signs.

The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new entry-level license called the Communicator class. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates its call--first made last fall in RM-10787--to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement. The NCVEC's petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class. The NCVEC would further upgrade all existing Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses." The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). They could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm. All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands.

Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.