

Air Scoop

The monthly Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society, Inc. February 2007

NO "CODE-FREE" UPGRADES AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY 23

Code-free upgrades to General or Amateur Extra will not be available at volunteer examination sessions until the 5 WPM Morse code requirement disappears from the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules on February 23. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that, judging from the questions he's been getting, many in the amateur community -- including some Volunteer Examiners (VEs) -- don't fully understand the new rules and privileges resulting from the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf>. He stresses that VE teams may not accept upgrade applications in advance of February 23, and then hold the paperwork.

"There will be no automatic midnight upgrades February 23 for applicants advancing to General or Amateur Extra," Henderson explained. "You must make application." He further advises that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) valid for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit does not confer any operating privileges and, lacking Morse code credit, is no good for an upgrade until the new rules become effective.

"Anyone holding or earning a valid CSCE for element credit must wait until February 23 to redeem it at a volunteer examination session," he says. "You may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade." A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

Henderson also emphasizes that those who qualified as Technician licensees under the examination regime in place from March 21, 1987, until April 15, 2000, do not get General class Element 3 credit on that basis. For starters, he said, the "old" Element 3 is not the same as the current Element 3.

"When the Novice and Advanced examination elements went away, the FCC renumbered the elements," he pointed out. "Those who passed Element 3 from March

21, 1987 until April 15, 2000, qualified for the Technician license, and the exam was not the same as the current Element 3 General element test."

Applicants upgrading at a test session on or after February 23 on the basis of a valid CSCE must present the certificate for element credit, fill out an application and pay any applicable exam session fee, which most VECs charge. Between now and then, Henderson points out, upgrade applicants still have the option of passing the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test in addition to the General or Amateur Extra written tests.

Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination automatically gain new privileges on February 23 without having to apply at an exam session. But they're the only ones. On that date, all Novices and Technicians will have equal privileges on HF: CW on parts of 80, 40 and 15 meters, and CW, SSB and data on parts of 10 meters. No other license classes get automatic upgrades or new privileges on February 23.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) reports that business has been very brisk since the FCC announced the new rules dropping the Morse requirement for any Amateur Radio license.

"We're avalanched," said Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O. "Sessions are going onto the schedule fast and furious. They're all waiting for that magic date of February 23." ARRL VEC has hired extra personnel to deal with the anticipated post-February 23 application onslaught.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says the VEC typically schedules some 5500 exam sessions a year. By the end of January, some 3500 were already on this year's calendar with more pouring in every day. Sales of ARRL Amateur Radio licensing materials also are up dramatically.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 26 #06

DCARS Monthly Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2007

Attendance: Tony, KC8NUR, Rich, N8OYR, Mike, KD8DKB, Ken, KD8DKC, Walt, W8WLT, Joe, W8JRT, Dave, N8DP, Marshal, N8VBA, John, WD8RTH, Lowell, KA8RPB, Steve, KD8BJD, Mike, KD8DKA, Don, K8GMW.

Dave opened meeting promptly at 7 PM.

Meeting minutes that appeared in the newsletter accepted. Motion by Rich, Walt second.

Treasurer's report. Money in the bank. Motion to accept by John, second by Marshall.

Correspondence- Letter from Dewey Jones of the Hiawathland Boy Scouts asking for help with a scouting event to take place in May at the Fair grounds. Great opportunity to showcase ham radio.

Testing. Rich passed the General written exam. We had one other pass the General and 2 the extra. One of the Extra test takers got 100 percent correct.

Silent keys: Al Barra N8MAK.

Old Business:

Plans are to start a Tech Training class the end of February.

John has the rooms reserved for the August 4th hamfest.

QWCA: Quarter Century Wireless Association. If you're interested in joining the local chapter contact Dave, N8DP. Info on the QWCA at www.QCWA.ORG.

New Business:

Bill plans on selling the 146.70 Repeater. It consists of a Motorola Micor repeater, duplexer, Sinclair antenna and 500 feet of 1 ¼ inch hard line. The site has 11 years left on the lease. The club would like to purchase it. John will pursue this.

Joe, W8JRT, will be the Field Day Chairman.

Announcement: John, WD8RTH, looking for old club newsletters. Prior to 1977

Motion to adjourn: Rich made the motion and Ken second it.

Michigan QSO party April 21st

Signed,
Joe Thompson, W8JRT – Secretary

Presidents Message

Comfort zone, We all have one. Sometimes there's a reluctance to try new things, We continue to do the same things over and over. Well I challenge you to try something, anything new. A new mode, a new band, a new certificate for the wall like W.A.S. or D.X.C.C. Maybe build something. PSK 31 is a mode that everyone could get excited about. It's amazing how far you can get out with it using low power and a simple antenna. How expensive is it? Free to listen with and very cheap to build a simple interface to transmit with. To listen, just download Digipan 2.0 from www.digipan.net plug an audio cable from your receiver to the audio input jack on the computers sound card and that's it. If you do try something new, don't forget to take pictures or at least share your experiences at the club meeting.

The Technician classes begin on Thursday March 1st at 7 p.m. in room 122 at Bay College. The classes will run for six weeks and will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I encourage everyone to reach out to anyone who might have shown an interest in our hobby and invite them to come. Make an effort to invite kids to the classes, we already have a few coming and the more – the merrier. There's no charge for the class.

73
Dave – N8DP

Air Scoop – is the official newsletter for "The Delta County Amateur Radio Society Club Inc", serving members and families and anyone interested in amateur radio or electronics.

The Delta County Amateur Radio Society, meets on the third Monday of each month. Our meeting starts promptly at 7 P.M., at Bay College, Room #963, located at the Joseph Heirman University Center.

Annual Membership dues are \$15 per year and can be paid to Rich N8OYR anytime or mailed to DCARS

**C/O Richard Thompson
9560 Chaison – N Road Gladstone, MI 49837**

LEAGUE ROLLS OUT EMERGENCY RADIO PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, WEB SITE

"Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through for your family and community" is the theme of the League's 2007 public relations campaign. The "Emergency Radio" Web site <<http://www.emergency-radio.org/>> debuted this week. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the 2007 PR initiative picks up the momentum ARRL public information officers started during the just-ended "Hello" campaign.

"As we begin launching the new emergency communications campaign, the friendships and good will developed in Hello will aid in future promotions of Amateur Radio," Pitts said. "For 100 years, radio in its many forms has saved lives and aided in crises. We have a great legacy and a bright future.

The new Web site is a partner to the "Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through for your family and community" brochure now available and, in fact, already starting to make the rounds. "If an emergency or disaster should happen, the new 'Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through' site has the capability to quickly upload current information, providing PIOs with words and pictures to circulate to the media while the event is still news," Pitts explained.

As both the brochure and the "Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through" Web site note: "Amateur Radio . . . has consistently been the most reliable means of communication in emergencies when other systems failed or were overloaded." The campaign stresses that ham radio works and works well and it doesn't require any external infrastructure, such as telephone lines or even the Internet, to get the message through.

The Web site provides page space for emergency communication and disaster relief organizations to tell about their work. "So far, SKYWARN, MARS, SATERN and RACES have taken advantage of our offer, showing the versatility of ham radio in disasters and emergencies," Pitts says, "and more are expected.

The campaign also emphasizes that ham radio is fun and a good way to keep in touch with friends or family. "You can have this capability for yourself and your family," the campaign points out, inviting members of the general public to get an Amateur Radio license and become active in emergency communication through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or other organization. A "How to Get Started" tab on the Web site offers step-by-step instructions.

From the ARRL Letter Vol. 26 #05

V.E. TESTING:

02/03 Iron Mountain: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (Conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

02/15 Iron River: 7:00pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church (after club meeting)
NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9JG, at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv

03/10 Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg, U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net

04/14 Houghton: 8:30am eastern time, Room G04 (In the basement) of Wadsworth Residence Hall at M-T-U (Michigan Technological University) Parking available (free) across Hwy U.S. 41 from this building, contact George Thurner W8FWG at 906 337-2542 or e-mail w8fwg@arrl.net

02/24 Escanaba: - SPECIAL UPGRADE TESTNG FOR GENERAL, EXTRAS

A SPECIAL TEST SESSION FOR UPGRADES ONLY FOR TECH, GENERALS, EXTRAS, THAT HAVE A CSCE SHOWING A PASSED WRITTEN EXAM, CAN PAY THE \$14.00 AND RECEIVE UPGRADE FOR PERMANENT CODE CREDIT.

_Come and bring your CSCE certificate with you to the Gladstone School and Public Library

***300 South 10th Street, Gladstone, MI 49837
(906) 428-4224 February 24th 2007 for 930 A.M. VE examiners will be there. The repeater 146.700 is an open Repeater and you can call in if needed, for directions to the Library. C U there... Good luck.***

04/14 Escanaba: 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:30am, at Bay de Noc Community College. Contact Les, WA8LE at 906 789-1543 or wa8le@uplogon.com for info.

NEWS FROM – M&M RADIO CLUB

Our next ARRL VE session is scheduled for Sat. Feb. 24 9:30am at the Twin Co. Airport in Menominee.

It will be the first session following the FCC date for dropping the Morse code requirement. We anticipate quite a few candidates, many of which may just do the paperwork to upgrade to General.

Our ARRL VE team is now "Field - stocked", which means we have all the materials on hand to set up a VE session at any time. In addition, several of us (6 hams) have set up a W5YI VE team to test at "the drop of a hat.". We can set up a test session at any time to accomodate 1 or two individuals, who may be ready, rather than make them go elsewhere or wait for weeks or months.

Jim Pearson, KS8O is the W5YI coordinator with Bill Becks, WA8WG as the backup. Paul Drees, WC9E is the ARRL coordinator.

So, with two VE teams in our area, we can test anytime, anywhere.

73, Ed
<http://w8pif.com>

2007 DCARS – OFFICERS - NEW

President - Dave Palmgren – N8DP

V. President -Tony Marietta – KC8NUR

Treasurer - Rich Thompson – N8OYR

Secretary - Joe Thompson – W8JRT

Newsletter Editor - Les Elder – WA8LE

Newsletter Editor - John Anderson WD8RTH

Club Librarian - Tony Marietta - KC8NUR

Remember our club officers are here to Help you, please give them a call.

Jersey DXpedition Time Again

Pete K8PT and his partner Craig K3PLV will be making their annual trek to Jersey Island the week of March 14th-22nd 2007. So make plans to work Pete and Craig. As always Pete will take time to announce he is just listening for us Yoopers so there is no excuse to not work him.

For more information about the Jersey Island DXpedition check out the following web site.
<http://users.adelphia.net/~crahil>

Contest Calendar – February

**February 17th – 0000z – 2359z – Feb 18th
Arri International DX contest 160-10m (CW)**

**February 18th – 2100z – 2300pm Eastern
Run for the Bacon Contest 160-10m (CW)**

**February 23rd – 2100z – 2100z feb 24th
Russian PSK31 WW Contest 80-10m**

**February 24th – 0000z – 2359z 25 February
CQ WW 160M Contest Only.....**

**February 24th – 25th Feb 1800z-0600z
Northern American QSO party – 160-10m
RTTY – Contest**

**All contest rules, see QST or WORLD RADIO,
CQ MAG OR ARRL's Web-site www.arrl.org**

**Monday Night – Project Night – Every Week
Other the meeting night.**

Packet Radio, APRS, alive and well in Houghton, And the Copper Country.

We have a number of changes coming to our packet radio system (AX25).....and we now have the addition of APRS.

The first item is that we have discontinued our 446.3 link to Herman, and therefore the link to Iron River is also gone.

CMX LAN in Calumet (CMX) remains and is operational on 145.090 MHz. Also the backbone to the west is still intact, as MICMX (On 145.010 MHz).

Our Mailbox: (CMXBBS) is temporarily out-of-service, because of a defective KPC-2 (Kantronics) TNC. W8FWG will be working to restore that mailbox function as soon as time permits.)

W8FWG-2 operates on 145.090 as "KWNW" and is the link to the weather bureau in Negaunee, at WX8MQT-1. There is also a Mailbox at this site, called NOAAWX, where you may leave a packet (AX25) message

Steve Etelemaki, N8MLI of Ishpeming is establishing a dual-port system in Ishpeming with the 145.090 MHz side facing the Northwest, and the Iron Mountain side (147.42 MHz) facing the Southeast side (Iron Mountain.)

The new Ishpeming route is a dual port KPC-4 and operates like this:

N8MLI-1 = Mailbox
N8MLI-3 = Gateway
N8MLI-4 = 1R (Remote)
N8MLI-7 = Node

The node is called "NEGNODE" (short for "Negaunee Node")

APRS (Nationwide frequency) is 144.390 MHz (simplex) New digi-peaters have been added at Calumet and Herman.

The Calumet digi is called W8FWG-8
The Herman digi is called: W8FWG-9
Both of these are privately owned by W8FWG

Mark Konczel of Hancock (KC8YDU) has an I-Gate operating on 144.390 and is connected to a high speed (Charter cable) connection to the Internet at his home in Hancock. His station is on the air 24/hours per day.

Howard Klann also has an I-gate operating on 144.390 Mhz from Kearsarge, MI.

George Thurner , W8FWG has an I-gate also, but it is on intermittently at this time, with thoughts of possible 24/7 for the future. (On 144.390 Mhz)

There are plans also for adding another node up at Keweenaw (KWNW) with another digi (W8FWG-?)....and possibly an I-Gate to supplied by AB8WU (Jonathan Hopper) there.

Marquette also has a digipeater on 144.390 at this time (Feb. 4, 2007)

We are hoping to establish a U.P. Wide APRS connectivity in the future, as more digipeater and I-Gates appear on the map.

We have been asked NOT to indiscriminately add voice repeater stations to the U.P. map as it becomes to confusing.....(here we are referring to the UI-View32 program, which is the mapping program)

K9MLD of Ironwood is providing Northern Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin with several I-Gates and digipeaters, from his home in Ironwood.....thank you, Joel !

He also has a "digi" "across the lake"....in Lutzen, MN, which we can hit from the Keweenaw Peninsula from Mark's station (KC8YDU) in Hancock, 24/7. Thank you, Mark !

We encourage ALL "Packeteers" to keep me informed as to the status of PACKET RADIO and APRS systems operating in your area.

We need this information to forward to N8DDB, as he makes up the route maps, that will be published in the new "U.P. Ham Directory - 2007"...that will be coming out the end of April of this year.

**DELTA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO
C/o Richard Thompson - Treasurer
9560 Chaison – N. Road
Gladstone, Mi.
49837**