



Tri County Radio Association
W2LI Since 1934



Tri County Radio operates repeaters on 147.255 (PL 141.3) and 449.975 (PL 141.3) using the W2LI memorial call sign / P.O. Box 412 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 / Web Site: <http://www.w2li.org>

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TCRA NEWS STAFF:

E-MAIL address W2LI@arrl.net

<i>Editor</i>	<i>Robert E. Grassmann</i>	<i>KB2BBD</i>
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UPCOMMING NPARC MEETING

On Monday evening January 8th at 7:30 p.m., the New Providence ARC will be hosting Dr. Frank Brickle, AB2KT, who is going to talk about and demonstrate Software Defined Radios (SDRs). NPARC would like to extend an open invitation to all Tri-County members to join us that evening. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the usual NPARC meeting spot, the Salt Brook School in New Providence. Details and driving directions are on the NPARC web site at www.nparc.org
 73, Ralph KC2RLM
 Secretary-Treasurer NPARC

TCRA NEWS JANUARY 2007

TCRA News is published ten times a year, with no issues in August and December.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS FOR JANUARY*

***Subject to change.**

January 1st: “**NO MEETING**” Due to the first meeting of January falling on the New Years Day there will be no meeting held.

January 2nd: “**VE TEST SESSION CANCELLED**” VE testing session sponsored by TCRA and the Union County O.E.M scheduled for Tuesday January 2nd has been cancelled. The next scheduled TCRA sponsored testing session will be April 3rd.

January 13th: “**VE TEST SESSION**” 8AM at the Union County College Cranford Campus.

January 15th: “**K2JV TRIP TO MALTA**” Barry, K2JV will present a travelogue of his recent trip to Malta. (8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)

January 22nd: “**ON THE AIR MEETING**” (9:30PM W2LI 2M 147.255 PL 141.3).

2007 DUES

Just a reminder: TCRA 2007 dues are due for 2007 membership. Dues are \$20.00. If you can't make it out to a meeting, you may send it to the club PO Box. Please note that although the dues are the same as last year the clubs expenses continue to rise. If you are able please add a donation to your dues payment. In advance thank you for your donation.

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 50, December 22, 2006
FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE AS EXAM REQUIREMENT!

Early "2007", the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining January 2007

the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future --whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

The Commission further amended Part 97 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's

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decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says sales of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket 05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.



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Frank is the DSP software engineer for Flex-Radio, the group producing commercial SDRs for the amateur community. He also serves on the ARRL's SDR Working Group and is working on the Software Defined Transponders (SDX) that will be used in the upcoming Eagle satellite.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the usual NPARC meeting spot, the Salt Brook School in New Providence. Details and driving directions are on the NPARC web site at www.nparc.org

And looking ahead just a bit, NPARC will be holding its annual Auction on Friday evening February 23 at the New Providence Municipal Center.

73,
Ralph KC2RLM
Secretary-Treasurer NPARC

Any Ideas???

Do you have an article you'd like to submit for publication in the TCRA News? The TCRA News editors are always seeking articles for future issues. If you have any ideas, please contact Bob, KB2BBD at kb2bbd@arrl.net.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT HERE

If you belong to another organization and would like to list it in the TCRA Newsletter contact Bob, KB2BBD at kb2bbd@arrl.net.



January 2007



TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	10	11	12	13 8:00 AM VE TEST UNION COUNTY COLLEGE CRANFORD
14	15 8:00 PM TCRA MEETING AT THE UNION ELKS "K2JV / MALTA"	16 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	17	18	19	20
21	22 9:00 PM TCRA ON THE AIR MEETING - NJ5R 147.255 MHz	23 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	31			