



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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ATTENTION DUES PAYING MEMBERS

Just a reminder: *This is your last copy of the newsletter if your 2007 dues are not paid by March 23rd.* Dues are \$20.00. If you can't make it out to a meeting, you may send your dues to TCRA, P.O. Box 412, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Note if any of the following has changed please include when renewing your membership. Your zip code, your phone number, your E-mail address, your license class and are you an ARRL member.

March 2007

TCRA NEWS MARCH 2007

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

PROGRAMS/EVENTS FOR MARCH*

***Subject to change.**

March 5th: Plans were not finalized at press time. It may be a social meeting or a topic you would not want to miss. **(8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)**

March 10th: **"VE TEST SESSION"** 8AM at the Union County College Cranford Campus.

March 19th: Plans were not finalized at press time. It may be a social meeting or a topic you would not want to miss. **(8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)**

March 26th: **"ON THE AIR MEETING"** (9:30PM W2LI 2M 147.255 PL 141.3).

VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

Tri-County Radio Ass'n., in cooperation with Union County OEM, held a VE session at the Union County Office Building, 300 North Ave. East in Westfield NJ on February 24th, 2007.

The results are as follows:

Actual tests taken:

Tech.	General	Extra
pass--fail	pass--fail	pass--fail
1 0	5 1	1 1

One gentleman who took the Extra, Aced the test, all questions were answered correctly. The one person who took the Tech, tried and failed at General.

CSCE Upgrades General 10

ARRL MARKS TRANSITION TO NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees.

"ARRL VEC has been extremely busy scheduling new exam sessions," Kramer said. "We normally coordinate about 5500 sessions per year, but we've already scheduled close to 5000 sessions and it's only the end of February."

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports some 175 ARRL VEC test sessions are on the schedule through the February 23-25 period, "and these are just the ones that have registered with us," she added. Two dozen applicants showed up at League Headquarters, either to sit for an exam or apply for license upgrades.

"I was surprised at the number of people who wanted to take the test at 12:01 AM," Somma remarked. All but two test applicants took their exams under the new rules. "After people took their exams, some went over to W1AW to use their new privileges," she added.

First out of the gate at the League's 12:01 AM test session was Joshua Rozovsky, N3YAR, of Bloomfield, Connecticut. He upgraded from Tech to Amateur Extra.

Despite snowy New England weather, a few applicants traveled some distance to take their exams. "A nice young couple that drove in from Rhode Island joined ARRL while here,"

said ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB. "They thought this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take their upgrades here at HQ."

Breen, who upgraded to General at the February 23 exam session, has been tracking W1AW Open House events in near-real time on an ARRL Web site blog <<http://www.arrl.org/blog/W1AW%20HF%20Open%20House>>. She's also posted some videos to YouTube.com.

Somma says her department now is bracing for an anticipated application avalanche as paperwork from initial sessions shows up. She and Kramer predict test demand will surge even further in the days and weeks ahead. Not only has the number of test sessions increased dramatically, Kramer pointed out, the number of applicants at each session is up as well. To keep up with demand, ARRL VEC has hired additional help. Staffers from other HQ departments also have been lending a hand.

March QST includes an eight-page "tearout" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!" between pages 48 and 49.

<<http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>>. It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or owing to the new rules as well as to veteran licensees. Among other things, it covers mentoring -- or Elmering -- newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using Logbook of the World (LoTW) and a "Welcome to the fascinating world of high frequency (HF) radio!" by ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"The FCC's decision to eliminate the Morse code examination as a licensing requirement opens the door to HF for all amateur licensees," Sumner points out in his remarks.

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Sumner also addresses the topic in his "It Seems to Us" editorial in March QST (page 9).

"As these new HF operators join us on our favorite bands, we old timers need to set a good example and to be patient, welcoming and positive," he writes. "Let's all remember how little we knew when we got started, and honor those who helped us along the way by doing the same for others."

The March QST special section includes a new ARRL band chart <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>. (See "Revised ARRL Band Chart available" below.)

The new rules seem to be driving greater enthusiasm for ham radio in general. There's been an uptick in ARRL publication sales, particularly in licensing manuals and licensing guides, and enrollment in the online ARRL Ham Radio License Course (EC-010) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>> is at an all-time high. Additionally, Kramer notes, DXCC applications are up by 350 from last year, while LoTW has exceeded 121 million QSO records.

FIELD DAY?

It is not too early to start thinking about Field Day. Would you like to try something new? Start thinking about how you can participate: setup, operating, Field Day Chairperson??? Bring your ideas to a club meeting.

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.

March 2007

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.



Swap and Shop

TCRA members are welcome to list any amateur related items for sale, trade, or swap. You may also list wanted items as well. Please contact Bob, KB2BBD at kb2bbd@arrl.net if you have anything to list.

YOUR ITEM HERE





March 2007



TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION EVENTS

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