



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 2 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida February 2007

### Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday  
at 7:30 p.m. Golden Gate  
Community Center  
4701 Golden Gate Parkway  
Naples FL  
Club Repeater: K4YHB  
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5  
EOC Repeater:  
WB2WPA 147.030 (+600)  
Club Web Site:  
<http://www.araswf.org>  
Club Officers/ Chairpersons  
President: KK4PG  
Peter Gaddy  
Vice President:

Secretary: W2HI  
Bob Graf  
Treasurer: K2ZEL  
Bill Reynolds  
Past President: KK4PG  
Peter Gaddy  
Technical Director: WB2QLP  
Jordan Mash  
Emergency Comm. Dir:  
N1DL, Karl Geng  
Ops. Director:

Public Info. Officer: KI4HQP  
Elio Hernandez  
Awards Manager: KD4VRZ  
Gary Randall  
VE Liaison: AI4CZ  
Carolyn Conklin  
Newsletter: WD8RFL  
Mike Welsh  
Webmaster: KI4HEY  
Eric Rice  
Social Chair: W2JQ  
Sigi Boernet

### ***From the President's Shack:***

Thanks to those who have volunteered to work on the Club trailer. More help can be used when we assemble the necessary supplies.

At the February meeting, Karl, N1DL will give a presentation on his dxpedition up the Amazon.

Joe, N2XYZ will be giving his presentation on the Battleship New Jersey (NJ2BB) at the March Meeting.

Sign up and \$30 deposit for the Keywadin dxpedition will occur at an upcoming meeting.

73,

Peter  
KK4PG

***Minutes from January Meeting:  
From Bob Graf, W2HI Club Secretary***

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**Regular Monthly Business Meeting held at the Golden Gate Community Center, Golden Gate, Florida, on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.**

**Present:** Peter Gady, KK4PG - President  
Bob Graf, W2HI - Secretary  
G. William Reynolds, K2ZEL – Treasurer  
Jordan Marsh, WB2QLP – Technical Director

**Apologies:** Karl Geng, N1DL – Emergency Operations Director

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called To Order:**

There being a quorum present with 42 members, including 4 directors, and 2 guests in attendance, Peter, KK4PG (President) called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Introductions:**

All attendees introduced themselves by name and call for the benefit of the members and guests in attendance, including new member Ed Andrew from Illinois, KB9KV.

**Reading & Approval of Previous Minutes:**

There were no minutes of the December meeting, since that meeting was the Christmas Dinner social event.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Bill, K2ZEL, distributed the Annual Financial Report for 2006, indicating a balance at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 of \$5,172.41. This balance has increased since 12/31 by the addition of 2007 dues income, which is still coming in. A motion by George, W3ISH to accept the Treasurer's Report was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

**Changes to ARASWF By-Laws:**

The proposed changes to the ARASWF Bylaws were read to the membership by Bob, W2HI. A motion by Carl, K14AI, to approve the changes was seconded by Carl, WA9ZIF, and unanimously approved. The changes will allow for email notification to the membership via the ARASWF Newsletter about proposed future changes to the Bylaws, in lieu of written notice mailed individually to each member.

## **Officers' Reports:**

K4YHB Repeater Problems: KK4PG announced that the club repeater was off the air for a short while in January due to a malfunction, and the old standby repeater was activated, but without Echolink capability. Dan, WB7ECV, reported that the new repeater was discovered to be out-of-tune, and suffering from a charred resistor in the driver stage. He made the necessary repairs and re-tuned the repeater, and it now has been re-installed and appears to be operating OK, with Echolink restored.

2007 Roster: KK4PG announced that the club Roster for 2007 will not be published until after the next membership meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, to give all unpaid members a chance to remit their 2007 dues.

Future Activities: KK4PG asked the membership to think about another mini-expedition to Keewaydin Island, which will be scheduled soon. More about this will be announced at the next membership meeting.

Operation ComGapFill: In the absence of Emergency Operations Director Karl, N1DL, Peter, KK4PG, distributed plans for a simulated emergency to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 0900 to 1200 hours local time. Also, he distributed Survey and Inventory Forms to all the members asking that they indicate their operating capabilities and their interest, or lack thereof, of participating in emergency communications. The Survey and Inventory Forms were completed by the membership and returned to KK4PG, who will review them with N1DL to determine what are the realistic capabilities of the club and its membership regarding emergency communications.

Fred, KF4MJJ, announced that a similar exercise involving a simulated airplane crash at Naples Airport is scheduled for sometime in April, following the Operation ComGapFill exercise.

Bruce, K9PWQ, reported to the membership that a similar exercise was conducted in Peoria, Illinois, and was found to be very beneficial to the amateur community there.

## **Silent Key:**

Fred, WB4MJJ, announced that Tuck, KA1GQ, has joined the ranks of "Silent Keys". Tuck was a regular check-in to the Wednesday night net from Ft. Myers, and will be sorely missed.

## **Departed Member:**

Bill, K2ZEL, announced that ARASWF member Ralph Beverly, K4REB, has left the Naples area permanently due to poor health, and does not expect to return.

## **Committee Reports:**

Naples Daily News Half-Marathon: Bob, KI4LUD, reported that 9 members of

the club assisted with communications at the Naples Daily News half-marathon, including KI4NWE, Rodney KI4DBI, Luna KI4HEW, Don WD4FLY, James W4IJR, W4IMJ, Eric KI4IMA and Fred KF4MJJ. (Note: my apologies to those members whose calls I got wrong – sorry!)

VE Testing: Carolyn, AI4CZ, reported that the next VE testing session will be held on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, one day after the “no-code” rule becomes effective. The test site will again be the Collier EOC training rooms on South Horseshoe Drive. Carolyn will be looking for Accredited VE volunteers to assist at this session.

6-Meter AM Net: Jeff, NJ2F, reported that the 6-meter AM Net seems to be attracting 10-15 check-ins each Monday night at 7:30PM on 50.400 MHz, and he invited more members to participate. Vintage AM radios are not a requirement for checking into the net, but they are gaining in popularity – about half of the check-ins are using vintage 6-meter radios.

### **Old Business:**

Club Antenna Trailer: Peter, KK4PG, announced that the club antenna trailer will be moved next week to the QTH of Tim Wallen, KC4SSD, where it will be refurbished with new paint, new tires, new storage boxes, etc. A call will go out over the repeater for volunteers to join a work party to complete this work.

### **New Business:**

Hamfests: Jordan, WB2QLP, reminded the membership about the upcoming hamfest in Orlando on February 9th to 11th. This is the also the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention, and is the largest hamfest/convention held during the year in southern Florida.

### **Special Features:**

Peter, KK4PG, announced that the special presentation originally scheduled for this meeting has been cancelled. Karl, N1DL, was expected to present a slide show of his recent travels to South America and elsewhere, but at the last minute was unable to attend. His presentation is expected to be made at the February meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Also at the February meeting a presentation is expected to be made by Joe, N2XYZ, about the amateur radio station NJ2BB on the battleship New Jersey.

### **Quarter Century Wireless Association:**

Representatives of the QCWA announced that their monthly meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, at 12:00 noon at Lely Palms main dining room. This location is across from Shepherd of the Glades Church on Rattlesnake Hammock Road. It is reported that this is the best \$10.00 Lunch ever.

The next meeting date is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, when there will be a discussion

of F.B.Morse, inventor of the morse code, including special discussions and demonstrations.

Meeting contacts include:

Henry Sprague, W1CHR, Telephone 774-3406

Walt Horvay, KU1Q (V.P.). Telephone 649-7588

Don Hyer, AA1KI, Telephone 591-0821

Also, the QCWA Chapter Net meets Mon / Wed / Fri at 12:00 Noon on 14.178 MHz.

**50/50:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by Irving, W1ERE.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. on a motion made by Ted, KI4JUG, duly seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Bob Graf, W2HI**  
**Secretary**

## **DUES REMINDER**

The 2007 dues are payable now. Annual membership dues are \$25.00 for Active members, the same as last year. Family members related to paid-up Active members maintain their club membership without payment of additional dues.

Hopefully all members will have their dues paid by February 27<sup>th</sup> – the next membership meeting, after which the official membership Roster will be prepared and posted on the club web site, [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org). The Roster is also used to determine the mailing list for the club newsletter.

**Please stay current, support your club, and not miss any exciting future issues of the newsletter.**

Mailing instructions are on the web site, [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org). Simply send your dues to:

**ARASWF**  
**P.O. Box 111604**  
**Naples, FL 34108-0127**

### **VE TESTING SESSION:**

The next Amateur Radio test session is on Sat Feb 24th.

Location:  
EOC training rooms located at:

2685 Horseshoe Dr SOUTH (off Airport Road)  
Stes 104/105  
Naples, FL

(Enter at rear of building)

Testing time: 9:30AM - please try to be there about 9AM for set up and remember to wear your VE Badge.

Please e-mail me whether or not you will be able to attend and help out at the session.  
Thanks for the help.

Carol - AI4CZ [cconklin2@swfla.rr.com](mailto:cconklin2@swfla.rr.com)

## **Attention All Amateurs**

It's Official! Morse Code Requirement ends Friday, February 23. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, 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.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the \$14.00 application fee, and receive an instant upgrade.

Circle Saturday February 24th on your calendar. That's the date of the next scheduled VEC test session where you can upgrade your license without the code requirement.

Time and Location:

The ARASWF VEC test session will start at 9:30 am. The testing location is the EOC training rooms at 2685 Horseshoe Drive South, Suites 104/105, Naples, FL.

The training rooms are entered at the rear of the building, which is located to the west off Airport Road. Parking is available at the rear of the building, with additional parking at the front of the building if needed. Please do a search on MapQuest if you need more specific directions, or call-in on either 146.52 Simplex, or 146.67(-) Repeater (136.5 PL).

Please be sure to bring the following items with you to the test session:

Examination/application fee, which currently is \$14.00 per exam or application;

2 forms of identification, including 1 photo ID (Drivers License with photo will suffice);

Original amateur license, if any, and one photo copy (which will be retained to be sent to ARRL VEC);

Any non-expired CSCEs from a previous exam date to be used for upgrade. (Please note that if you use a valid CSCE to upgrade your license, the \$ 14.00 VEC fee will still be charged, even if you do not have to take any new exams.

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## **Attention all Technician Licensees**

FCC has modified the Amateur Radio Service rules by eliminating the Morse code exam requirements. The effective date of the FCC's action will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February.

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code test requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited "Morse code" proceeding (WT Docket 05-235), and released it December 19. The FCC's action will eliminate the Morse code test as a licensing requirement to operate on HF.

### **Technicians Gain Operating Privileges**

Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF.

### **No Morse Code Test to Upgrade**

Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the General (Element 3) written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Extra (Element 4) written exam. No Morse code test will be required.

## **Navigating through the Upgrade Process**

1. Technician Amateurs who wish to upgrade to General have a couple of options.
  - a. It is recommended that Technician licensees who have NOT yet passed the General written exam (Element 3) wait until the new rules take effect to upgrade. At a VE test session, such as a local **ARASWF** test session, the candidate must present a photo ID and their current license, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out the NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam is passed, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license.
  - b. Technician licensees who have already passed the General written exam (Element 3) or wish to pass the General written exam before the rules take effect, will then have to apply for the upgrade at a VE session once the new rules are in place. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID, their current license and the non-expired CSCE document, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out a NCVEC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam credit is valid, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license. If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired (a CSCE is only valid for 365 days), you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade.

## **VEC Test Fee**

The FCC has mandated that all paperwork only upgrades be done through a VEC via their VE Teams, such as the **ARASWF VE Team**. The processing and administration of FCC "projects" such as this, actually places a greater demand on all the VECs. This is not a special case involving only a few people; we expect to receive a flood of upgrades to General. The paperwork only upgrade is not automatic for the amateur and the forms may **not** be sent directly to the FCC or the VEC office (again the upgrade must occur at a VE test session and follow FCC guidelines). The VEC test session fee is regulated (per annual agreement) by the FCC.

## **A New Era**

When the new rules are in place, we hope you explore your new band allocations, enjoy your new privileges and have fun!

**(Note: The following is a reprint of information available at the ARRL web site)**



# Frequently Asked Questions About the FCC's Morse Code *Report and Order* in WT Docket 05-235 and the FCC Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140

**Q. The *Report and Order* in WT Docket 05-235 that eliminates the Morse Code testing requirement for all license classes was adopted by the FCC on December 15, 2006. When will it become effective?**

A. Typically, the effective date of a FCC order comes 30 days after its publication in the *Federal Register*. If that's the case, the new exam requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely go into effect sometime in February 2007. When the rule changes adopted in the *R&O* are published in the *Federal Register*, the effective date will be included in the *Federal Register* summary. In any event, the new rules will *not* go into effect anytime *before* they show up in the *Federal Register*.

As soon as the *R&O* is published in the *Federal Register* the ARRL will verify the effective date and publicize it on the **ARRLWeb** and in **QST**.

**Q. I am a "no-code" Technician. What does WT Docket 05-235 mean to me?**

A. Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF. These include:

3525-3600 kHz CW only

7025-7125 kHz CW only

21,025-21,200 kHz CW only

28,000-28,300 kHz CW, RTTY and Data

28,300-28,500 kHz CW, SSB

The power limit is 200 W PEP output for Technician operators.

Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the Element 3 written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Element 4 written exam. No Morse code test will be required.

**Q. What about other bands and modes?**

A. There are no additional new privileges available to Technician/Tech Plus licensees as a result of WT 05-235. The *R&O* does not change the operating privileges of Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees either.

**Q. I have a Certificate for Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General written test) and have been waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse code requirement. What will I need to do? Will I automatically receive my General license?**

A. ***It will not happen automatically.*** You also will need to wait until the new rules are in effect. CSCEs remain valid for 365 days. There's been no change in that rule. If you have a ***non-expired CSCE*** for Element 3 credit, you would need to go to take the CSCE to a VE test session, pay the test session fee, if any, and have the examination team prepare and submit the paperwork for your license upgrade.

***If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired*** or expires before you attend a test session to process your upgrade, you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade. The test session fee will apply.

***Remember: A CSCE is only valid for 365 days. An expired CSCE for the General license theory will not be usable for an upgrade.*** If your CSCE expires before the new rules go into effect you will have to re-take the Element 3 General class theory exam in order to upgrade.

**Q. I hold a Novice license. Am I grandfathered to Technician now?**

A. No. There is no grandfather provision. In order to upgrade to Technician, you will need to pass the Element 2 written examination. The FCC did not change operating privileges for Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees.

**Q. I am a current Advanced licensee. Am I affected by this change?**

A. No, this ruling does not impact your license. While no new Advanced class licenses are being issued, current Advanced class licensees will have the same privileges they already enjoy. The *R&O* does not change operating privileges for Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees.

**Q. I got my Technician license prior to March 21, 1987. What happens to my license?**

A. You actually could have already taken that license and proof that you had the Technician license before that date to a volunteer examiner (VE) test session, paid the test session fee and already enjoying General privileges. This latest *R&O* doesn't change anything in this regard.

This is based on the fact that before that date, the only difference between the Technician and General class licenses was the Morse code speed; the theory exams were identical. Starting March 21, 1987, the Technician and General class license exams no longer were the same, so the "grandfather" rule doesn't apply for Technician licenses issued after March 21, 1987.

Proof that you held the license prior to March 21, 1987, could be a copy of your old Technician license or the page from the amateur *Call Book* showing your license class

as Technician).

**Q. Do I still need to pass a Morse code test in order to use CW on the air?**

A. No. Any Amateur Radio licensee who wishes may use Morse code on the amateur frequencies they are authorized to use -- except the five USB-only channels at 5 MHz.

**Q. The FCC issued an *Order on Reconsideration* involving automatically controlled digital operations previously allowed on 3620-3635 kHz. What is that *Order's* effect?**

A. The FCC *Order on Reconsideration* states that when it becomes effective, the automatically controlled digital operation formerly allowed on 3620-3635 kHz will now be allowed on 3585-3600 kHz. The change affects Part 97.221 (b). While it is correcting a problem in the R&O for WT Docket 04-140, this change does not take effect immediately but on the date announced in the *Federal Register* when the R&O is published -- no sooner. Until that time, you may not have unattended automatically controlled digital stations on either the old or the new 80 meter subband.

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The Royal Palm Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 12:00 pm, at the Lely Palms Main Dining Room across from Shepherd of the Glades Church in East Naples. It is reported that the best \$10. lunch served anywhere is served here.

For Information, please contact:

Henry Sprague, W1CHR - (Tel) 774-3406

Walt Horvay, KU1Q - (Tel) 649-7588

Don Hyer, AA1KI - (Tel) 591-0821

The QCWA Chapter Net meets Monday / Wednesday / Friday at 12:00 noon on 14.178 MHz.

## 2007 HAMFEST CALENDAR, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

Prepared by Frank Butler, W4RH

February 17	Sebring, FL
February 17	Brooksville, FL
February 24	Dalton, GA
March 10	Port Charlotte, FL
March 17	Marietta, GA (Kennehoochee)
March 17	Fort Walton Beach, FL
March 17	Stuart, FL
March 24	Plantation, FL
March 31	New Port Richey, FL
April 7	Pace, FL (Floridatown)
April 15	Defuniak Springs, FL
April 21	Tampa, FL (Tampa ARC)
April 21	Mobile, AL
April 21	Gainesville, FL
April 27-28	Atlanta, GA (SE VHF Conference)
April 28	Calhoun, GA
May 5-6	Birmingham, AL
May 5	Titusville, FL
May 12	Byron, GA
May 18-20	Dayton, OH
June 2	Atlanta, GA
June 2	Fort McCoy, FL
June 9	Fort Payne, AL
July 7	Gainesville, GA (Lanierland)
July 13-14	Milton, FL
August 11	Ellijay, GA
August 11	Fort Pierce, FL
August 18-19	Huntsville, AL ARRL National Convention
August 25	Tampa, FL (Tampa ARC)
September 8	Oxford, AL
September 15	Dallas, GA
September 22	New Port Richey, FL
September 22	Orlando, FL (Shrine Club)

October 6	Jacksonville, FL
October 6	Plantation, FL
October 13-14	Melbourne, FL
October 13	Augusta, GA
October 13	Starke, FL
October 20	Rome, GA
November 3-4	Lawrenceville, GA
November 3	Sorrento, FL
November 3	Titusville, FL
November 11	Montgomery, AL
November 24	Okeechobee, FL
December 1-2	Palmetto, FL (Tampa)
December 8	Ocala, FL

NOTE: Some of these dates are estimates, based on previous years' dates. Please send corrections to: [w4rh@arrl.org](mailto:w4rh@arrl.org)

Frank Butler, W4RH  
ARRL Director, SE Division

Visit our Club Web Site at: [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org)

<p>NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 27, 2007 7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER</p>
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