



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



Vol. XXIII No. 1 The Journal of the Amateur Radio Association of Southwest Florida January 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

### ***In This Issue:***

Membership Data, by Bob Graf, W2HI

Links of Interest from Members

Attention All Technician Licensees, by Bob Graf, W2HI

## **MEMBERSHIP DATA**

As of the end of the year 2006, there were 101 members of ARASWF, and all 10 U.S. callsign areas were represented, as follows:

“1” - 14 members  
“2” - 9 members  
“3” - 1 member  
“4” - 54 members  
“5” - 1 member  
“6” - 1 member  
“7” - 1 member  
“8” - 7 members  
“9” - 8 members  
“Ø” - 5 members

All members are encouraged to check their listing in the Roster on the club web site [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org), and report any discrepancies to the club secretary, Bob Graf, at [w2hi@arri.net](mailto:w2hi@arri.net). For everyone's convenience, the Roster now has 2 listings of members – one sorted alphabetically by last name, and one sorted by call sign.

## **2007 DUES ARE DUE NOW!**

It is requested that you please support ***YOUR CLUB*** by sending in your 2007 dues before the January membership meeting to be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Below is a sample check that we should all follow, to make it easier to properly identify who has paid their dues for the year, and assure that your callsign will be listed in the ARASWF Roster for 2007 as a paid member.

Please note that in the lower left hand line you should place your callsign, the word “dues” or “membership”, with the year following, i.e. “W4XXX – Dues - 2007”.

Name Here  
Address Here  
Town Here, Zip Code

1003

DATE (The Date)

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF SW FLORIDA (ARASWF)** \$ **25.00**

**TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS**

FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
CHESTER, NY 03234

FOR **W4XXX - DUES - 2007** (Your Signature)

⑆00 1003⑆ 708470 6⑆

Please make out checks payable to "Amateur Radio Association of SW Florida" (or "ARASWF"), and feel free to use the **ARASWF Application Form** to confirm that your current information on file with the club Secretary is correct, or to let us know that your personal information may have changed, such as callsign, license class, address, telephone number, email address, ARRL membership, etc. The **ARASWF Application Form** is available at the ARASWF web site [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org), Just press the "Application Form" button on the left side of the home page and print out the form.

### ***Links of Interest from Members:***

[Scientists Predict Big Solar Cycle](#)

From Jordan Mash, WB2QLP

[Hurricane Prediction Forecast](#)

From John Simander, NS0I

# **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.

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

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY - JANUARY 23, 2007  
7:30 PM - GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER