



# The Feedline

## New FCC rules prompt application avalanche

From The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 26, No. 09

The avalanche of Amateur Radio license and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions, most held since the new rules went into effect February 23, arrived this week, more than her department sees in a month under "normal" circumstances. The ARRL VEC has had to add personnel and schedule extended hours to keep up with the workload.

"We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge, and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip." Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk, and, with some 650 examination sessions already on the calendar for March and more arriving

daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

New Amateur Radio rules are driving the demand for new licenses and upgrades. Effective February 23, the FCC no longer requires Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz. As of the same date, Technician licensees who never passed a Morse code test gained new CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and new CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Since the Technician ticket has not required a Morse code test since 1991, most current Technician license holders will face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges. As of February 25, there were approximately 324,200 Technician licensees in the US -- more than any other license class.

Technicians may begin using their new privileges without having to apply for them. No other license class acquired new privileges as a result of the new rules that went

See "Avalanche", page 8

### Inside this issue:

Top of the Tower	3
New KY SM Elected	3
Editor's Soapbox	4
Weaver's Words	5

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 12 - Membership Meeting
- April 9 - Membership Meeting
- May 13—Membership Meeting
- May 18-20 - Dayton Hamvention

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## Repeaters — K4CO

147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

## Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

## —WEB Site—

[www.k4co.org](http://www.k4co.org)

**Membership meetings on the 2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd  
in Edgewood

## Board meetings: TBA

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reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publica-  
tion. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor:

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# Top of the Tower

Fellow Hams: Can you think back to last month's NKARC monthly meeting time? Most of our workplaces were closed due to the ice and snow storm. Do you remember how you received the news that our club meeting was canceled? Was it by e-mail or did you view it on our web site? Would you like our repeater to announce various messages such as a canceled club activity? More on that in a moment.

Our upcoming club meeting will be jam packed! Reverse Echolink will be our program. We'll be talking with various repeaters around the world. Our business session will combine both February and March responsibilities. Election of officers, field day committee, audit committee, trustee update, upcoming programs, KY7ET repeater upgrade proposal, etc., will be sliced and diced. Bring your volunteer vest. It's easier to volunteer than to be appointed!

Back to our club meeting cancellation. Did you notice on your television the little banner with all the

cancellations? Did you see our club meeting cancellation? Would you like our repeater to inform you of various activities, or in the case of cancellation, the lack of an activity? Our club would like to install a voice module on our repeater that enables recorded announcements. Yes, we have four repeaters. We'll take it one step at a time. That is only one of many planned 2007 activities. I would like to work with you on a project. Will you consider spending one of your most valuable assets, your time, on a project with the club?

Lastly, programs: If you want to put on a program or have an idea for one, let one your directors or me know. April and May are planned with June probably being field day and Paddlefest preparations.

See you Monday March 12, 7:30 pm at Turkeyfoot Middle school.

73, Tony AI4IP

## New Kentucky Section Manager Elected

(Extracted from W1AW Bulletin ARLB009)

In Kentucky, Jim Brooks, KY4Z, of Cox's Creek outpolled former SM Bill Uschan, K4MIS, 426 to 105. Brooks will succeed John Meyers, NB4K, who has been Kentucky's SM since 2001. Meyers did not run for re-election. Brooks, a ham for 20 years, says he wants to build on Meyers' achievements.



Brooks has served in various leadership positions in his local club. Since 2004, he has been the ARRL Kentucky Section Public Information Coordinator. He is trained in ARES, enjoys working DX, serves as an ARRL Volunteer Examiner and is a registered instructor.

## February Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
2/06/07	KG4SBG	10	42	0
2/13/07	KB4VKS	8	23	1
2/20/07	KI4QG	6	18	0
2/27/07	KG4SBG	10	25	0
TOTALS		34	108	1

# Editor's Soapbox

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With the Morse code test requirement now a thing of the past, the conventional wisdom is that we will see a flood of Techs attempting to upgrade to General. If this holds true, manufacturers of HF transceivers may be in for a banner year. For those who are contemplating the purchase of an HF rig, allow me to offer my own recommendation: Build your own rig!

The only full-featured HF transceiver currently available in kit form that I am aware of is the Elecraft K2. Having built one several years ago, I cannot overstate how much enjoyment I've derived from first building this wonderful little rig, and then from operating it almost every day since. I'm often peppered with questions about it, so I decided to compile my own Q&A list for those who may be interested:

**Q.** How difficult is it to build?

**A.** If you have a steady hand and can follow clearly written and illustrated instructions to the letter, you should have no problems.

**Q.** What tools will I need to build and align the radio?

**A.** A soldering iron, multimeter, basic hand tools. A plunger-style desoldering tool may also come in handy. Although not strictly necessary, I highly recommend using a PC and a freeware package called Spectrogram to align the crystal filter. It makes accurate alignment a snap.

**Q.** Isn't the K2 primarily a CW rig?

**A.** That seems to be a common misconception. Probably half of my QSOs are SSB. True, the K2 does not have

variable IF passband or IF shift, but the standard 2.2 kHz crystal filter is very effective.

**Q.** Aren't the toroids difficult to wind?

**A.** Tedious, yes; difficult, no. I actually found that soldering the carefully wound and tinned toroids to the PC board was one of the most satisfying aspects of the build.

**Q.** How much does it cost?

**A.** The basic K2 (80-10m, CW-only, 15W Tx pwr) costs \$630. The SSB module is an additional \$100. Many other options, including ATU and integrated 100W PA are available.

**Q.** How does it perform?

**A.** According to ARRL test lab results, the K2 receiver compares favorably with some of the most highly-regarded (and expensive) rigs currently on the market. Check out the receiver comparison matrix at [http://www.elecraft.com/K2\\_perf.htm](http://www.elecraft.com/K2_perf.htm)

**Q.** I'd really like to try building one myself, but I'm still not sure if I'll be able to complete it myself.

**A.** Try downloading the assembly/operating manual from the Elecraft web site, or ask to borrow my extra copy, and you should get a good feel for what is involved. I'm willing to provide any necessary assistance to local hams who decide to tackle this project, and I won't let you fail! If you are not physically able to build the kit yourself, I will be happy to build it for you at no charge. I love the smell of solder in the morning!

73, Mark, AI4BJ

## QSL Card of the Month

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Submitted by:

Mark Volstad, AI4BJ

Comments: KH6BB operates from the radio room of the "Mighty Mo", moored in Pearl Harbor. Guest operators are welcomed! For more information, see <http://kh6bb.org/>

If you have a special QSL card you would like to share, submit it to the Feedline editor, along with any comments you would like included.



# Weaver's Words

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**Jim Weaver, K8JE**

**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**

## HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE

Regardless of one's personal views on the situation, Amateur Radio history was made when the FCC's rule that abolished Morse code requirements for ham licensing became effective this past Friday. Any effort to continue the arguments against dropping the code requirement are equivalent with continuing to beat a dead horse for not running. I strongly suggest the best thing all of us can do at this time is to help newer amateurs become full citizens in our great service and Elmer them to become top-quality operators.

Amateur Radio may not be Amateur Radio without Morse code, but even under the new rule, Amateur Radio still has Morse code. It is simply no longer required to demonstrate the ability to use Morse before getting a license. Morse code will be around for a long time. Now that learning Morse has been made optional, its use may even become more wide-spread than during any time over the past 50 years.

## COORDINATOR APPOINTED FOR MICHIGAN

Bob Wright, KB8APS, of Muskegon has been appointed Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) for Michigan. He succeeds Val Rose, N8EXV of Flint who was appointed Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) earlier to assist me in managing the Legislative Action Program in the Great Lakes Division. Bob's will recruit and train additional Legislative Action Assistants who will represent the ARRL Legislative Agenda to US Representatives and US Senators in the Wolverine State.

For information on how you can help the ARRL's Legislative Agenda, please contact Bob at [kb8aps@arrl.net](mailto:kb8aps@arrl.net). To inquire about helping with this agenda in Ohio, contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ ([wd8pnz@arrl.net](mailto:wd8pnz@arrl.net)). For Kentucky, contact Vice Director Gary Johnston KI4LA ([ki4la@arrl.org](mailto:ki4la@arrl.org)).

Incidentally, we still need a full-time LAC for Kentucky to relieve Gary of the Legislative duties. Please contact me ([k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org)) if you would like more information

on this position.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Wherever I've visited in hamdom since returning from the Board mid-January meeting, I've asked members if they approve of the ARRL's legislative agenda for the current session of the US Congress. The immediate answer has always been a solid, "yes." The agenda calls for us to pass national laws that are beneficial to Amateur Radio and the public we serve. These laws would enable amateurs essentially anywhere to put up antennas (overriding local codes covenants and restrictions), protect Amateur Radio frequencies from wanton sell-offs, require the FCC to re-evaluate its rules regarding "unintentional" emitters such as (but not restricted to)



BPL and recognize the huge value the Amateur Radio community offers to the nation in times of emergency and disaster.

If you agree with this agenda, it is very nearly "put up or shut up" time. The time is rapidly approaching when ARRL members will be called on to contact their Congressmen to show local support for the first Agenda item introduced into the US House. In many instances, the first of our contacts will be made by teams of local members with the local offices of their US Representatives or US Senators. If you

want these legislative items to pass, we need your active support. To do this, we first need to complete the organization of the Legislative Action Program in the Great Lakes Division. This is where you might fit in.

Our target is to have a team of two or three members in each Congressional District in our three states. These teams will be the ones who will contact local offices of US Representatives and US Senators. We are far from accomplishing this goal! Of the 6 Congressional Districts in Kentucky, two Districts (Districts 1 and 5, Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Rogers) have a two-member team ready to roll. The remaining Districts have absolutely no members who have volunteered for the Program or have just one member to do this critical task.

Of the 15 Districts in Michigan, only District 7 (Mr. Walberg) is represented by a two-member team of ARRL members. The remaining 14 Districts have no one or only one member to represent Amateur Radio interests to their Representative.

Finally and best off, if one wishes to consider this as

being best off, Ohio has a whopping total of four Districts of its 17 with two-member lobbying teams. You guessed it, the remaining 13 Districts are either not represented or are represented by no more than one member.

We need your help. ARRL is a "member organization." This means not only that members pay dues to belong and support the League; but that members often need to supply the muscles that are needed to help ARRL protect and promote Amateur Radio. Without at least a small amount of sweat from each of us, ARRL has no muscle . . . and no face. We need you to add muscle and the face on Amateur Radio to your Congressional Representatives.

We all make choices throughout our lives. In this instance, we can choose to sit back and do nothing (a time-honored tradition for many people) or we can choose to become involved and make things happen. If we sit back and do nothing, we have absolutely no right to complain when CC&Rs prevent us or our friends from putting up antennas, or if FCC sells off our bands. How'd you like to loose the 2M or the 20M band?

If we do nothing, we also have absolutely no right to brag or take credit when things go well. We certainly would have no reason to feel "warm and furry" over helping to save Amateur Radio.

If we choose to roll up our sleeves (in this case, to put on a shirt and tie or nice dress), we will have every right to feel we are part of the solution when our work is successful.

If you are interested in learning how you can become part of helping pass the legislation I mentioned, please contact your Legislation Action Coordinator, our Division Legislative Action Chair, Val Rose, N8EXV ([n8exv@arrl.net](mailto:n8exv@arrl.net)) or me at [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org) for further information. Let us know you are willing to help. In Kentucky, contact Gary Johnston, KI4LA ([ki4la@arrl.org](mailto:ki4la@arrl.org)), in Michigan it is Bob Wright, KB8APS ([kb8aps@arrl.net](mailto:kb8aps@arrl.net)) and in Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ ([wd8pnz@arrl.net](mailto:wd8pnz@arrl.net)).

**A POSSIBLE OOPS:** I have the uneasy feeling that during the early phases of the Legislative Action Program in this Division two or three additional people had volunteered to be LAAs. If you had volunteered for this position and if you've not heard from anyone about your appointment during the last three months, please let me know. It is very possible that your offer was lost into the ethers early on. I apologize for anyone to whom this

may have happened. We haven't ignored you. We have simply been inept.

## ARRL SEEKS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

As mentioned in the last issue of Words, the ARRL seeks to fill the new position of Emergency Communications Manager that has been made in the Membership and Volunteer Programs (MVP) Department. The following notice is from a recent ARRL Letter:

*This is a permanent staff position at League Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, and applicants must be willing to relocate. Candidates should have at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience and an Amateur Radio license. Applicants should hold or be able to earn an Amateur Extra class ticket.*

*Other qualifications include:*

- \* knowledge of Amateur Radio, including HF, VHF and digital modes related to emergency communications*
- \* five years' minimum ARES/RACES experience or equivalent*
- \* ARRL Field Organization leadership experience*
- \* knowledge of and experience with ICS and NIMS (FEMA 100 and 700 certification highly desirable, 200 and 800 certification recommended)*
- \* completion of the Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001)*
- \* superior speaking and writing skills*



*Emergency communications professional and/or first responder experience is desirable*

*The Emergency Communications Manager will act as ARRL emergency communications liaison to government agencies, including FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. This individual also will:*

- \* administer memoranda of understanding between ARRL and served agencies, such as the American Red Cross*
- \* maintain and encourage relationships with all ARRL served agencies*
- \* create and administer ARRL's internal emergency response plan*
- \* coordinate Simulated Emergency Tests*
- \* assist field personnel with emergency communications*

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and public service events, as required

\* maintain and update ARRL emergency communications training materials and publications plus ARRL emergency communications and public service Web content

\* maintain the ARES volunteer database

\* act as liaison to ARRL emergency communications Field Organization leadership

\* write/edit occasional material for QST and other ARRL publications

\* manage other emergency communications and public service-related issues.

To apply, submit cover letter and resume via e-mail or USPS to Human Resources Manager LouAnn Campanello <[lcampanello@arrl.org](mailto:lcampanello@arrl.org)>, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. ARRL is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

As you can see, the new EmComm Manager position requires a heavy-hitter. All information for the position is available from LouAnn Campanello at the above addresses.

## W1AW TRANSMITS ON REQUIRED FREQUENCIES

I hadn't given this much thought recently, but a comment by a couple of amateurs reminded me that most people probably do not know the reason W1AW sometimes appears to jump in on top of ongoing QSOs. The facts are that W1AW in its formal operation to educate and inform amateurs must transmit on a pre-published schedule on pre-published frequencies. This is an FCC requirement of ARRL for transmitting bulletins, code practice, code proficiency runs and any other scheduled activity. Therefore, W1AW is firmly prohibited from QSYing or to shift schedule at a moment's notice. However, when making casual QSOs, W1AW is equally required to observe the same requirements as other amateurs -- and to avoid intentional QRMing of ongoing activities.

W1AW operating schedules are published well in advance in QST and on the Internet to advise amateurs when they can expect the station to be on the published frequencies. In addition to this, W1AW also attempts to be a good radio citizen by transmitting brief advisory notices at 5 minutes and 1 minute before beginning its scheduled longer transmissions. The pre-published schedule and brief advisory notices are good faith at-

tempts to avoid QRM with the operations of other stations.

The next time you hear someone ask why ARRL thinks it is so almighty that it allows W1AW to broadcast bulletins and other scheduled operations without QSYing to avoid QRMing, the answer is very simple. The FCC does not permit W1AW to deviate from its published schedule. To vary from this schedule would be a violation of an FCC mandate to ARRL. The educated amateur should take this fact into consideration before operating on a frequency that has been publicly announced for W1AW operation.

## UP-TO-DATE FREQUENCY ALLOCATION CHART

A fully updated Frequency Allocation Chart for US amateurs has been released by ARRL. The chart may be downloaded at [www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html). The chart became effective February 23.

## DIVISION CONVENTION - SEPTEMBER 22

It isn't too early to plan to attend the biannual ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention in Cleveland on September 22. The keynote speaker will be ARRL's vibrant President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN. The Convention will feature interesting and informative seminars, a banquet and opportunity to talk directly with President Harrison, Division and Section officials. Go to [www.2007glcd.com/](http://www.2007glcd.com/) for a complete list of seminars, sponsors, and speakers and their biographies.

## TENTATIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR K8JE

Mar 12: West Chester ARA, West Chester, OH.  
Mar 15: Bellbrook ARC Dinner Meeting, Waynesville, OH.  
Mar 18: Toledo Hamfest, Toledo.  
Mar 20: Owensboro ARC Dinner Meeting, Owensboro, KY.  
Mar 31: Elizabethtown (KY) Hamfest.  
Apr 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH.  
Apr 21: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Apr 26: SUMCO ARES, Stow, OH.  
May 10: LARK, Howell, MI.  
May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.  
Jun 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI.  
Jul 19: Programs & Services Committee Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Jul 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Jul 28: UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI.

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**AVALANCHE (from cover)**

into effect February 23, however. All license upgraders must first apply at an examination session, pay any application fee and either successfully pass the appropriate written test or present valid exam element credit.

ARRL VEC personnel must go through "every single piece of paper" that arrives from an examination session, Somma explained. Before keying application data directly to the FCC's licensee database, the staff must make sure that session paperwork is in order, each application is filled out correctly and signed and any element credit is attached. If an applicant took an exam element, ARRL VEC must ensure that the test questions came from the correct question pool and that the applicant indeed passed. She said it typically takes up to 90 seconds for staff members to key in an application for a new licensee, but only about 30 seconds in the case of a license upgrade.

Among the growing stack of incoming paperwork February 28 was a package from a session held in the Bahamas for 56 US citizens -- more than likely retirees and members of the cruising and sailing communities in the Caribbean. Somma said it included applications for 12 new Technician licensees. The rest were upgrades.

Normally with a staff complement of six, ARRL VEC now has as many as eight full-timers plus three part-timers to handle the rush. Somma says her team by and large has been able to review each application and transmit license and upgrade application data to the FCC within three or four days of receipt. She also had words of praise for the Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams.

"I want to thank the VEs," Somma said. "Most of the paperwork is neat and orderly, and this makes it easy for us to just key it to the FCC." She did caution VEs to make sure they include any proof of prior element credit -- usually a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination or CSCE -- when submitting applications.

Some VE teams have been sharing observations and photos from their examination sessions. "We're enjoying those," Somma said. "Keep 'em coming."



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**FIRST  
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