

Club Repeaters:  
Erie:  
146.610-  
PL 127.3 hz  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Waterford:  
146.82-  
PL 186.2 hz

# QUARAE



Volume 4, Issue 8

Web Site: [www.raerie.org](http://www.raerie.org)

August 2005

## FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement for All License Classes

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the *NPRM* would *not* become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a *Report and Order (R&O)* spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its *NPRM* to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its *NPRM*, released July 19. This week's *NPRM* consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions. The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse examination--would "encourage individuals who are interested in

communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum. The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

**Continued on Page 4**

### RAE CLUB MEETING

**Plus: Hot Dog Roast**

**Thursday Aug 4th**

Time: 7 pm

**Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD**



## Officers and Contacts — 2005

### President

Neal Shea, N3ZNP  
twosheas@velocity.net

### Vice President

Neal Shea, N3ZNP  
twosheas@velocity.net

### Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D  
kd3dfrank@hotmail.com

### Secretary/Newsletter

John Lis, N3NKV  
john@jjlis.com

### Chairman of the Board

Robert Fuller, N3LBI  
n3lbi@adelphia.net

### Board Members

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX  
Ron Prindle, N3BXL  
Joe McLain, KB3ALU  
Bill Marshall, KB3JSN

### Membership Chairmen

Kevin McKenna  
kmc5300@yahoo.com

### Clubhouse & Repeater Committee Chairman

Steve LaJohn, N3SRD  
slajohn@adelphia.net

### Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Rob Jacobs, N3OCL  
n3ocl@velocity.net

### Webmaster

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX  
rlaplaca@wasd.iu5.org

### ARES/RACES E.C.

Dave Wellman, WX3E  
ucdavid@aol.com

### SKYWARN E.C.

Steve Lajohn, N3SRD  
slajohn@adelphia.net



## Upcoming Events

**Thurs. - August 4th**

**General Membership Meeting & Hot Dog Roast**

Time: 7 pm

**Location:** RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.  
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99

**Tues. - August 23rd**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse

The Radio Association of Erie Board of Directors would like to inform all members that Chris Robson KB3A has resigned as club president. The Board of Directors would like to thank Chris for all that he has accomplished for the club over the past 2 1/2 years. Neal Shea N3ZNP will serve as acting president for the rest of 2005.



**Erie's Lighthouse will be on the Airwaves!**

The RAE will be participating in the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend on and August 6th and 7th.

The club will also be participating in the International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend—August 20th-21st.

For More Information, contact Doug AD4UL at 453-2915 or via e-mail at [ad4ul@arri.net](mailto:ad4ul@arri.net)

**For Information about the  
contests visit:**

**<http://arlhs.com>**

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
July 7th, 2005

The Meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President KB3A.

The following Board Members were present:  
N3ZNP, N3NKV, KD3D, N3LBI, KC2HVX

Not Present: KB3ALU, N3BXL, KB3JSN

New Calls: None

Silent Keys: None

Upgrade: Ebby Shores KB3KEN upgraded to General

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided the treasurer's report

Secretary's Report: N3LBI made a Motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Seconded by KC2HVX. Motion Carried.

Board of Directors Report: N3LBI mentioned that the following items were discussed at the last board of director meeting: Field Day, Location of Clubhouse Lease, contents of safe deposit box, Bob Jackson KC3BG resigned as trustee of the capital fund, Insurance. Report on Capital Funds, VHF Contesting, Towers from John Kanzius

Committee Reports:

Membership: none

Website/QUARAE: N3NKV mentioned that the website has been updated. He is also in need of article for the QUARAE.

Clubhouse: Nothing to Report

Repeater: KB3A mentioned that he received an e-mail from a group in Buffalo to obtain our approval to put low power repeater on 146.610 in North Tonawanda. KB3A mentioned that he would be contacting this group to find out more

about their repeater. N3APP mentioned that this group has put up repeaters that are over the power limit allowed by the repeater council.

Contesting:

Field Day: KB3A mentioned that it went well and he would like to see more operators. All 3 TV stations showed up for the event.

Lighthouse Event: AD4UL mentioned that the paperwork was approved and the fee was waived at Presque Isle.

KB3A mentioned that W3GV will be on the air for The Maryland/DC QSO party.

Public Service: AD4UL mentioned that the next event is the Caring Place Triathlon on Sept 10th.

VE: A VE session will be held at the NWPA Hamfest at 9 am. VE tests can also be setup by appointment by calling N3OCL or K3LD, KB3A, or KB3B.

Old Business: None

New:

KB3A: The club is in the process of setting up a new general liability policy. Presently we have equipment insurance through ARRL.

Tower: John Kanzius K3TUP donated 2 100 foot towers to the club. The only thing is that we are under the height restrictions of McKean Twp. There were no nays to accept the tower.

KB3A mentioned he is in the process of designing the N3RKO memorial

KB3A mentioned that AD4UL has sets of the magnetic signs for sale

A Motion to adjourn was made at 7:35 was made by N3LBI and Seconded by K3GJK

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis  
N3NKV

## Morse Code Changes Continued

Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road." Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page *NPRM* and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the ARRL filed a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to amend Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's *NPRM*, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public

interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable.

The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") *NPRM* in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's [Novice refarming](#) proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW subbands.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's *NPRM* in WT 05-235 will begin once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the *NPRM*'s publication in the *Federal Register*.



## W3GV 146.61 Repeater Information

### How to access the Autopatch on the W3GV 146.61 Repeater

- Key up, Identify with your Callsign, and then using your DTMF pad, enter: **\*61 555 1212**
- Hold each DTMF key for at least a second, without pausing for more than a second.
- Should your signal drop out of the repeater while attempting to enter the phone number, or you accidentally unkey before the full number is entered, the repeater will take what you entered up to that point and immediately attempt to dial. Please be absolutely certain you have a clear signal into the repeater.
- Repeater will read back your number.
- While it is Dialing you have an opportunity to cancel the call by Keying up momentarily.
- Repeater will Dial your number by Regenerating the TouchTones into the Phone Line.
- Once your party answers, please remember that 3rd-Party Rules apply!
- The controller allows 3 minutes for an autopatch, and will alert you at 30 seconds and 10 seconds, near the end
- If you need more time, use your keypad to enter \*\* for an additional 3 minutes
- When the call is complete, use your DTMF pad to enter the pound-sign # to terminate the call.
- The repeater will say "autopatch complete, station please identify"
- Key up, say your callsign, unkey.
- Repeater says "Thank you for identifying."
- Autopatch procedure is then complete.

### How To Access The Speed Dial on the W3GV 146.61 Repeater

- The Speed-Dial feature allows you to quickly dial a phone number by simply using a code that is looked up in a list of numbers: **A61 < slot number >**
- Hold each DTMF key for at least a second, without pausing for more than a second.
  - Should your signal drop out of the repeater while attempting to enter the Slot Number, or you accidentally unkey before the full 2 digits is entered, the repeater will take what you entered up to that point and immediately attempt to look up and dial that slot. Please be absolutely certain you have a clear signal into the repeater.
  - Repeater says "Autodial" and the Callsign (or description) of the slot.
  - Controller then activates the phone line and dials the pre-programmed number.
  - While it is Dialing you have an opportunity to cancel the call by Keying up momentarily.
  - Repeater will Dial your number by Regenerating the Touch Tones into the Phone Line.
  - Once your party answers, please remember that 3rd-Party Rules apply!
  - The controller allows 3 minutes for an autopatch, and will alert you at 30 seconds and 10 seconds, near the end.
  - If you need more time, use your keypad to enter \*\* for an additional 3 minutes
  - When the call is complete, use your DTMF pad to enter the pound-sign # to terminate the call.
  - The repeater will say "autopatch complete, station please identify"
  - Key up, say your callsign, unkey. Repeater says "Thank you for identifying." Speed-dial is then done.

### User Commands for W3GV 146.610 Repeater

**AB= Local Time in 12 hour format "12 O'clock PM"**

**AB2= GMT Time in 12 hour format (if PM + 12 for 24 hour format)**

**ABC=Current Date "Monday, June 20th"**

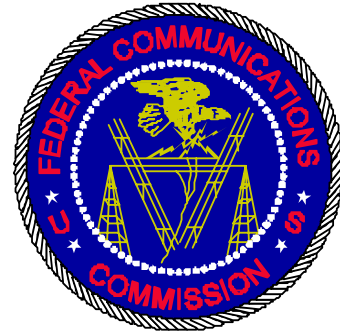
**\*0= Keypad Test:** reads back all keys entered. example: \*0 0123456789  
ABCD

**\*70<1 - 20> =Repeaterisms and other messages.**

**Autopatch: \*61 <phone\_number>= Dials phone number.**

## Revised FCC Form 605

A revised FCC Form 605, "Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services," has gone into effect. The new form must be used for all receipts as of July 18. "Applicants can avoid filing outdated editions by submitting their applications through the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, given that changes to the paper forms will be incorporated into the system automatically," the FCC said. The new Form 605 is available online from the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>



The revised form includes a new Question 13 (subsequent questions have been appropriately re-numbered) that will affect amateurs applying for an administrative update (AU) to reflect a change in licensee name. Question 13 now asks: "If the licensee name is being updated, is the update a result from the sale (or transfer of control) of the license(s) to another party and for which proper Commission approval has not been received or proper notification not provided?" Amateur Radio Service applicants should always answer "no" to Question 13.

Not answering the question--which has nothing to do with the Amateur Radio Service--could result in dismissal of an application.

For additional information or assistance, visit the FCC Help and Support Web page <http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm>. This change does not affect the NCVEC Form 605 that VECs and VE teams use.

# Public Service Updates

**The next Public Service event is the Caring Place Triathlon at Presque Isle on Saturday, September 10th. Please contact Doug AD4UL at 453-2915 or via e-mail at [ad4ul@arrl.net](mailto:ad4ul@arrl.net) if you are interested in helping out in this event.**



## Erie Co. SKYWARN very active as July weather heats up

Thanks to all Erie Co. SKYWARN operators who participated in the SKYWARN activations during the last week of July. Unstable weather systems and near-record temperatures inevitably resulted in a series of severe thunderstorms that developed and advanced through Erie County early in the week. Working closely with the National Weather Service office in Cleveland, forecast officer Alan Jordano, KB3DUO, tirelessly sought the latest radar images of the storms' paths and intensities. Despite the hour, Alan alerted SKYWARN operators and activated nets as necessary. "Sunday's storms were some of the worst I've seen," said Steve LaJohn, N3SRD, and Erie Co. SKYWARN EC. "It's the first time in eleven years that I went to the basement due to the violent weather". Over twenty faithful SKYWARN observers and radio operators 'checked in' to each net activation. Several brave souls traveled to specific locations to make observations and take rain gauge readings.



"Those storms were quite strong, and our spotters performed beautifully," continued LaJohn. "Alan's constant vigilance to approaching weather and skill in understanding storm data is an incredible asset to the group and to the Erie County community. We depend on him, and we're grateful for his efforts."

**Don't forget the ARES/RACES/SKYWARN picnic, scheduled for Saturday, August 27th from 4pm to 6pm at the Glenwood pavilions near the Erie Zoo. We had a great time and turnout last year, and we hope to have another successful event this August. Hot Dogs, buns and drinks will be provided; bring a dish if you wish! You can e-mail picnic reservations to Dave WX3E at [ucdavid@aol.com](mailto:ucdavid@aol.com)**

## ARES Group participates in Corry Hospital Exercise

Gerry Owens, W3GHO, Erie Co. Deputy RACES Officer, led a team of four Erie County ARES/RACES operators at an emergency evacuation drill Thursday, July 22nd in Corry. Corry Memorial Hospital and Corry Manor simulated an evacuation of residents following the program incident, of the 'spillage' of muriatic acid during ductwork cleaning.

Residents of the affected area of the Manor were moved to CMH, as were multiple victims directly 'affected' by the acid. Amateur Radio operators assisted in the evacuation by keeping facility officials apprised of the location and disposition of vehicles and patients. The situation was made more realistic when telephone service became overloaded almost immediately, requiring ARES ops to pass information between the buildings in real time.



The exercise gave ARES/RACES operators to become familiar with the new ham station at CMH, a project Peter, AA2AD, completed earlier this year by applying for grant money and performing the installation of an HF/VHF/UHF station. Additionally, ARES/RACES ops know the faces and names of several first responders from Corry, and from the medical community. These relationships can only be beneficial if a real event were to occur.

New ham, Nick Proy, KB3LSR, participated in his first drill that day. Nick did a great job, and the administration and staff of CMH and Corry Manor were grateful for Amateur Radio's participation. ARES/RACES in turn is grateful for the opportunity to serve the Corry community, and to practice for a real contingency.

*Radio Association of Erie*

P.O. Box 844  
Erie, Pa 16512

### Swap and Shop

For Sale: 6 element Cushcraft 6 meter Boomer, 19 element 2 meter Cushcraft Boomer. 99% intact-may need a nut or bolt or a chunk of aluminum here or there. Also several lengths of hardline & misc. aluminum antenna parts. \$100 takes all !! Brian K3USC 814-866-2585

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Estate of KA3EZL Len Czajkowski:

Johnson Low Pass Filter= \$20.00; Vista XXR 15 Amp.-12 Volt Power Supply= \$30.00

No Reasonable offer refused. Call Bob -K3SBU at 814-899-2107 or E-mail—k3sbu-1@juno.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Mini-Quad antenna in good shape complete with almost new Alliance rotator and digital control box, 5 foot tripod and RG-8 type coax., \$50. Bob N3FAW 866-3027, bobn3faw@verizon.net

\*\*\*\*\*

Howard “Babe” Katzenberger N3ZAZ has donated to the RAE several items to the club to be sold with the proceeds to go to the club. He is moving from his home to the Mercy Apartments on East Grandview near the campus of Mercyhurst College. He will be active on 2 Meters but that is all for the near future. There are some items that would be of use to only those interested in the 11 meter band (CB) The main items of interest to hams are: tube tester, dot matrix printer, 2 meter quad. If your interested in a specific item, please contact Bob, N3LBI @ 814-898-1115 or email n3lbi@adelphia.net