

The QUARAE



It's Official! Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 24, 2007 -- Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules in accordance with the FCC's *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. Beginning at 12:00 AM local time on February 23 (ie, after midnight Thursday), 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. Publication of the new rules in the January 24 *Federal Register* started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement -- still a matter of controversy within the amateur community -- is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging 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; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" *R&O* that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The *R&O* appearing in the *Federal Register* constitutes the official version of the new rules. **Continued on PG 4**

Just a Reminder ... The first club meeting of 2007 is this Thursday!

The Radio Association of Erie February Meeting will be held on Thursday February 1st at 7 pm at the Red Cross Office located at 4961 Pittsburgh Avenue located off of West Grandview Boulevard

Hope to See You There!!

February 2007
Vol. 6 Issue 2

Club Repeaters

- Erie
146.610–
PL 186.2
- Waterford
146.820–
PL 186.2

Club Website:

www.raerie.org

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Jeremy Lobaugh, KB3BAM
Bill Marshall, KB3JSN
Dianne Miller, K3LD

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Calendar of Events

Thursday - February 1st **General Membership Meeting**

Time: 7 pm

Location: Red Cross
4961 Pittsburgh Ave, off of West Grandview Blvd.

Thursday - February 27th **Board of Directors Meeting**

Time: 7 pm

Location: Red Cross
4961 Pittsburgh Ave, off of West Grandview Blvd.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year to renew your membership with the Radio Association of Erie. The Membership dues for 2007 are still the same as is 2006.

Full Membership is \$15.00 with Full Voting Privileges

Associate Membership is \$11.50 with all Privileges except Voting

2nd Family Member is 50% off--Immediate Family, No QuaRAE
(Same privileges as Full Family Member)

New Ham membership is First Year No Charge-- All Privileges Except Voting

Life Membership is \$225.00 - Full Privileges

Full Time Student membership is \$8.00 with all Privileges Except Voting

In 2006, The Radio Association of Erie assisted in providing emergency communications at various community events; held various activities at our clubhouse on Wagner Road in McKean such as Monthly Club Meetings, Field Day, PA QSO Party, and hot dog roasts; Completed the installation of two towers at the clubhouse and the list goes on and on!

If you can attend the February RAE meeting, please if possible bring in your dues payment for 2007. If your unable to attend, please mail in your membership dues along with the form on page 5 to Radio Association of Erie PO Box 844 — Erie, PA 16512.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Vice President N3ZNP.

Board Members Present: N3LBI, N3NKV, WB3DOM
Board Members Not Present: KE3V, KD3D, KC2HVX

N3ZNP informed everyone that there is no meeting in January due to the holiday party.

Silent Keys: None

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion made by KB3CAT, Seconded by N3LBI.

Treasurer's Report: N3NKV read the last treasurer's report that was provided at the board of director's meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting: N3LBI gave an overview of the November board meeting. Topics discussed: Estate Payments, website status, repeater problems, classes, N3RKO Plaque, holiday party, Erie County Club Council, Charger for 82

Committee Reports:

Repeater: N3SRD provided an update about the repeaters: Topics discussed:

- The PL decode at 61 for the Voter is broken.
- Problem found with voter—it was a piece of disconnected coax for the voter receiver antenna
- The antenna for the 440 remote base was raised and reoriented. There was no difference in signal. KB3BAM donated a piece of hardline for the antenna to help lessen the signal loss on the 440 link yagi.
- Battery Charger for 82—N3APP mentioned that he found a good power supply.

Website—N3NKV mentioned that the members only website is still down due ASP scripting problems with the Microsoft Access Database. N3SRD and KB3BAM mentioned that they could print copies of the member directories.

ARES/RACES: N3SRD asked about the availability of operators in case we get called out by the Erie County EMA due to an upcoming snowstorm.

Skywarn: N3SRD reported that there will be some new materials in this year's Skywarn Training Program.

Classes: KB3NAT reported that the Wattsburg Club is currently offering classes.

Holiday Party: N3NKV mentioned that the holiday party is Saturday January 13 at Nunzi's. The price for the buffet dinner is \$13. The menu will be printed in the QUARAE.

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that the fuel at clubhouse is presently 3/8 full.

New Business:

N3SRD reported that the Operations Team has various activities planned. They include a holiday party this coming Saturday December 9th at Westway Lanes in Girard and a Foxhunt on January 20th

50/50: Winner John N3NKV—\$9.00 with \$ 9.00 back to the club.

Motion to adjourn made by N3LBI. Seconded by N3DBC at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis
Radio Association of Erie
Secretary

Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz. The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. When the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

On or after February 23, an applicant holding a valid *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE)* for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. 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 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid *CSCEs* for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may *not* operate as /AG or /AE *until* you have upgraded and have been issued a

CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid *CSCE* for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges." Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC *R&O* includes an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "[FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235](#)" Web page.

General Licence Class

K3UFG will be putting on a General Theory Class at the American Red Cross on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6 to 8 pm.

The class dates are: Jan. 30, Feb. 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 with the exam Friday, Feb.23rd at 6 PM





RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / NEW APPLICATION

Name:	
Callsign:	
Address:	
City State Zip:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	
License Class:	Expiration:
Birth Date:	

ARRL Member? Yes ___ No ___ Send ARRL Member Form

Send QuaRAE as Email Attachment _____, No: Paper Copy ____

Membership Type Requested _____ (See Below)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Dues are shown below)

Membership Classes

Full Member	\$15.00 Full Voting Privileges
Associate Member	\$11.50 All Privileges Except Voting
2nd Family Member	50% off--Immediate Family, No QuaRAE (Same privileges as Full Family Member)
Full Time Student	\$8.00 All Privileges Except Voting
New Ham	First Year No Charge-- All Privileges Except Voting
Life Membership	\$225.00 - Full Voting Privileges

(See bylaws for complete membership privileges.)
Contact Frank Graziano at 449-2309 or kd3dfrank@hotmail.com
Please mail this form with check payment to
RAE
PO BOX 844
Erie, PA 16512

Holiday Party Pictures



N3LBI presents the N3RKO Memorial to Mary Pat Haven



FCC Suspends Vanity Call Sign Processing

The FCC has put a new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold. This, while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications

The FCC is still processing its backlog of vanity call sign renewal applications, but only those it received prior to December 18th. Its also continues to accept new vanity call sign applications but these will not be processed until software changes made in accordance with the recent rule making have been

fully implemented.

According to the ARRL, The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15th. It affects only new vanity call sign applications submitted on or after previously noted December 18th date with the purpose being to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign.

The FCC granted the last new Amateur Radio vanity call signs on

January 4th for applications received on December 15th. The agency says that when it resumes processing new vanity applications, it will handle pending applications consistent with the date order in which they were received.

FCC says that it typically takes 18 days from the time it receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued, or the application

is denied. And this reminder: All vanity call sign renewal

VE Testing at Wattsburg Wireless



Wattsburg Wireless Association will begin special exam sessions on, February 24th, 2007 at 9 am at their club room at the Greene Twp Municipal Building on Tate Road off of Rt. 8. . These test sessions will run weekly each Saturday for a few weeks based on demand for testing. Additionally there will be a Thursday evening session March 1st, 2007 at 7:30 for anyone not able to attend the Saturday sessions or wishing to test mid week.

Visit their website at <http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us> for directions to the Ham Radio Test Sessions and other information.

Urgent Message from the Club Activities Chairman!!!!

Are you one of those people who would like to see some new club activities take place this year? Matt Fuller, KB3CAT, is looking for a few volunteers to help him plan activities for the upcoming year. If you are interested in becoming part of this fun and exciting committee, please contact Matt via e-mail at mfullerierie@verizon.net or on the 61/82 repeaters



Radio Association of Erie
P.O. Box 844
Erie, Pa 16512

LOCAL NET LISTING

Erie-Ft. Pierce Connection	14.340 USB	Daily	8:00 AM
6 Meter SSB	50.190 USB	Sunday	7:00 PM
Conneaut Radio Club Net	147.390(+) FM	Sunday	7:30 PM
Lake Erie Emergency Net	29.000 USB	Sunday	8:00 pm
Ashtabula County ARC Net	28.350 USB	Sunday	8:00 PM
ARES/SKYWARN Net	146.610(-) FM	Sunday	9:00 PM
2 meter AM NET	144.450 AM	Monday	8:00 PM
Mailbag Net	146.700(-) FM	M-F	8:00 PM
440 Simplex Net	446.100 FM Simples	Tuesday	8:00 PM
Radio Amateurs of Corry	28.330 USB	Tuesday	8:00 PM
6 Meter AM	50.520 AM	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Novice-Tech Net	28.400 USB	Wednesday	8:30 PM
Radio Amateurs of Corry	147.090(+) FM	Thursday	8:00 PM
Ashtabula County ARC Net	146.715(-) FM	Thursday	8:00 PM
2 Meter SSB	144.210 AM	Friday	8:00 PM
Flintstone RTTY Net	28.280 RTTY	Saturday	8:30 pm