

The QUARAE

RAE Holiday Party to be Held Saturday January 13th

Enjoy great food and friendship at the RAE's Annual Holiday Party on Saturday January 13th at Nunzi's Place located at East 38th and McClelland Avenue.

Social Hour will start at 5:30 pm with Dinner at 6 pm. The cost of the dinner is \$13.00.

The Buffet will consist of : Roasted Chicken, Roast Beef, sausage, peppers and onions, eggplant parmesan, pasta primavera, soup, potato, rigatoni, meatballs, steamed veggies, fried zucchini, assorted salads, antipasto, cheese/veggie tray, pizza, rolls, garlic toast, coffee/tea and dessert

Reservations can be e-mailed to Kevin McKenna-KE3V by Wednesday January 10th at kmc5300@yahoo.com or via twisted pair at 835-4596

January 2007
Vol. 6 Issue 1

Club Repeaters

• Erie
146.610–
PL 186.2
• Waterford
146.820–
PL 186.2

Club Website:
www.raerie.org

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The Food was Good!

**Erie Hams Enjoy having an
Eyeball QSO!**

Please note that there will not be a regular club meeting at the Red Cross this month. Regular club meetings at the Red Cross will resume in February.

2007 Officers and Contacts

President

Kevin McKenna, KE3V
kmc5300@yahoo.com

Vice President

Neil Shea, N3ZNP
twosheas@velocity.net

Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D
kd3dfrank@hotmail.com

Secretary/Newsletter

John Lis, N3NKV
jjlis@adelphia.net

Chairman of the Board

To Be Announced Soon!

Board Members

Matt Fuller, KB3CAT
Jeremy Lobaugh, KB3BAM
Bill Marshall, KB3JSN
Dianne Miller, K3LD
Ron Seyboldt, WB3DOM

Membership Chairmen

Frank Graziano, KD3D
kd3dfrank@hotmail.com

Clubhouse & Repeater Committee Chairman

Steve LaJohn, N3SRD
slajohn@adelphia.net

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Rob Jacobs, N3OCL
n3ocl@verizon.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

Calendar of Events



Tuesday - January 9th

Board of Directors Meeting for 2006 and 2007 Board Members

Time: 7 pm

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

Saturday January 13th- Holiday Party

Time: Cocktails at 5:30 pm with Dinner at 6 pm

Location: **Nunzi's Place .**
East 38th and McClelland Avenue.



**Reservations need to be into
Kevin McKenna KE3V by
Wednesday January 10th via e-mail
at kmc5300@yahoo.com or
835-4596**

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 continued

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*.

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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 continued

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 licenses -- 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.

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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 continued

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.

-Source: ARRL

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 RAE Holiday Party, 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.



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

Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844

Erie, Pa 16512

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-51 ECHO NOW CARRIER OPERATED REPEATER IN SPACE

AMSAT has announced that as of December 20th, its AO-51 or "Echo" satellite is operating in carrier access mode. This means that users no longer need to transmit a 67 hertz access tone to utilize the satellite's F-M voice transponder. For those not aware, Echo is actually a cross-band F-M repeater flying in Earth orbit. One of the so-called Easy-Sats or easy to access and operate and use ham radio satellites. It requires no special home station gear. It has even been accessed by hams using H-T's connected to external gain type antennas. Echo carries two sets of transponders. Packet uplinks on 145.860 MHz and downlink on 435.150 MHz. The mode is FM 9 k 6 digital. F-M voice uses an uplink on 145.920 MHz and a downlink at 435.300 MHz. According to the AMSAT News Service, the inclusion of the 67 Hz tone was primarily to allow AO-51's downlink transmitter to be switched off when the Echo's voice transponder was not in use. However, it turned out that this tone access scheme has been more of a hindrance than an asset. This is especially true when the bird is over heavily populated areas and in high use at a time when controllers are trying to troubleshoot interference on the uplink. The tone access has also proven exclusionary when the satellite is over regions where transceivers equipped with tone access encoders are less common. With the tone now turned off, Echo should start getting more users from those parts of the world.