



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association is an ARRL Special Services Club Serving Northwest Ohio Since 1953



January 2007



The TMRA Annual Christmas party on December 13, featured good friends, good food, good music and lots of other good things. However there were a few empty seats. I hope you were not one of the missing members. Many thanks go to Pat, KC8WQU, for planning this great event, and all those who assisted her.

n8ajp photo

Weaver's Words -- Ring In The New

Date: Friday, December 29, 2006 05:20

Morse Code License Requirement Abolished

By now, we all know FCC has ruled to abolish Morse code testing as part of any amateur license requirement. There isn't much further to be said. With this act, FCC has taken a few additional steps. You can read about these on the ARRL web site.

Please notice the only thing abolished by FCC was the testing requirements. The use of Morse is still allowed and no CW privileges were lost by this latest Report & Order. Similarly, ARRL will continue with code practice, bulletins and CW operating activities. CW is not dead and won't die for many years, if ever.

Personal Perspective About Code Testing

First, a question: What was the code test speed Hiram Percy Maxim (1AW, W1AW SK) passed to become a ham? Answer later.

As you may know, my prime operating mode on HF is CW. I enjoy it. It is a nice tool. For me, it helps keep my mind sharp.

Having said this, I do not feel that the FCC sold Amateur Radio down the river with its Report & Order to abolish code testing as a requirement for obtaining a ham license. As shocking as this may sound to some members . . . and nonmembers, as well . . . I've never thought Amateur Radio was all about Morse code testing or even Morse code.

Morse code has been -- and will remain for quite some time -- a valuable tool in radio, including Amateur Radio. And, contrary to an oft-stated popular belief, the US military has not totally abandoned Morse code. It is still found hiding in the nooks and crannies of military communication. It will continue to be a useful and well-used mode for many amateurs.

Some of you may view the demise of Morse code testing as a huge mistake and, moreover, a death blow to our great radio service. I respectfully disagree. As I mentioned in one of my newsletters a couple of years ago, discarding Morse testing is merely one more change in the history of Amateur Radio.

Just as automobile drivers no longer need to take driving exams in cars equipped with manual transmissions, incoming hams will simply not need to pass a code test. Drivers who have passed drivers license testing without touching the shift lever of a manual transmission are drivers just as much as drivers who tested using manual transmissions. So, too, hams who have passed amateur license testing without touching a telegraph key or keyer are just as much radio amateurs as amateurs who passed 20 wpm exams.

Contrary to the belief that it is Morse code that gives us qualified operators, it is the operator who makes a qualified ham. An unethical, selfish individual who becomes a ham will be an unethical, selfish ham regardless of whether he or she has passed a code exam.

Don't believe me? Look around the bands and check over FCC enforcement records. You will see that some of the worst operators and most flagrant violators of FCC rules are Advanced and Extra Class licensees. Flip the coin to its other side and you'll see that some of the best and most law abiding operators are no code Techs . . . many who joined Amateur Radio after getting their introduction to radio through CB.

As one of my most outspoken critics, Jim Wades, K8SIW recently wrote on the QMN (CW traffic net) Reflector, "We will gain nothing by creating a 'cast system' based on telegraph proficiency or any other standard. Attempts on the part of operators to belittle, isolate, or otherwise single-out individuals as 'no-code' licensees or by otherwise implying they are not 'real hams' will likely be very counterproductive." Jim went on to observe, "Such an approach was taken by some misguided individuals after the implementation of the no-code Technician license and it did much harm to the Amateur Service and CW in particular."

Amen, Jim.

My message is that we all are Amateur Radio operators. This applies whether our license is a no code Tech or a 20 wpm Extra. We all are hams. Moreover, we don't have such huge numbers of people in Amateur Radio and we haven't captivated the public imagination sufficiently with our miraculous deeds that we can afford to be snobbish over how long we each have been licensed . . . or over differences in the requirements that were in

OTHER TOLEDO AREA AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATIONS

ARES

Lucas County Amateur Radio
Emergency Service meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of the month in the "Private Dining Room" in St. Luke's Hospital, at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to meet in the cafeteria for breakfast before the meeting.

Alternate meeting locations and information will be announced on the daily 6:40 PM net. Contact Brenda, KB8IUP at 419-866-5928. **ARES NTS and Training Net** meets daily at 6:40 PM. 146.940- Alternate frequencies are: 147.375+ or 147.270+.

SKYWARN Net as needed by the NWS, 147.375+ Alternate frequencies are 146.940-, 147.270+ or others announced by "net control".

GTARA (146.610-, 147.120+ 103.5) Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

SARA Contact Tom, N8MAV, 419-826-7401.

TRAC (147.375+, 146.940-) Meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Springfield Twp. Hall, 7617 Angola Rd. at 7:30 PM. Contact Terry Caldwell, KC8HQH, 419-874-2173.

QCWA Chapter 142, meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Road, Maumee. (next to Hampton-Inn hotel) Contact Paul Lentz, K8PL, 419-882-5906. Or email, pelentzk8pl@juno.com

FRAT (52.360, 146.835-, 224.280-, 444.650+) Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. FRAT net follows the Rain Dialup and Amateur News Weekly on Thursday nights starting at 8:30 PM.

place when we took our exams . . . or over how we like to spend our time on the air. We can't afford to divide one ham from another.

We need to work together to develop a great new Amateur Radio that recaptures and surpasses its gloried past. We will never be able to accomplish this task if we don't respect each other and work together.

What do you think about all this? Let me know.

Answer to question: Hiram Percy Maxim, a principal founder of ARRL and Amateur Radio, never took a code test to obtain a ham license. In spite of this, he was a great user of Morse and a great ham.

Collateral Change

When the R&O that drops code test requirements becomes effective, current Tech licenses will receive the same CW privileges as current Novice licensees.

GB to 2006. It was a very eventful year. I wish you and your family all the best in 2007.

During this coming year, please think globally when thinking of Amateur Radio. I don't mean globally in terms of the world, but globally in terms of how we and our individual operating preferences fit together with so many thousands of other individuals and their operating preferences in a jigsaw puzzle. This puzzle, when put together in its total form, discloses the beautiful picture that is Amateur Radio.

73,

Jim, K8JE

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
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The First Annual LCARES Fundraiser

It will be all day on February 19, 2007 at Max & Erma's, 1391 Arrowhead Drive, in Maumee. That's on a Monday. A ticket is required to be given to the server when paying for your meal or take out in order and LCARES will receive a 20% credit. The event tickets will be available at various club meetings. Next month, 2 tickets will be included with the *TMRA Beacon*. For more information go to www.lcares.org.

Thanks,
Brent WD8PNZ

<p>The TMRA <i>Amateur Radio Beacon</i> is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ. Email, kb8iup @ arrl . net</p>
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January 2007

ARRL Kids Day

ARRL Kids Day is Sunday, January 7: The next chance to provide youngsters with a fun, hands-on radio experience is Sunday, January 7, when the first ARRL Kids Day of the new year takes place <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>. ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, offers some Kids Day 2007 thoughts and suggestions on page 45 of December QST. Kids Day begins at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. Suggested exchanges are first name, age, location and favorite color. Suggested frequencies are 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 21.380 to 21.400 MHz and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, plus local VHF repeaters with the sponsor's permission. Licensees should observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts. These apply when unlicensed individuals communicate via ham radio.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673
President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, James, WD8IOL;
Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Howard, W8NEE;.Bob,K8ADK; Steve,KC8TVW; Tom,KB8PAI

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Tom, KB8PAI.

- TMRA W8HHF Repeaters; 29.680-, 147.270+, 224.140-, 442.850+ (TMRA 2 meter, 220, and 440 repeaters operate with a 103.5 "PL", or a touch-tone access code of 1-2-3) Please "ID" before using phone-patch.
(10 digit dialing, *up and #down)

TMRA W8HHF Packet BBS Frequencies 51.780, 145.690, 223.480, 441.060

The TMRA meets at 7:30 PM every second Wednesday in
The Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd. Rossford, Ohio.

The TMRA Q & A net meets every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, followed by the TMRA "Information & Swap 'N-Shop" net at 8:30 on the 147.270+ repeater. All amateurs are invited to check-in. *TMRA Voice Mail 419-535-6594*