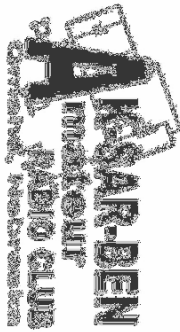


PO Box 24551
Omaha NE 68124-0551



AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Hum

Volume LVII, Issue 3

March 2007

APPLICATION AVALANCHE UNDER WAY AS NEW CODELESS TESTING REGIME RAMPS UP

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
Continued on pg 5

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 6 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross |
| March 9 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross |
| March 24 | Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium, Lincoln NE |
| March 27 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC/HDXA VE Session, 7:00 PM, Red Cross |
| March 29 | Spotter Training, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Boys Town National Headquarters |
| April 10 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Business Meeting, 7:00 PM, Red Cross |
| April 13 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, Red Cross |
| April 21 | Ararat Hambash 2007, Kansas City, MO www.hambash.com |
| October 7 | AK-SAR-BEN ARC 2007 Hamfest, more to follow |

HAM HUM is the official newsletter of the AK-SAR-BEN Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska. It is printed monthly and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronics outlets, and editors of other ham radio newsletters.

Articles about activities of members are solicited. The subject matter must be of general interest to radio amateurs and be understandable to a significant portion of the membership. No payment will be made to contributors and submissions will be subject to the usual editorial review. Articles containing statements that could be construed as libel or slander will not be accepted. No guarantee can be made that an accepted article will be published by a certain date. Send your contributions to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha, NE 68124-0551 or email hamhum@aksarbenarc.org. Please contact the editor for permission to reprint anything appearing in the Ham Hum.

Club Officers & Board Members

President (2007)	Todd LeMense	KKØDX	402-216-8633	kk0dx@cox.net
Vice President (2007)	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Secretary (2006-2007 Board)	Doug Rathman	NGØK	402-493-7369	d1rathman@cox.net
Treasurer (2006-20057Board)	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
2006-2007 Board	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.net
2006-2007 Board	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
2007-2008 Board	Rollie Miller	ABØNN	402-333-1606	ab0nn@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Corby Krick	KØSKW	402-540-5483	k0skw@k0skw.net
2007-2008 Board	Marvin Taylor	AEØEG	402-556-3668	AE0EG@arrl.net
2007-2008 Board	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-306-2972	n0up@cox.net

Standing Committee Chairs

Education	Open Contact	Todd LeMense	kk0dx@cox.net	for more information
Government Relations	Jeff Reynolds	NEØDX	ne0dx@arrl.net	
Membership	Mary Joseph	NØTRK	402-492-9156	n0trk@arrl.net
Programs	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Publications	Steve Schmitz	NØUP	402-597-8666	n0up@arrl.net
Public Relations	Greg Babbitt	WØAAI	402-598-3030	w0aai@arrl.net
Disaster Preparedness	Jim Harper	KCØSHZ	402-659-0102	kc0shz@yahoo.com
Repeater	Darrel Swenson	KØAWB	402-690-0000	dswenson@wearne.net
Technical	Open Contact	Todd LeMense	kk0dx@cox.net	for more information
Club Net	Rich Swig	WAØZQG	712-256-7775	wa0zqg@yahoo.com
QSL Manager	Ed Edwards	KØIL		eedwards@tconl.com

Other Contacts

Exams/Vol. Council	Brian Zdan	KMØY	402-553-2610	bzdan@novia.net
Club Callsign Trustee	Gerry Gross	WA6POZ	402-895-7367	wa6poz@arrl.net
Special Events Coordinator	Greg Ervin	KCØVTO	402-445-0317	gervin1@cox.net
ARRL Midwest Director	Bruce Frahm	KØBJ	785-462-7388	k0bj@arrl.org
ARRL Midwest Vice-Director	Clifford Ahrens	KØCA	573-221-8618	k0ca@arrl.org
NE Section Manager	Matt Anderson	KAØBOJ	402-944-7488	ka0boj@arrl.org
Official Observer Coordinator	Dick Newsome	WØHXL	402-451-1202	w0hxl@cox.net
Section EC	Jim Hitz	KCØDVG	402-642-2040	kc0dvg@arrl.net
EC Douglas County	Darwin Piatt	W9HZC	402-991-0412	w9hzc@cox.net
EC Sarpy County	Ray McNally	N5SEZ		n5sez@arrl.net
EC Washington County	Don Morgan	KBØVIY	402-427-7111	kb0vivy@yahoo.com
EC Pottawattamie County	Terry Lindsley	KSØL	712-325-0107	ks0l@arrl.net

Classified Ads

Classified ads are free to members. Send an email with the wording exactly as you want it printed to hamhum@aksarbenarc.org or mail your ad to Ham Hum, P.O. Box 24551, Omaha NE 68124. Ads must be received by the third Friday of the Month to be included in the next Ham Hum.

To all interested hams.
 45 foot Rohn 25 Tower, guyed
 Anti-Torque guy system with 3 earth anchors
 11 element 2 meter beam
 Ham IV rotator with control box
 You take it down and all listed is yours for **\$0.00**
 Charlie Peaker, KC0DB, (402)457-4395
 2020 Read St, Lot 16, Omaha, NE

AARC GENERAL CLASS

The AARC Board is checking for interest in a General and Code class for 2007. If you are interested in taking the class or helping/leading the class, contact a member of the Board of Directors.

Ham Hum Delivery

If you would like the Ham Hum delivered electronically by email, please let NØUP n0up@cox.net or WA6POZ wa6poz@arr.net know. We will make sure your hum arrives when the mailed hum would arrive. This is an opt-out of receiving the Hum by mail only. If you do not request an emailed copy, you will continue to receive it by postal mail. Ed.

Spotter Training

The first annual combined ARES/REACT Spotter Training will be held on Thursday March 29th at Boys Town National Headquarters starting promptly at 7:00 and will end at 9:00 We have to vacate the building by 9:30 so who ever is left in the building at that time will have to clean up with the janitorial staff.

Sign in will start at 6:30 with the program starting at 7:00

Darwin (Dar) Piatt , W9HZC
 Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 Douglas County Emergency Coordinator

Contest Calendar

March, 2007

RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 10
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 10 to 0200Z, Mar 11 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 11
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 10 to 1600Z, Mar 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 17
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 26

April, 2007

ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 7 to 2400Z, Apr 8
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 7 to 1600Z, Apr 8
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 7 to 0500Z, Apr 8 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 8
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 9
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 14
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z Apr 15 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 17
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 21
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 21 (20-10m) 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 21 (80m) 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 22 (40m) 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 22 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 0500Z, Apr 22 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 28 to 1700Z, Apr 29

For details check the following web site the week prior to the contest.
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes - February 6, 2007

Roll Call

[x] Todd – KKØDX	[x] Greg – WØAAI	[x] Brian – KMØY
[x] Doug – NGØK	[] Bill – KEØXQ	[x] Marvin – AEØEG
[x] Gerry - WA6POZ	[] Jim – KCØSHZ	[] Steve - NØUP
[x] Corby - KØSKW	[x] Rollie - ABØNN	

Also present was Rich, WA0ZQG

The January board meeting was started at 7:00pm. The meeting minutes were passed around and accepted as written.

President's Report - Todd, KK0DX, learned of an "All Area Picnic" idea that was expressed by other radio clubs in the area. No other specifics other than it is just an idea at this point.

Vice President's Report - Greg, W0AAI, reported that he was working on some ideas for club programs. Ideas include a D-Star presentation. Jim, KC0SHZ, suggested one on HF radio selection. Doug offered to present a program on Ham Radio Deluxe. Todd suggested a SAC museum outing for a club activity.

Treasurer's Report - Brian, KM0Y reported the following:

Money Market	19,551.8	Includes 66.20 Interest
Repeater Acct	1,186.12	
Repeater CD	2,000.00	
Checking Acct	3,362.56	
Total	26,100.55	

The occupation tax of \$20 is due and will be paid. It is good for 2-years.

Hamfest Report - Todd was planning to reserve the Legion Hall on Sunday the 14th.

Disaster Preparedness - Jim, KC0SHZ, reported that an ARES meeting was held last month. Skywarn training will be held sometime next month, probably at Boys Town again.

Public Relations - A meeting at Panera bread (78th and Dodge) will held 2/18 at 2pm to discuss public service events.

Repeater – Gerry, WA6POZ, reported that the repeater had audio problems.

Continued on Page 4

An audio board and contacts were cleaned up, and the repeater was back in operation.

Field Day – Corby, K0SKW, is continuing with the field day planning.

Other Items - The SWIARC Hamfest is March 3rd. Doug, NG0K, will do the talk-in for the next club meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, 3/6 at 7:00pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Doug Rathman, NGØK, AKSARBEN ARC, Inc. Secretary

We are looking for volunteers!

The Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club will be providing radio communication support for the Multiple Sclerosis Society during their fund raising MS Walk on Sunday, April 15th, 2007. We will need volunteers for the walk to be a part of our radio team.

This year, the walk will start at the Scott Conference Center on the UNO Campus, go through Elmwood Park, cross over into Memorial Park and return to the Scott Conference Center. NOTE: This is a location change from past years!

Registration will start at 8:00 AM (estimated) and the walkers will probably start out as soon as they register.

Event information and directions are posted on the Ak-Sar-Ben ARC events calendar at www.aksarbenarc.org/. I will update the web site and send out an email update as soon as I receive additional information on the walk routes, official start/end times, etc.

If you can be a part of our team, or if you have any questions, e-mail kc0oyt@arrl.net and I'll get back to you.

Rob, KC0OYT

The 2007 Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium will be held on Saturday, March 24th, 2007 at UNL's Hardin Hall, 33rd and Holdrege, in Lincoln, NE. The 2007 theme is "Severe Weather on the Plains: Past, Present, and Future".

Nebraska Stratospheric Amateur Radio (NSTAR) and the Central Nebraska Near Space Project (CNSNP) are tentatively planning a dual balloon launch from the symposium.

Details are still being finalized, but it's expected there will be a spotter training session as there has been in past years. The CPSWS website is at <http://cpsws.unl.edu>. Details of last year's symposium are at <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/nebraska/cpsws2006photo-index.html>.

From pg 1

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 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."

From **The ARRL Letter** Vol. 26, No. 09