

SHORT CIRCUIT: AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

Fairbanks, Alaska

May 1989

ARRL on codeless licensing

A summary the of committee report

submitted by
Wigi Tozzi

(April 5, 1989 via Info-Hams & BITNET)

Newington, Connecticut -- A special committee appointed by American Radio Relay League (ARRL) President Larry E. Price, W4RA, has submitted a report recommending the creation of a class of Amateur Radio license not requiring a knowledge of Morse code. The report was presented to the ARRL Executive Committee, which met on April 1; the Executive Committee did not take a position on the substance of the report, but authorized its publication in full in the May issue of QST and referred it to the full Board of Directors for consideration during its July 21-22, 1989 meeting. ARRL members, other licensed radio amateurs, and others interested in Amateur Radio are invited to review the report and to make their views known to ARRL Division Directors, whose names appear on page 8 of QST magazine.

The mission of the committee was "to explore the implications of a no-code amateur license." To carry out this mission, President Price appointed a distinguished committee consisting of members from the ARRL Board of Directors, Amateur Radio industry and radio amateurs at large, as follows:

ARRL Vice President George S. Wilson III, W4OYI, Chairman John Crovelli, W2GD, At Large
Y. E. (Ed) Juge, W5TOO, Industry Representative Kenneth D. Kopp, K0PP, At Large
C. Mike Lamb, N7ML, Industry Representative
Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, ARRL Director, Pacific Division

In addition, the following consultants were designated:

Thomas B. J. Atkins, VE3CDM, Canadian Radio Relay League President
Larry E. Price, W4RA, ARRL President
Leland Smith, W5KL, Quarter Century Wireless Association President
David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President

The committee stressed that its proposal, if adopted, would not cause any licensee to lose any present privileges. It proposes a new class of Amateur Radio license, with a written examination somewhat more comprehensive than the present Technician exam but with no requirement for a Morse code examination. Holders would be permitted to operate on all frequencies and with all privileges now available to Technicians above 30 MHz, except that 2-meter operation would be limited to frequencies between 144.9 and 145.1 MHz and to digital modes only. Examinations would be given only by accredited Volunteer Examiners, and distinctive call signs would be assigned.

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What about it, AARC?

by Lewis Overton (NØSN)

The idea of a no-code amateur license in the U.S. has generated a lot of heat and not much light among hams around the country. The full report of the committee makes some points on the subject which are worth exploring. This is the first time that I know of where part of official ARRL has moved toward a no-code license. The committee's rationale says:

National and international pressures on our spectrum, the continuing increase in the average age of amateurs, the expected decrease in the number of young people coming of "ham age," a desire to help improve the human technological resources of the United States, and fundamental fairness have led the Committee to recommend a code-free license class be established which requires unmistakable technical competence.

Much has been made of a need to keep "undesirables" out of ham radio. Many have viewed the Morse code requirement as one way to keep the ham bands from sounding like the bad old days of CB radio.

The Committee strongly believes that Morse Code does not work well as a filter to weed out undesirables. It is quite clear that code does act as a "filter"; but there are hundreds of cases indicating that technically qualified persons of

(see AARC on page 2)

Next Meeting
Friday, 5 May 1989
7:30 pm in the Auditorium
UAF Geophysical Institute

Program: Bob Hunsucker on
Propagation (of electronic signals).



(continued from page 1)

The committee carefully reviewed a wealth of input from interested individuals and Amateur Radio clubs, as well as information it had requested from International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member societies in other countries which already have a code-free class of amateur license. A large number of alternatives were considered by the committee in developing its recommendations.

ARRL Executive Vice President Sumner stressed that the committee's report does not represent League policy at this time. The Board of Directors is the policy-making body of the organization, and as such will determine whether the report, with or without modifications, will become League policy. He pointed out that the League is a representative democracy, with Directors elected to represent the members of their Divisions. Accordingly, anyone reading this report and wishing to have his or her views considered is urged to write the Director of their Division sometime prior to the July Board Meeting.

For more information contact: David Sumner, K1ZZ. Tel: 203-666-1541, FAX: 203-665-7531.

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good character did not become hams, not because they did not wish to spend the necessary study time, but because they saw no relevance in the code requirement.

Clearly, the filter has had limited positive effect. Perhaps the most significant is to push people toward illegal operation in the CB allocation. An example is the recent article in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner about a well known figure from earlier days of broadcast radio, now operating a CB station from the Pioneers' Home. He has made contacts all around the world. I doubt that the News-Miner writer even knows that long-range contacts are illegal for CB radio. They are, however, both a violation of U.S. regulations and of the ITU treaty requiring a licensee operating below 30 MHz to demonstrate knowledge of Morse code.

Code requirements may well be irrelevant to today's ham operations. Personally, I enjoy CW operation, but perhaps it should become an elective part of our hobby instead of a required one. If you are interested, I encourage you to read the full report and make your views known to the ARRL and to your fellow hams, especially here in Alaska.

The full text of the committee's report is available from Wigi or from me. It can be obtained electronically from the Info-Hams digest on the University of Alaska acad3 VAX computer system. The report is expected to appear in a future issue of *QST*. *Short Circuit* will publish letters of comment on the subject. Does this topic matter to anyone here?

Lewy

Fifty-Fifty — 50-50 — Fifty — Fifty

Or whatever you call it. Take a moment at the next meeting to buy a ticket for a \$1.00, a small, slim, not needed amount. But you might win half of the pot. Think about it, take in half of what your fellow hams put in the hat. The other half goes to support the club, the repeaters, the activities.

Joan

Meeting Notes

by Joan Soutar (NØAJW)

The speaker at the May meeting of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club will be Bob Hunsucker. Bob will speak on the state of propagation, how movement in the spaces above us make it easy or difficult to make contacts via ham radio. Bob has been a radio enthusiast for many years, and we welcome him back to speak to the members of the club.

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy ..."

The May meeting is the last formal meeting before the summer activities begin. That doesn't mean club activities will cease for the summer. On the contrary, summer is when things really get going. Are you interested in Field Day??? Get some fellow amateurs and set up a site. Volunteers are always needed for Golden Days, the Yukon 800 and the Hamfest. The Motley Net Picnic will be in July. Drive down to Byers Lake and join in some fishing and funning.

Several people asked me about the address to get stamp pins. The cost is \$3 and they can either contact me for more information or give Teresa Camasi (451-7712) a call. Thanks...Jim Dixon (NL7HI)

Short Circuit

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Hamfest in Fairbanks

by Joan Soutar (NØAJW)

The Hamfest and Swapmeet will be August 26 at the Moose Hall on 10th Avenue. The doors open to the public at 9:00 am with the 7-9 time reserved for set up of tables and exhibits. Admission for adults is \$1.00. Visiting and swapping take place from 9 until noon. Programs begin at noon. Ham exams will conclude the afternoon. Another banquet is planned, possibly again at the Gold Dredge No. 8.

What are the possibilities of having some nice, NEWER equipment for sale and not just boat anchors? Table rental will be \$10 per table. Donations for sale are acceptable and encouraged. Do you want to see anything special happen? Call Joan Soutar at 479-6224 and tell her about it.

A special thank you to Helen Connor who suggested I contact the Moose Lodge as a place to rent after the Fairgrounds manager told me that the Badger Building was not available. And to those who wonder why the club no longer has a booth at the fair, the answer is money. We used to be allotted free space. A year or two ago, the fair board decided to charge non-profit organizations for booth space. The price for space was way beyond our means. No cash meant no booth.

—About this issue ...

Some of you may be wondering why you are receiving Short Circuit when you are not current dues-paying members. There are a couple of answers to that question, the public answer and the other 'un. We do like to send occasional issues to non-members simply for recruiting purposes. Receiving a free issue reminds you that we are here. Perhaps if you like what you see, you will join the club.

The (blush) other answer, the one which includes an answer to "Why now?" is that once again, our mailing list is in a state of some disrepair. We done messed it up ag'in. That, at least, gives us an incentive (excuse) for adding a few folks to our list, which refers us back to answer one, above.

If you are receiving Short Circuit, and haven't coughed up the oh-so-few measly little dues amount, then consider this issue an invitation to join. If you know of people who have paid dues but are not getting Short Circuit, please contact Lewis Overton (NØSN) to get changes made to the mailing list.

... from Lewy

DATE-LINE

Monday — Friday	7:30AM — 9:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM — 6:00PM
Sunday	12:00PM — 6:00PM
479-3831	

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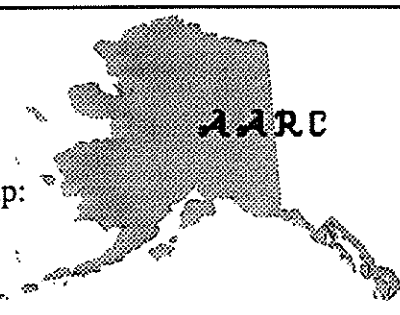
Link-Alaska Repeater Project

Profits help link Fairbanks
repeaters along the highways

Contact Steve Estes (KL7XO) at 479-5819

Calendar of Coming Events

by Jim Chapman (WL7BOF)



Looking at the next month or so, the following are coming up:

Contests:

May 13: Ten-Meter Dash: A 2 hour, 100 watt max, SSB contest on novice/tech frequencies. Apr QST, pg 88.

May 13-14: CQ-M Contest (Peace to the World): Sponsored by the Russians. Apr QST, pg 89.

May 27-28: CQ WW WPX Contest: CW only, Mar QST, pg 89.

Club Events:

June 29-30: Yukon 800. Field Day same weekend.

July 7-9: Motley Net Picnic at Byers Lake

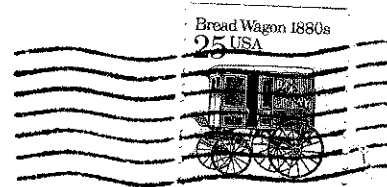
July 14-23: Golden Days Special Event Station: See Jim Dixon, NL7HI.

Aug 26: AARC Hamfest.

Arctic Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

PO Box 81389

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First Class

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