

Late Arrivals:

The following information came in after the calendar was printed.

There will be Amateur examinations offered in Lawrenceburg, at the Ambulance Service, US 127 South, March 19th, starting at 1:00 p.m. Walk-ins are allowed. Email K4TG@ARRL.NET or call 502-839-4041 for information.

There will be a tornado preparedness drill on Tuesday, March 7th. An emergency net on 146.76 will be activated at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes of February 1, 2006

Vice President, Jerry Mueller, KC4WZO called the February meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Minutes of the last meeting were approved with minor changes after a motion from Todd Rose, KE4YAH and second by Deborah Harrington, KE4GNX.

Committee Reports:

Program: The weather training is scheduled for March 8th 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room of the Woodford County Courthouse.

Repeater: SERA has been alerted to the ownership and call changes for the repeaters. Changes to their records should be reflected in the ARRL Repeater Directory.

Field Day: Field day is June 24th and 25th this year. The information package for Field Day 2006 is not yet available on the ARRL web site. Last years results credited our participation with 106 contacts for a grand total of 962 points.

Net Report:

2/2/2006	2/9/2006	2/16/2006	2/23/2006
KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ
KD4GNX	KF4YRK	KE4YAH	KF4YRK
KF4LRK	KF4LRK	KF4YRK	KF4LRK
KE4GNX	KC4WZO	KF4LRK	KE4GNX
KA4TJD	KE4GNX	KC4WZO	KE4VIU
KE4LZP	KA4TJD	KE4GNX	KE4LZP
KG4IES	KE4LZP	KA4TJD	KG4TND
KG4TND	KG4TND	KE4AIE	KE4AIE
K4HOD	KE4AIE	KI4LSG	W2LTB
KE4AIE	W2LTB	KF4FMZ	
W2LTB	KI4LSG		
KG4VAR			
WB4ETG			

Net activity seems to be growing. Please remember to check in on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. on 145.330-. Also help support other nets in the area. There is a list of nets on the information page, please feel free to pass along information on nets that you have answered so that they may be added to the list.

Newsletter: Paul 3, KB4ENQ invited anyone to submit new ideas or material for the newsletter. The current Newsletter format (4 pages) has been weighed by the United States Postal Service. The results of this test indicated that 5 pages could be posted without further cost.

Adopt-A-Highway: Paul 3, KB4ENQ called the Highway Department and found that the dates for the 2006 coordinated cleanup events are not available yet. March 25th was selected for the first trash pickup event for the year, with April 1st as an alternate in case of inclement weather. We will meet at McDonald's for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Trash pick up will start at approximately 9:00.

Emergency: Jerry, KW4WZO indicated that Amateur operators wishing to respond for emergency operations will need to complete the IS100, IS200, IS700 and IS800 training by October. The membership discussed organizing group training sessions to meet this requirement.

Discussion also included radio operations training that might be provided to the CERT training sessions.

Graduation for the current CERT class will be held February, 16th in the Community Room of the Woodford Courthouse.

There will be a CERT exercise on March 16, at 6:00p.m.

Fund Raising: It was decided that our fund raising activities would include ticket selling sessions at local shopping prior to the Hillbilly Daze event. The Hillbilly Daze event will be held Saturday, September 16th.

Old Business:

Drew Chandler presented club identification badges samples. Discussion revolved around information that would be included. Suggestions included name, call, club name, and local frequencies to be listed on the back. Thank you, Drew, for your efforts on this project.

New Business:

The Relay for Life event is coming up in April. The membership discussed participation. Setting up our tent in the infield, with information on Amateur Radio and WCARC available. It was also suggested that we provide water for participants.

The membership also discussed obtaining insurance for the repeater equipment.

Steve McFadden, KA4TJD made a motion, seconded by Todd Rose, KE4YAH that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was adopted at 8:47 p.m.

Attendance: We were pleased to have two visitors, Rob Hutchinson and Richard Knittel, at the February meeting.

Jerry Mueller	KC4WZO	Todd Rose	KE4YAH
Deborah Harrington	KE4GNX	Steve McFadden	KA4TJD
Paul Harrington III	KB4ENQ	Drew Chandler	EM
Don Drury	KD4UBF		

Upcoming Exams:

Saturday March 4th, 9:00 a.m., Mammoth Cave ARC Hamfest, Cave City Convention Center, contact Charles Rice, kd4ss@arrl.net or phone 270-659-3518

Saturday March 11th, 10:00 a.m., Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY, contact Harry Sparks, KN4S kn4s@arrl.net or phone 859-272-8762.

Saturday March 11th, 9:00 a.m., Hardin County Public Library North Branch, 800 South Logsdon Pkw, Radcliff, Ky., contact Archie Mack amack@bbtel.com or phone 270-351-6159.

Monday March 13th, 6:00 p.m., Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd., Fort Mitchell, Ky, please register at least 3 days ahead, contact Lyle Hamilton ab8sh@arrl.net or phone 513-533-5604.

Sunday March 19th, 1:00 p.m., Anderson County Ambulance Service, US 127 South, Lawrenceburg Ky, contact Jerry Shouse k4tg@arrl.net or phone 502-839-4041.

Upcoming Hamfests:

Date: March 4, 2006

Sponsor: Mammoth Cave ARC

Location: Cave City (KY) Convention Center, Mammoth Cave Street (Hyw 70)

Contact: Larry Brumett, KN4IV, 108 Withers Drive, Glasgow, KY 42141

Phone: 270-651-2363

E-Mail: lbrumett@glasgow-ky.com

What's On My Mind:

In the January newsletter, I ventured forth with some of my goals for the up coming year. I am claiming victory on one of them. I answered Charlie, KE4AIE's net Thursday evening using my TS711 base 2-meter rig. As indicated in the previous article, it was, due to my unwillingness to purchase add on features, lacking the ability to generate CTCSS tones. My design for a retrofit tone generator is now installed and functional. The tones are synthesized by firmware contained in a Microchip 16F876 microcontroller. One

of the microcontroller's ports drives a resistor ladder digital to analog converter. The converter output is then buffered, filtered and passed on to the radio. The current design fits in the radio, connects to the existing connector allowing the controls of the radio to select the desired tone. Don't get me wrong, good projects are never finished. My TS811 also suffers from my tightness, and I am also thinking of an external unit that would work with radios that were not designed to have CTCSS capability. Any ideas out there?

73's KB4ENQ kb4enq@arrl.net

From the ARRL News Letter:

==>REVISED ITU RECOMMENDATION ON USE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN DISASTERS IN EFFECT

A revised International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Recommendation is now in force to promote "effective utilization of the amateur services in disaster mitigation and relief operations." Initially developed in 2001, the document, known as Recommendation ITU-D 13, was brought up to date last year through the efforts of an ITU-D study group and circulated to administrations around the globe for adoption.

"This is an updated version of a Recommendation that administrations include the amateur services in their national disaster plans, reduce barriers to effective use of the amateur services for disaster communications, and develop memoranda of understanding with amateur and disaster relief organizations," explained ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. ITU-D 13 further advises cooperation among all parties in making available model agreements and "best practices" in disaster telecommunications.

The revised Recommendation takes into account changes adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. One change provides that Amateur Radio stations may be used to transmit international communications on behalf of third parties in case of emergencies or for disaster relief. Another encourages administrations "to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief." The FCC recently adopted changes to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to reflect these and other WRC-03 actions.

The revised Recommendation ITU-D 13 recognizes that effective Amateur Radio disaster communication depends "largely on the availability of amateur operators located throughout a country," and that post-disaster international humanitarian assistance "often includes the provision of amateur operators and of equipment from an assisting country."

It further acknowledges that barriers in terms of gaining permission to operate and to move equipment and operators into a disaster zone "in many cases hindered the full use of telecommunications capabilities available from outside an affected country."

"The Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations," adopted in 1998 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications in Tampere, Finland, established a framework for the reduction and/or removal of such barriers. Revised in 2003, ITU-Radiocommunication Sector Recommendation M.1042-2, "Disaster Communications in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services," encouraged "the development of such services and of making such networks robust, flexible and independent of other telecommunication services and capable of operating from emergency power."

The revised Recommendation ITU-D 13 is expected to be available soon—in several languages and in MS-Word and PDF formats—from the ITU Web site <http://www.itu.int>.

==>ARISS MAKES IT OFFICIAL: "TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL" SUITSAT-1 IS SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-

than-expected signal strength.

"The outreach, press requests and visibility of SuitSat were absolutely amazing and appear to be unprecedented for a ham radio event," Bauer said. "While the press requests are just now starting to wane, we expect that you will continue to see SuitSat status reports and pictures in magazines, Web sites and other literature over the next few months." The more than nine million hits at the SuitSat Web site attest to the level of interest in the SuitSat-1 experiment, Bauer noted, calling the tally "quite impressive indeed!"

Bob King, VE6BLD, in Alberta posted the last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio, Saturday, February 18, at 0332 UTC. Richard Crow, N2SPI, in New York received the last confirmed telemetry, which indicated the battery voltage dropping precipitously to a low of 18.3 V before the novel satellite ceased to transmit.

Hearing SuitSat-1's puny signal strength generally required gain antennas, but Bauer says he heard SuitSat with a 3-element Arrow antenna and a handheld radio. Bauer's daughter Michelle recorded the English-language voice identification. Another challenge to signal reception, he said, was the very deep fading due to the suit's rotation in orbit.

"One great positive that came from these issues is that it challenged the ham radio community worldwide to improve their station receive capabilities so that they could pull every bit of signal from SuitSat," Bauer remarked.

Bauer says reports that SuitSat-1 was non-operational and that the battery was frozen shortly after deployment are false. "This never occurred," he stressed. "As the telemetry has shown, temperatures within the suit were a somewhat comfortable 12-16 degrees C during the entire mission."

So, he adds, is the tale of SuitSat-1's early demise and resurrection. "It was alive and operated flawlessly, except the signal strength issue, from the time the crew flipped the switches until the battery power was used up," he said.

Bauer says he's also not ready to buy into an AMSAT calculation that the transmitter may have been putting out between 1 and 10 mW. "It is entirely possible that the radio output could have been at 500 mW, and the feed line, connector or the antenna caused the problem," he said, adding that the SuitSat team has only just begun studying what might have caused the weak signal.

The AMSAT/ARISS team already is looking forward to a SuitSat-2. "Correcting the signal strength issue would be a top priority for this flight," Bauer said. "So would be a longer-term power generation device, like solar arrays."

Although no longer transmitting, SuitSat-1 could continue orbiting Earth for another 70 to 120 days, depending on atmospheric drag, Bauer said.

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/>> and on the SuitSat Web site <<http://www.suitsat.org/>>.

==>FCC NONCOMMITTAL ON "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING ACTION

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next—and most-anticipated—step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton

Hamvention."

Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service.

The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have *no* impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding.

In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands and expanding portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

==>Element 2 Question Pool Available

* Revised, corrected Element 2 question pool released: The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced the release of a revised and corrected Element 2 (Technician) question pool. The new Element 2 question pool becomes effective for all Technician-class Amateur Radio examinations administered on or after July 1, 2006. Changes from the initial Element 2 question pool include elimination of some questions (T5D06, T6B09 and T7A08) and rewording of others to increase clarity. "We thank those users who reported the errors and made other suggestions for ways to improve the product," the committee said. "The QPC reviewed all submissions and incorporated the changes that were appropriate." The QPC warned that only the Element 2 question pool dated February 6, 2006, is valid. The new Element 2 database is available for download from the NCVEC Web site as a PDF, MS-Word, Rich Text Format (RTF) or ASCII text file <http://www.ncvec.org/ama_news_article.php?id=82>. The QPC says subsequent changes will be handled by deletion of the affected question. The QPC invites additional input via e-mail <qpcinput@ncvec.org>.