



G.A.R.S. Monthly Newsletter

Web Page: www.w4gwd.org

Volume 3 Issue 1 January, 2007

2007

**Greenwood Amateur Radio
Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2404
Greenwood, S.C. 29646**

President

Dave Zugsberger KL7FO

Vice President

Earl Powell KC4AXY

Secretary

Betty Ann Cannon KF4BVK

Treasurer

Harvey Hill WB4KXE

Activities Manager

Alice Taylor KC4JWM

JANUARY MEETING

G.A.R.S. will meet Monday, January 15, 2007, at The Turner House on Bailey Circle, Greenwood, 7 pm for light refreshments and 7:30 pm for the meeting.

Hamfest January 13, 2007, the Hamfest committee needs all the help and support of club members to put on a good hamfest if you can get any donations for door prize around your area please let the hamfest committee know. All

Hamfest volunteers, We will meet at George's Family Steak House, 713 Bypass 25NE, Greenwood, 223-2707, 6:00 PM January 8, 2007 for final plans on the Hamfest

Club Dues for 2007 due January 1, 2007. Address is GARS, P.O. Box 2404, Greenwood, S.C. 29646.

Club Elections for 2007 coming up The President KL7FO Dave Zugsberger will appointee a nomination committee at the January

15, 2007 club meeting the committee will turn in nominations at the February 19, 2007 meeting. To make the club grow we need **ALL club members** input and support all club members need to think about the election of club officers for 2007 if there is a position you would like to take on, or a member you think would make a good club officer then please let the nomination committee know.

The GARS Web page is up and running Go to www.w4gwd.org and take a look. You can find this newsletter on the web sight each month too.

The club meetings are now listed in the Index Journal on page 2A each month under "Community Calendar". This might be a good reminder for some. The Index-Journal's Community Calendar is a public reminder of special events and meetings sponsored by civic club, community groups and governing bodies for up to seven days of publication.

UP COMING HAMFEST

13 Jan 2007 + Greenwood ARS

<http://www.w4gwd.org>

Talk-In: 147.165 + (PL 107.2)

Contact: Darrell Manning, KI4BST

719 Darlington Street

Calhoun Falls, SC 29628-8969

Phone: 864-418-8969 or 864-379-4226

Email: dbmaning@wctel.net

Greenwood Civic Center

1610 Highway 72 East

CHAT N' CHEW

Every Friday at 11:30am to 1pm at George's Family Steak House, 713 Bypass 25NE, Greenwood, 223-2707, a group meets to have lunch or sip your favorite beverage and chat for a while, **(Dutch treat)**. Everyone is welcome to join.

WEEKLY NET

Every Thursday night at 9pm on 147.165+, Ms. Alice holds the weekly, Greenwood Amateur Radio Society Net

Tell everyone that you see and talk to come by and check in with her. She is doing a fantastic job.

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: Mosley TA-33 beam antenna, 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. The beam is in good shape and has been stored for many years. The boom is missing. Asking \$150. Contact Harvey or Buddy.

If anyone has anything they would like to sell or trade, that is Ham radio related, and wants to place it in this column, call me at 864-682-7374 or E-mail kf4bvk@backroads.net.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday January

Buddy Willis W4DEW Jan. 7

Jason Manning Associate Jan. 21

Happy Anniversary January

None

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well welcome to 2007! I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Eve as I did. Here's hoping all goes well for us and the Club in the year ahead.

Our Christmas / December meeting was a great success, Marge and I enjoyed it and I think that everyone I talked to seemed to have a wonderful time. My thanks to the Club members, especially our Activities Director, Ms. Alice, for organizing things so well.

I am looking forward to the GARS Hamfest and I hope everyone is as excited as I am about it. This is probably our biggest Club event and a chance for all to once again enjoy the fellowship of our friends and perhaps upgrade our licenses and show our "stuff". Maybe, if there is any Christmas money left, even pick up a few new toys. I encourage everyone to talk it up on the air and invite as many guests as you can. Perhaps we may get a few new members, or at least a few new hams.

Again I remind everyone that new elections are coming up and that means we need members to serve on the nominating committee and also as new officers. Please be thinking of these things in the month ahead.

And finally, I remind everyone to stay prepared. Last week we had tornadoes in S.C., in January! I wouldn't have believed it if I wasn't here myself. We just don't know when a disaster will hit and as I said in the Abbeville Co. ARES Manual - When all else fails - Amateur Radio.

73's to all,
Dave (KL7FO)

Technician Class Licensees

FCC modifies the Amateur Radio Service rules by eliminating the Morse code exam requirements. The effective date of the FCC's action will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February.

In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code test requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited "Morse code" proceeding (WT Docket 05-235), and released it December 19. The FCC's action will eliminate the Morse code test as a licensing requirement to operate on HF.

Technicians Gain Operating Privileges
Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- 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.

No Morse Code Test to Upgrade
Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the General (Element 3) written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Extra (Element 4) written exam. No Morse code test will be required. Visit the ARRL VEC exam search web page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.html> for test session locations.

Navigating through the Upgrade Process

1. Technician Amateurs who wish to upgrade to General have a couple of options.

a. We recommend that Technician licensees who have NOT yet passed the General written exam (Element 3) wait until the new rules take effect to upgrade. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID and their current license, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out the NCVFC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam is passed, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license.

b. Technician licensees who have already passed the General written exam (Element 3) or wish to pass the General written exam before the rules take effect, will then have to apply for the upgrade at a VE session once the new rules are in place. At a session, the candidate must present a photo ID, their current license and the non-expired CSCE document, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out a NCVFC form 605. If the Element 3 written exam credit is valid, the VE team will issue the candidate a CSCE for the upgrade to a general class license. If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired (a CSCE is only valid for 365 days), you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade.

2. Post Session Process
The VE Team must prepare and mail all session paperwork to the coordinating VEC. Once the session arrives at the VEC, in accordance with FCC rules, the VEC staff must verify all

session documentation. All 605 forms and CSCEs must have the candidate's signature and 3 VE signatures. The CSCEs used for General written exam element credit must be validated as being passed within the previous 365 days and/or the test documents must be confirmed as being passed. Finally, the session data and information from the 605 forms can then be keyed and submitted to the FCC. The upgrade should appear in the FCC database <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> within a few hours and a new license copy will arrive in the mail in 7 to 10 days.

VEC Test Fee

As you can see, much of the same work is involved in both types of General class upgrades, therefore the administrative costs are embedded in the process.

The FCC has mandated that all paperwork only upgrades be done through a VEC via their VE Teams. The processing and administration of FCC "projects" such as this, actually places a greater demand on all the VECs. This is not a special case involving only a few people; we expect to receive a flood of upgrades to General. The paperwork only upgrade is not automatic for the amateur and the forms may not be sent directly to the FCC or the VEC office (again the upgrade must occur at a test session and follow FCC guidelines). The VEC test session fee is regulated (per annual agreement) by the FCC.

A New Era

When the new rules are in place, we hope you explore your new band allocations, enjoy your new privileges and have fun!

73,
Maria A. Somma, AB1FM
Manager, ARRL/VEC

Hamfests

A hamfest is a social event for hams and their families; most are one-day events but some are multiple days. The highlight of any hamfest is the swap meet where hams sell, swap and buy radios and related equipment, either indoors at tables or in outdoor "tailgate" areas. Some swap meets are very large, covering several acres; the

largest in the US is at Dayton, Ohio each year in May. Most hamfests have additional activities such as lectures, demonstrations and activities for non ham attendees and door prize drawings. Many hamfests feature testing sessions at which attendees can obtain or upgrade their license. Some hamfests are held in conjunction with conventions of the ARRL. Most hamfests are listed in QST magazine, the official ARRL journal devoted entirely to Amateur Radio.

Emergency communications

Amateur radio emergency communications
In times of crisis and natural disasters, Amateur radio provides emergency communications when wireline, cell phones and other means of communications fail. Unlike commercial systems, Amateur radio is not dependent on terrestrial facilities that can be destroyed. It also dispersed throughout a community without "choke points" such as cellular telephone sites that can become overloaded.

Amateur radio operators are also experienced in improvising antennas and power sources and equipment can be powered by an automobile battery. Annual "Field Days" are held in many countries to practice these emergency improvisational skills. Amateur radio operators can use hundreds of frequencies and can quickly establish networks tying disparate agencies together to enhance interoperability.

Recent examples include the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the 2003 North America blackout, the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and Hurricane Katrina, where amateur radio was used to coordinate disaster relief activities when other systems failed.

73

Dewey "Buddy" Willis W4DEW

Yet Another Ham Joke

Q: How do you greet a ham radio operator?

A. With a short wave.

NEXT **Newsletter Deadline**

February 9, 2007