



FEEDBACK

April 2016

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (ac8ps@arrl.net) and get it published in FEEDBACK.

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell or purchase amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- * Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- * Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- * Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1x2 or 2x1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

SMARS Meeting Minutes 03/17/2016

Meeting called to order at 19:00
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions
Officers present – Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Tom WR8G

22 members in attendance

Secretary's report accepted as published in the "Feedback" and as passed around.
Treasurer's report not available.

Committee reports

Skywarn:
SET coming up next month. Plan is to operate without repeaters (simplex) and cover across all of Calhoun county. Simulated Emergency Test - Around 10am on April 16th. HQ will be at Calhoun County HQ in Marshall. Jim Zoss also gave presentation on Radar 101.

Old Business:

45 crank-up tower is available (\$200.00) Contact WA8VRA

New Business:

Hamfest: Setup will be 3pm on Friday; VE's will be there; Jay will run PA; We have approval to use 147.00 repeater. Hope to see everybody!
N9LCF is looking to see if there is interest in the area in setting up a WinLink 2000 site. Meeting in Marshall at Applebee's in Charlotte @ 3pm on Sunday, March 20th.

Presentation:

None

Quote of the Meeting: "Maybe we should start calling Jim, Radar" ... sorry Jim.

Closed: 19:36

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

It is with great sadness that we report that longtime SMARS member and ARRL VE Russ Beutler N8UU became a silent key on April 10th.

Free to a good home: CQ-Amateur-Radio Magazines, from years 1986 through 2011, mostly in organizers by 12 or 18 issues. Plastic organizers would be included for a donation. Interested persons may contact George Guerin, K8GG, at gmguerin@voyager.net

Thanks,
George K8GG

Note from Editor: *Hello all! Please email AC8PS@arrl.net with ideas and suggestions of the type of content you would like to see in upcoming editions of Feedback. I apologize for the haphazard publishing dates in the recent editions. I'll make sure to tighten the publish window. Thank you!*

S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 2M DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 70cm Repeater 443.59MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via echolink.

Other Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 147.12MHz, +600KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2Hz
- 70cm Repeater 442.35MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

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| <p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p> | <p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p> | <p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p> | <p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p> |
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| <p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p> | <p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: April 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April 7th @ 11:30am Siren Test: April 2nd @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: April 9th @ 8:30am</p> |
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