



FEEDBACK

January 2016

Equipment to Sell or Swap?

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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FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs

January 8, 2017

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The FCC recently dismissed two petitions from amateur radio operators for changes to the licensing system (see the ARRL bulletin below). One of them asked the FCC to make all Novices Technician Class licensees, all Advanceds Extra Class licensees, and then eliminate the Novice and Advanced license classes. The second asked the FCC to allow Advanced Class licensees to operate CW in the portions of the HF bands that are currently restricted to Extra Class licensees.

Personally, I wouldn't be against making all Novices Techs. While I have worked some Novices, my guess is that 99.9% of them are inactive and giving them Tech privileges isn't going to make much of a difference. Many current Extra Class licensees, especially those that actually passed the 20 wpm code test, would probably oppose the second petition, but again, I don't think that had it been approved it would have made much of a difference.

Jeff, KE9V, opined on Twitter:

[Jeff Davis @ke9v](https://twitter.com/ke9v)

Anyone recall the last time the FCC sided with a petition from a radio ham? <http://www.arrl.org/News/view/6185> via [#arrl](https://twitter.com/arrl) [#hamradio](https://twitter.com/hamradio)

I certainly don't, but it seems to me that most of the petitions submitted by hams—and not the ARRL—are not all that well considered. For example, while it might make sense for Advanceds to be elevated to Extra, the petition does not take into account that this was already considered—and rejected—when the rules were changed in 1999.

Also, is it really such a big chore to pass the Extra test? It does take some effort, but it's not like getting an engineering degree, and with all the resources now available online, it's not too much to ask. Before I upgraded to Extra, I used to joke that I wanted to be the last living Advanced Class licensee in the U.S. As a result of this decision, those that currently hold Advanced tickets still have that chance.



Editor's Note:

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



SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB002
ARLB002 FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs
ZCZC AG02
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 6, 2017
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB002
ARLB002 FCC Dismisses Two Petitions from Radio Amateurs

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. James Edwin Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class. In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by Amateur Extra class licensees.

“Thus, Mr. Siegell’s proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals,” the FCC said in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes – Technician, General, and Amateur Extra – in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

“The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills,” the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. It specifically rejected suggestions that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to “receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements.” The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

The FCC said the two petitions “do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions.

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice

Dues are Due!

Club membership dues for 2017 are due. Yearly dues are \$10.00, with \$1.00 for each additional family member. It's the best bargain in town, and the funds raised help to sustain our club activities, such as upkeep of our repeaters.

Dues may be paid in-person at the club meeting, at the Christmas Party, or mailed to:

SMARS
P.O Box 934
Battle Creek, MI 49016

We thank you for your continued support of SMARS!

and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission's costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists. "Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said.

"The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes," the FCC said. "Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rulemaking do not warrant further consideration at this time.

NNNN
/EX

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Great Lakes HamCon at Michigan International Speedway!

We have received confirmation from ARRL Section Manager Larry Camp, WB8R, that Club Affiliation Agreements are being sent to the clubs that have offered up their assistance with the October 7-8, 2017 HamCon at MIS in Brooklyn, Michigan.

Those who are interested in making private donations to help with the initial funding of the event may do so by check payable to the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association. Additional forms for donations will be provided to our club membership at our next meeting on January 19, 2017.

We extend our thanks to Larry Camp, WB8R, and the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association for the efforts they have put forth to make this event a reality.

SMARS Meeting Minutes 12/15/2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Tom WR8G.

Secretary's report was accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2017 – Vendors have been sent email notifications of the Hamfest.

SKYWARN:

No meetings will be held Dec/Jan/Feb.

VE session: Coming up Dec 22nd at 7:00 at Maple United Methodist Church.

Old Business:

A reminder that the SMARS Christmas Party is Saturday December 17th beginning at 6:00 pm. Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange should bring a gift labeled as "For a Lady" or "For a Man." A \$10-20 limit is suggested for gift exchange. The 50/50 cash drawing will also be held that evening.

Smokey N5MKY provided an update as to the Michigan Parks on the Air event. The preferred setup location at Fort Custer would be the Overlook and dates of operation would be May 5, 6, and 7, 2017. He will follow up with the park next week on securing a use permit and activation kits for the event.

Meeting adjourned ~ 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Williams, N8QC

Board Meeting 01/03/2017

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Tom WR8G.
Others present: Smokey N5MKY, John W8JRD.

Called to order at 17:04.

Christmas Party – All who attended agreed that it was a wonderful success. Thanks to Steph for setting it up.

MSPOTA – Smokey has downloaded a new registration form from MSP and has filled it out. The only thing we are missing is the proof of insurance coverage. Jan is going to forward all information she has on file to Steph so the investigation can continue. Rick N8RCF has agreed to be the Safety Officer and will submit an existing safety plan as soon as it can be found. He is looking for the report filed for the SKYWARN Hamcamp from several years ago.

Hamfest – Tom wishes to send out snail mail invitations to vendors who have addresses on file but no emails. This will require postage reimbursement. The board agreed to provide those funds. The letters should be sent out soon. It was also suggested that we remove the address lines from next year's ticket stub; with call sign on stub, we can determine address, if needed. Besides, very few attendees take the time to fill out that line anyway.

Field Day – It is too early to get into great discussion at this time, however, it was agreed that we will order smaller portions of the catered food for Saturday night.

Membership – Membership rolls show that membership is down from last year. Tom would like to send emails to those who have lapsed memberships to see if they will come back to the club.

The church has agreed to extend our contract for the next 6 months, their standard period for rental, and the board agreed to submit payment for same. The church is quite pleased with our use as we have always left the rooms in clean shape after all our meetings. Thanks to all

Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves to warm up during these cold, winter days? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

North American QSO Party, CW - 1/14/2017
www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Hungarian DX Contest – 1/21-1/22/2017
www.ha-dx.com/HADX

North American QSO Party, SSB – 1/21-1/22/2017
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

ARRL January VHF Contest - 1/21- 1/23/2017
<http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW – 12/18/2016
www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Montana QSO Party – 1/28/2017
fvarc.org

Winter Field Day - 1/28/2017 – 1/29/2017
winterfieldday.com/rules.html

Vermont QSO Party – 2/04-2/05/2017
<http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html>

10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB
2/04 – 2/05/2017
<http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Minnesota QSO Party – 2/04–2/05/2017
<http://www.w0aa.org/>

*A more thorough listing of January 2017 Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page Contest Calendar, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

members for maintaining a professional attitude.

NOTE: To accommodate two current board members, future board meetings will begin at 5:30 instead of the standard 5:00 time. The newsletter will be updated to indicate this change.

Meeting adjourned at 17:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Ham Humor



Courtesy of qrz.com

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, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p> | <p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p> |
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| <p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p> | <p>Upcoming Events: BLB Luncheon: Jan. 5th @ 11:30am SMARS Breakfast: Jan. 14th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: Jan. 19th @ 7:00pm *Board Meeting: Feb. 7th @ 5:30pm Coney Island Cafe, 962 Capital Ave NE SMARS Breakfast: Feb. 11th @ 8:30am</p> <p>*Note the change in the meeting time (effective February 7, 2017)</p> |
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