

# The Paper QSO



February 2007

## Meetings

Set your calendar for Thursday, February 15th at 7:00pm. This month's meeting will be held at the McKean County Emergency Management Agency Office on Route 6 about 1 mile south of

Smethport, PA.

This month's meeting topic will be on emergency communications and a drill that McKean County Emergency Management Agency Director, Steve Nelson, has requested amateur radio participation.



Information on the drill will be discussed at the meeting.

Photo-ID pictures will be taken of those amateurs who register to participate in emergency communications.

March's meeting will be a presentation on the ARRL's new PR campaign for 2007 and how our club will be participating.

We are planning a Skywarn presentation for our Aprils meeting. An invitation will be sent to other community organizations and volunteers such as Red Cross Disaster Volunteers and Boy Scouts to attend the Skywarn training session.

## No Morse Code

The FCC made it official in January, Morse Code will not be required for any amateur radio license class. Amateur radio operators being tested after midnight of February 22nd will no longer be required to pass the Morse Code exam for a license class upgrade.

That doesn't mean that amateurs holding valid CSCE's will get an automatic upgrade on February 23rd. They will need to do a paper upgrade at a VE session after midnight of February 22nd.

Some amateur radio operators have mistakenly been operating in the HF bands prior to doing the paper upgrade.

The ARRL sent out a bulletin explaining this which we have copied on page 2 of this newsletter.

## Club News

If you haven't completed a renewal application for your club membership and sent in your dues for 2007, please use the enclosed form. Please send that with your dues to our club PO Box.

We had a VE Session on Tuesday, February 6th. We had three new hams earn their Technician license and had 8 people pass their General Class written exams.

We have a Technician license class being held at the Red Cross Chapter House in Bradford on Saturday and Sunday, February 17th & 18th.

## VE Testing

The next ARRL VE session will be held on Friday, February 23rd at 7pm and at the American Red Cross Chapter at 302 Congress Street, Bradford, PA.

We will offer the Technician, General and Amateur Extra written exams.

The exam is \$14.00.



Candidates will need to bring with them:

- Two forms of ID, one being a photo ID.
- Licensed hams will need to bring their original license with a copy of their license
- Those with Certificates of Successful Completion (CSCE) being used for credit will need to bring the original copy of each CSCE plus a copy of each CSCE being used for upgrading.
- Calculator for math problems
- Two pencils and a pen.

Although, we'd like people to let us know in advance that they plan on attending, walk-ins are certainly welcome.

## *No Code-Free Upgrades Until February 23rd*

Code-free upgrades to General or Amateur Extra will not be available at volunteer examination sessions until the 5 WPM Morse code requirement disappears from the FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules on February 23. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that, judging from the questions he's been getting, many in the amateur community -- including some Volunteer Examiners (VEs) -- don't fully understand the new rules that resulted from the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235. He stresses that VE teams may not accept upgrade applications in advance of February 23, then hold the paperwork.

"There will be no instant midnight upgrades February 23 for applicants advancing to General or Amateur Extra," Henderson explains. "You must make application." He further advises that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) valid for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit does not confer any operating privileges and, lacking Morse code credit, is no good for an upgrade until the new rules become effective.

"Anyone holding or earning a valid CSCE for element credit must wait until February 23 to redeem it at a volunteer examination session," he says. "You may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade." A CSCE is

good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

Henderson further emphasizes that those who qualified as Technician licensees under the examination regime in place from March 21, 1987, until April 15, 2000, do not get General class Element 3 credit on that basis. That's because the "old" Element 3 is not the same as the current Element 3.

Applicants upgrading at a test session on or after February 23 on the basis of a valid CSCE must present the certificate for element credit, fill out an application and pay any applicable exam session fee, which most VECs charge. Between now and then, Henderson points out, upgrade applicants still have the option of passing the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test in addition to the General or Amateur Extra written tests.

Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination automatically gain new privileges on February 23 without having to apply at an exam session.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, [www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/](http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/).

# MCARC Club Info

Club Address: McKean County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 107, Bradford, PA 16701  
 Internet Address: w3vv @ mcarc.net  
 Web site: www.mcarc.net

Club Call: W3VV

Club Officers: President - Bill Edgar N3LLR  
 Vice President—David Higgs K3WL  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Chris Mincemoyer KB3GGP

Newsletter Editor: Bill Edgar N3LLR

Club meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the Bradford Area Public Library on West Washington Street in Bradford, PA. Meetings start promptly at 7:00PM and end at 8:30PM.

VE testing held the 1st Tuesday of even months at the American Red Cross Chapterhouse at 302 Congress Street in Bradford. VE Sessions held promptly at 7:00PM.

Club repeater: 146.850 -

**McKean County Amateur Radio Club - W3VV  
Membership/Renewal Application**

Name	Call Sign
Street	License Class
City, State, Zip	Home Phone
County	Work Phone
Email Address	

- |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ARRL<br><input type="checkbox"/> ARES<br><input type="checkbox"/> RACES<br><input type="checkbox"/> Skywarn<br><input type="checkbox"/> Army Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> Navy Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Mars<br><input type="checkbox"/> VE |
|--|

***Please check the appropriate memberships***

The McKean County Amateur Radio Club is an affiliated club of the ARRL. As a club member, you may join or renew your ARRL membership at a savings in price through our club.

**Full Membership** - An applicant must hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License.

**Associate Membership** - Persons interested in amateur radio. Have all rights of club members except to vote and to hold office.

Please check where appropriate:

- Full McKean County Amateur Radio Club Membership..... \$13.00
- For additional non-student members in the same household..... 10.00
- Students attending school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade..... 8.00
- Associate Membership ..... 13.00
- Retired members ..... 10.00
- Initiation fee for new members, and reinstated members after lapsed membership..... 10.00
- Donation per household to Repeater Maintenance:..... 15.00

Total:

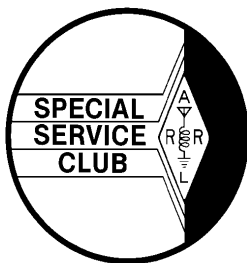
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*I, hereby, make an application to join the McKean County Amateur Radio Club and agree to follow the rules & regulations of the club with respect to the club property and equipment.*

Signed	Dated
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Make checks payable to: **McKean County ARC** and mail it with this form to:  
 McKean County ARC  
 PO Box 107  
 Bradford, PA 16701

McKean County Amateur  
Radio Club  
PO Box 107  
Bradford, PA 16701



**In This Issue...**

**Membership dues for 2007 are now due.**

### *March 2007 QST Magazine to be a Real “Keeper”*

The ARRL Headquarters staff has put together a special edition of the QST magazine. This edition will have an 8-page pullout section.

Norm Fusaro W3IZM ARRL Affiliated Club and Mentor Program Manager has an article “Time to Pick up our Sleeves and Mentor!” Norm boils amateur radio recruitment to four basics, Invite! Inform! Inspire! Involve! His article does an excellent job of explaining.

Maria Somma AB1FM, ARRL VEC Department Manager, talks about what it takes to earn your first license and what it takes to upgrade your license class.

Rick Lindquist N1RL, ARRL Senior News Editor, has an article, “Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code.” Just because Morse Code isn’t a license requirement any longer, does not mean that CE is dead or even on it’s deathbed. If you have any doubts, just ask Bruce Manning NJ3K!

Dave Patton NN1N, ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager, has an article, “Qualify for Ham

Radio Awards Instantaneously—with LoTW. LoTW is ARRL’s Logbook of The World which is a database that amateurs can upload their QSO contacts and then match up QSL information much more quickly than exchanging QSL cards.

Steve Ford WB8IMY, QST Editor, has an article, “Which HF Transceiver is Right for You?” Steve goes into the basics of acquiring an HF radio.

Two more pages that are worth their weight in gold are: “The Considerate Operators Frequency Guide”, which breaks the bands down into band plans and what mode should be attempted in what frequency areas. The last page is a full color frequency chart for US amateur radio operators for the bands effective on February 23, 2007.

In addition to this being printed in the QST, a PDF file will be placed in the ARRL website that will be downloadable by anyone and distributable for anyone wishing to have a copy.