



TARC Groundwire Newsletter

September 01, 2009
Published Monthly

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX



Morse Code?

The recent survey we performed yielded some very helpful information, but I found one particular result very curious and quite unexpected. Of the almost 30 respondents, 60% indicated an interest in learning Morse code. Huh [head scratching]? What's up with that [shoulder shrugging]? I was totally surprised by this result!

Personally, I have had a brief and not too successful past with Morse code. Janet and I were studying Morse code after my passing the General class element 3 exam. The FCC announced on December 15, 2006 that it intended to adopt rule changes which would eliminate the Morse code requirement for amateur operator licenses [Footnote 1] and soon thereafter announced that the effective date of the new rules was announced as February 23, 2007. We stopped studying.

I still fancy the magic and mystical Morse code, however, and there is no doubt that it is useful. Aside from typical QSOs, how about the following uses:

- Score more point at Field Day & other contests!
- I'd love to understand the ID of repeaters I've stumbled upon when they ID in Morse code
- I frequently follow Janet home evenings and I need a way to reminder her to turn her radio on
- I occasionally need a way to communicate with Janet while sitting together in a quiet setting (church, meeting, etc.)
- I've come across an application for the iPhone that lets you use Morse code in lieu of the touch screen keyboard to type text messages by simulating a single key or iambic paddles. You can enter your message without having to look at the screen! See <http://iditdahertext.com/iDitDahText.html>. I haven't installed it yet, since it requires a "jailbroken" phone, but I think I would dearly love this application.
- Any more uses?

We've all heard of the motto "*When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works.*" I propose this corollary... let's call it the Rose corollary in honor of our fine club's hometown... "*When all other modes fail, CW works.*" Morse code is the "language" that is most frequently used in the CW mode. Morse code has roots at the very beginning of our hobby when technological limitations mandated its use. As ham radio matured, other modes became in vogue, such as phone and the various digital modes. Don't forget that Morse



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code in CW mode is the "original digital mode!"

OK, enough preaching! What do we do about the survey results? It appears that we have sufficient interest in learning Morse code to warrant further consideration by the club. How do we teach it? Over the air? Via the repeater? Simplex? Classroom? We have some very capable Morse code operators in the club as resources... perhaps they can teach?

Suggestions welcome!

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1. In 2003, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ratified changes to the Radio Regulations to allow each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code. The effect of this revision was to eliminate the international requirement that a person demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio operator license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. With this change of international rules, the FCC announced on December 15, 2006 that it intended to adopt rule changes which would eliminate the Morse code requirement for amateur operator licenses. Shortly thereafter, the effective date of the new rules was announced as February 23, 2007.

Until next month...

73,
Mark W5MCT



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NEW MEMBERS / LICENSE UPGRADES

Elaine Jackson KF5CNN Technician
Todd Gamel KF5CBG General
Jessica Cook KF5CNL Technician & General
Victor Cook KF5CNM Technician & General
Congratulations to all!



TARC MONTHLY MEETING INFO / UPCOMING EVENTS

The Tyler Amateur Radio Club meets every third Thursday of every month at the Shiloh Road Church Of Christ at Shiloh and Paluxy - Tyler, TX at 7:00 p.m. Club meetings are open to all interested persons, ham and non-ham alike, regardless of club membership.
A FREE DRAWING is held each meeting for a Ham related item. You must be present to win.



HAMFEST INFO

11-12 Sep 2009 *	Delta Division Convention Queen Wilhelmina Hamfest Association http://qwha.org Talk-In: 146.79 (PL 100) Contact: Larry Rogers, N5BRD 2316 Old Hardscrabble Road Greenwood, AR 72936 Phone: 479-996-9674 Email: n5brd@centurytel.net	Mena, AR Queen Wilhelmina State Park 3877 Highway 88 West Div: Delta Sect: Arkansas
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VE TESTING INFO

VE testing is conducted on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM at the American Red Cross building on Rieck Road in Tyler, Texas unless otherwise changed for special reasons, such as holidays. Listen to the TARC net each week @ 8:00 PM Monday, on the 147.000 repeater for any necessary changes. Mac McGraw, AE5FH is the Contact VE contact. His e-mail is bnmcgraw@suddenlink.net His phone Number is 903-839-7916.



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ITEMS FOR SALE

The TARC Webmaster, KD5KIZ, Gaylen Gage has provided a "For Sale" link on the website.
Please visit www.tylerarc.org/forsale.htm

TARC WEEKLY NET

The Tyler Amateur Radio Club also conducts a weekly net on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 147.00 MHz repeater, - offset and 88.5 tone. The net is open to all licensed hams regardless of club membership.

Good repeater info for new Techs: www.hamuniverse.com/repeater.html

CURRENT TARC OFFICERS – 2009/2010

President	Mark Taylor	W5MCT
Vice President	Art Sharp	K5LXK
Secretary/Treasurer	Alan Luce	KE5RFR
Goundwire Editor		
Board Member/Net Control Chairman	Don Simonton	K5LOW
Board Member	Clif Sherrod	KD5UCY

TARC WEBSITE LINK

www.Tylerarc.org

ARRL WEBSITE LINK

www.arrl.org

LICENSE PRACTICE TEST WEBSITE

www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl

CONTEST WEBSITE LINK

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

FROM THE EDITOR – ALAN LUCE - KE5RFR



TX QSO Party Info

Date: 26th & 27th of September



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TARC encourages all members to participate individually or as teams. TARC will not have a club-sponsored operating station, but will have a club meet'n'greet at the Hickory Fare on Gentry Parkway at 12:00 noon on Saturday...

If interested, please go to the following website for rules and more information: <http://txqp.net/>

73'

Alan – KE5RFR