JARS Bandspread

Meetings
Aug. 4, 1998
Sept. 1, 1998
Meetings will be at Wareco
Training Center on East Morton Ave.

OFFICERS
President     Larry Spoon      KB9KRK
Vice-President   Tim Childers     KB9FBI
Secretary           Vince Berkman  W9OES
Treasurer            John Adcock     N9WJL
Directors
Margo Gilmore  KB9KHP
Kaye Green        KB9KHQ
Mike Mayberry WB9RNY

World Friendship Through Amateur Radio
Jacksonville Amateur Radio Society

Address
Jacksonville, IL 62650
773 East College Ave.
c/o Tim Childers KB9FBI
J.A.R.S. Inc. Newsletter
ARRL Proposes Simplified Amateur License Structure

The ARRL Board has agreed to propose a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board’s meeting July 16-18 led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs’ operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options including both smaller and larger numbers of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed. Following the meeting ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

Members are urged to contact their ARRL directors to comment on this proposal. E-mail addresses are on page 10 of any issue of QST. Members also may comment on the proposal via the ARRLWeb site, http://www.arrl.org or via e-mail at restruxarrl.org.
JARS Elections

Elections were held and the new officers for 1998-1999 are:

President       Larry Spoon     KB9KRK
Vice-President   Tim Childers    KB9FBI
Secretary        Vince Berkman   W9OES
Treasurer        John Adcock     N9WJL

Directors for 1998-1999 are:
Margo Gilmore    KB9KHP
Kaye Green       KB9KHQ
Mike Mayberry    WB9RNY

40th Anniversary

The ICOM Funmobile, a specially equipped RV with the latest amateur radio gear, is touring the USA and making stops in major cities. Because the JARS is celebrating its 40th anniversary, ICOM has agreed to stop in Jacksonville on Thursday, August 13th from 5 to 11 P.M. to help us celebrate. This gives us a unique opportunity to spotlight the club and mark our 40th anniversary at the same time.

We will have the ICOM Funmobile set up near the Ferris Wheel in Community Park at the corner of South Main and Morton Ave. All of the surrounding amateur radio clubs have been invited to come celebrate with us and tour the Funmobile. We are having flyers printed for information about the JARS that will be handed out at an information booth. The Rotary Club has agreed to run the Ferris Wheel from 6 to 8 P.M. We will be selling pork chop sandwiches as well as 40 cent hot dogs and soda. A DJ service will be providing music for the evening. We hope to get a city official out and present them with the new sign that will be placed with the signs of other civic organizations on the fence.

Come and help us celebrate!

Hamfest Calendar

August 1  Macoupin County ARC, Carlinville, IL
       Tim Jones, KA9VIV 217-627-2355
August 8  Western Illinois ARC, Quincy, IL
J         Jim Funk, N9JF PO Box 3132, Quincy, IL 62305-3132
         217-336-4191 E-mail: jfunk@adams.net
         http://scribers.midwest.net/bcrocket/swapfest.htm
August 23 St. Charles ARC, St. Charles, MO
         Dirk Bremer, KC0BZV 314-947-4220
         E-mail: dirk@myself.com
August 30 Vermilion County ARA, Danville, IL
         Gary Denison, KA9SKS 14704 East 2750 North Rd., Danville,
         IL 61834-5610  217-759-7389 E-mail: gdenison@danville.net
August 30 Tri-County Radio Group, Woodstock, IL
         Bob Grosse, N9KXG PO Box 3107, Skokie, IL 60077-6107
         708-944-0500 E-mail: TCRG@quality-enterprises.com
         http://quality-enterprises.com/TCRG/
September 12 W9DXCC Convention, Rolling Meadows, IL
         Bill Smith, W9VA 1345 Linden Ave., Deerfield, IL 60015
         847-945-1564 E-mail: w9va@aol.com
         http://www.qth.com/w9dxcc
September 13 Bolingbrook ARS, Joliet, IL
         Gary Hansen, N9GH Box 1009, Bolingbrook, IL 60490
         630-759-4955 http://www.axnet.com/united/bars.htm
September 19-20 Peoria Area ARC, Peoria, IL
         Jim Williams, N9HHU Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3508
         309-692-3378 Fax: 309-698-8643
         E-mail: jimeoc@worldnet.att.net http://www.w9uvi.org
September 26-27 Chicago FM Club, Grayslake, IL
         Mike Brost, WA9FTS 5127 North Monterey Ave., Norridge,
         IL 60656-3245 708-457-0966 http://www.chicagofmclub.org
NASA has scuttled plans to include the Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload aboard STS-95 this fall. That’s the flight that will carry US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space. Five schools, four in the US and one in Japan, had been tentatively lined up for Amateur Radio schedules to talk with the shuttle crew during the highly publicized October mission. Glenn, the first astronaut to orbit Earth, will be 77 when he returns to space later this year.

NASA flight managers also removed nine other "secondary" payloads because of time constraints on the already-busy mission. NASA expressed regret at having to drop the educational SAREX payload.

Two hams--US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain--will be among the international crew aboard STS-95.

"We’re really disappointed," said ARRL Educational Activities Department Manager and SAREX Working Group Member Rosalie White, WA1STO. The Glenn flight had generated a good deal of enthusiasm within the ham radio community. Schools to be included had only recently been notified that they would be on the list. White said the US schools involved now will be first in line for consideration on future missions, such as STS-93 early next year and the International Space Station.

Future shuttle missions are heavily loaded with activities involving construction of the ISS. Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, the commander of STS-93, is said to be enthusiastic about the possibility of including SAREX on her flight. Amateur Radio also is an official payload aboard the International Space Station.