

IN-SERVICE



Summer

Volume 89

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AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

Helping Others Get Their License Helps Us, Too

One thing is clear: Amateur Radio as well as ASCRA need a continuous influx of new members to maintain viability. Therefore, one of our highest priorities is to attract new members to Amateur Radio; and in so doing, provide an opportunity to attract them to ASCRA as well. One way we can attract new members to Amateur Radio is by helping them get their first ticket, or upgrading if they are already licensed. Elsewhere in this InService, you can read about one such activity to license new Amateur Radio operators. Terry Redding, W6LMJ, organized and conducted an Amateur Radio licensing class during this year's Spectacular at Graceland University. The teaching format was a mix of practice tests and presentation to cover the required material. On the second-to-last day of Spec, we administered an ARRL/VEC test session. Out of the group of four individuals who took the actual test, one passed Element 2 to earn a Technician Class license.

Since 1983, all Amateur Radio license exams have been conducted by Volunteer Examiners (VEs), operating under the aegis of one of fourteen Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). A VEC is an organization that has entered into an agreement with the Federal Communications Commission to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for Amateur Radio licenses. VEs are individuals accredited by a VEC, and are the people who actually administer the exams. Examination sessions must be coordinated by a VEC, but are conducted by VEs.

ARRL/VEC is one of the VECs. Becoming a VE for ARRL/VEC is easy. The first step is to download the ARRL Volunteer Examiners Manual. The manual is available in several formats at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/>. If you have trouble downloading and printing the whole manual, you can try the "elephant cutlet" approach. The vemmanual page contains links to the Table of Contents and front pages, each of the seven chapters, two appendices, and an index. These are PDF files, so you can use the free reader to view and print them. The manual is about 80 pages altogether.

The next step is to complete a Volunteer Examiner Application Form and Open-Book Review. These forms are among the front pages of the manual. (If you are currently accredited with – and have participated in – another VEC program, you are not required to complete the Open-Book Review. In this case you may simply attach a copy of your other VEC credentials and a copy of your current amateur license to the application form.)

The Application Form and Open-Book Review (if required) are faxed to the ARRL/VEC in Newington, CT. Within a few days, you will be notified of the status of your application.

Once you are accredited as a VE, and receive your credentials from the ARRL/VEC, you can participate in any ARRL/VEC-coordinated examination session.

At a minimum, ARRL/VEC-coordinated examination sessions require the participation of three VEs, called the VE Team. One of the VEs is the VE Team Liaison. This is the person to whom the ARRL/VEC will send all the confidential test materials for a particular exam session. Each VE assists with the grading and various paperwork duties of an examination session.

When and where can classes and VEC coordinated examination sessions be done? The answer is anytime and anywhere. You may have read about Terry Redding's class at Spectacular. For the 2005 Winter Term at Graceland University, I will also be conducting an amateur radio licensing class, including a test session. Hamfests and conventions are another opportunity. Perhaps your local high school or community college would love to have a volunteer instructor. I encourage you to organize local classes and VE Teams in your area.

Seeing the light "come on" for a student in a class, or seeing an individual pass examination for a new license or upgrade is truly a rewarding experience you will not want to miss! No matter where or when you conduct classes and examination sessions, you will not only be helping others to get their Amateur Radio license, but you will be helping to invigorate ASCRA as well. If you would like to organize a class or an examination session in your area, and would like to talk through the process with someone, please feel free to contact me. I am available by email at farnham@grm.net and by telephone at 641-784-7377.

73 de kgØii

Bob Farnham, President of ASCRA

SPECTACULAR RADIO CLASSES

As mentioned elsewhere by Bob Farnham, KGØII, conducting amateur radio classes helps those seeking a license while it also helps us.

This is the second year we have conducted an amateur radio class during Spectacular at Graceland University. The first year we had one student, and he acquired a license. This year we had two students in the class, and two adult staff members joined them for the testing. One staff member and one student have licensed as a result of the class.

At first glance it seems like a lot of work to license one or two new hams. But when you realize that these individuals are being licensed in just one week, instead of a more common seven week format - one or two students in a week is pretty good. It compares to 7 or 14 in a seven week period. And these are individuals very likely to be future members of ASCRA.

Bob Farnham and Steve Murdock made the whole process more enjoyable by being there as needed. Indeed, whenever a "real" explanation was needed for how radios or antennas worked a certain way I could count on Bob to have a complete answer. I like to draw pictures - but Bob can do the math.

To date Barry Lewis and Leslie Lytle have passed their exams as a result of the course. Barry tells me he has wanted to be a ham since he was 10 years old. Now he is and he is tickled - to say the least. Leslie tells me her father is the president of the local amateur radio club and one who often has to work on Sundays. He doesn't know she passed - and she hopes to surprise him by calling him on the air with her new call when it arrives. Great fun. Leslie also indicates she is looking forward to "working" ASCRA on the 20 meter net.

Next year at the International Spectacular - with campers coming to Graceland from all over the world - I am hoping we can license four to eight new hams.

73 - Terry - W6LMJ

ADJUSTING THE ROTOR

This picture was taken during Spectacular 2004.

One afternoon, following class Bob Farnham, KGØII and Terry Redding, W6LMJ decided to adjust the rotor control to ensure the index on the rotor control box indicated the correct direction for the antenna. Bob climbed the tower while Terry snapped a few photographs of him on the tower, and the tower and antenna on the science building roof.

Using 2 meter handi-talkies, Bob was able to loosen the antenna clamps, then Terry turned the rotor to match the antenna's actual direction, and then Bob tightened the antenna clamps again. The whole process took about 20 minutes.

Terry, W6LMJ

Note: After Spectacular was over, a worker accidentally loosened one of the guy wires to this tower and the tower was hit by a wind that blew it over. Repairs are being planned.

THANKS DICK

Chuck Palmer (NØONN) would like to thank Dick Smith (WAØNBY) for the loan of the ICOM HF radio, and Michael Hahn (KGØXU) for prompting to get Dick's equipment back on the air. Chuck joined the ASCRA Net from his home QTH for the 1st time on July 18th, 2004 using Dick's IC-730.

Once the correct antenna cable was identified, the signals from Terry Redding (W6LMJ) from West Palm Beach, FL to Ernie Miles (WB2UJL) in Apalachin, NY came booming in to Chuck's Independence, MO location. Chuck's QTH is just a couple of blocks S.W. of the Auditorium. A 3-to-1 switch has been inserted inline to facilitate the switching between a 3 element beam, a G5RV inverted V, and a Butternut HF6V Six Band vertical. The next enhancement may be a swap of the 3 element beam for a 5 element beam.

Chuck Palmer, NØONN

ON THE AIR AGAIN

Melvin Francis can get on the air again on 2M and HF from his new location in Independence, MO. His son and daughter-in-law ran into Jennifer Palmer, their daughter's Zion League leader when she was in high school. Jennifer is also the XYL of Chuck Palmer, NØONN. They mentioned Melvin had just recently been in the hospital in June so they ran the coax for his new ham shack.

They didn't know how to set up the equipment and Melvin didn't have the strength to set up his equipment in the ham shack. Jennifer suggested Chuck could drop by and set up the equipment. The attached picture is Melvin sitting in his new ham shack at 4326 S. Milton in Independence, MO.

The neighborhood has antenna restrictions, so Melvin has an inverted V in his garage. The Ringo Rander was too tall for the garage, so Chuck loaned him a mag mount for the 2M band, and placed it on top of the upright deep freezer. Hopefully we will be able to hear Melvin on the Sunday afternoon ASCRA HF net on 14.287 Mhz at 3:30 PM Central Time, or on the local ASCRA 2M frequency.

Chuck Palmer, NØONN

SILENT KEY – WB7PPP

Many of us remember WB7-Papa-Papa-Papa, George Kendall from the 20-meter net and from other associations. I received a message earlier today from Thad Wilson that his mentor "George passed away on Friday, July 2nd of complications related to diabetes." (You may remember Thad when he lived in Honduras.) Thad continues, "George was on air with ASCRA almost every Sunday afternoon until about 6 months ago when he entered a nursing home. He was 92 years young when he died. The family is asking that any donations be made to Outreach International - another love of George's. Our prayers go out to Althea and other family and friends in their time of need."

Bob Farnham, kgØii

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY CLUB

For those of you who have never seen, or have not recently seen the Graceland University Club Station, the following picture showing the equipment may be of interest. The station has a modern transceiver, power supply, automatic antenna tuner, rotor control, and HF linear amplifier.

The entire station is mounted on a small desk with wheels. This permits the station to be stored away from the classroom. However, when needed it can be placed in the classroom in the most appropriate location, whether front, side, or back of the classroom.

The antenna feeds and rotor control lines come down from the roof through conduit to a wall unit inside the classroom. The wall unit has a lock, and is large enough to store the rotor control line and coax feed when not in use.

Terry, W6LMJ

20M NET CHECK-INS

I have the following checkins for the 20M net from 4/30/04 to 8/1/04 at 3:30PM CST, Sunday on 14.287 MHZ. Complain if I left you out, sorry I missed you.

Ernie Miles, WB2UJL

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NØAIX, Larry Reagan  
KØAUY, Larry Hiatt  
WAØDVU, David Tickmyer  
NØELM, Fred Troeh  
WØFEN, Robin Cross  
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrar  
KAØOKI, John Nihart  
WØSHQ, Auditorium, Robin operator  
KØWTU, Joseph Mangum  
NØXTR, Jean Cox  
WØYO, Graceland, W6LMJ & KG0II operators  
NØYYW, Tom Lindberg  
  
VE2IQB, Bernard Wolkove  
WB2WLD, Leon Selman  
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles  
VK3AQN, Fred Naylor  
VE3RZ, Anthony Osman  
W3HXH, Dick Weaver  
  
KF4MGG, Joshua Pope  
KG4YXC, Michael Cehand  
  
WB5BRD, Ray Hooper  
W5FLW, Matthew Jones  
WB5HUF, Hugh Boswell  
DL5MC, Helmit  
K5RY, Tom Alexander  
KD5WPP, Emile Anderson  
  
KI6DL, Dennis Lenning  
W6MPD, Harry De Biddle  
N7CAV, Loren Cobb  
WA7TBP, Tom Needham  
  
N8NVI, Nawas Bahhur  
K8QA, Mike Oiler  
KB8QDX, Ernie Kyser  
KC8RUR, Camp Greilick Boy Scout Camp  
  
WB9JLD, Barney Bindler  
WB9PEV, Moses Jones  
  
NØAQA, Ginni Reagan  
NØBGG, Larry Oiler  
KCØEHH, Dale Schultz  
WØF, Gary Tickmyer  
WAØFGW, Randy Bronson  
NØIPR, Dave Krueger  
NØONN, Chuck Palmer  
KFØSJ, John Morgan  
KBØUZR, Steve Lassila  
KGØXU, Michael Hahn  
  
N2RRA, Eric Cuevas  
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher  
WA2WZU, John Lombardo  
W3HEN, John Seither  
VE3SCP, Scott Price  
  
KG4MWO, David Mitchell  
  
N5ECP, Jeff Salmons  
W5HKY, Barbara Redding  
N5LCL, Dave Gates  
N5MV, Mike Anderson  
K5WPN, Wade Norris  
KC5YYT, Sarahlynn Redding  
  
W6LMJ, Terry Redding  
W6RWH, Hale Collins  
K7NCG, Jim Fish  
KA7VMA, Dick Wynes  
  
WD8POA, Ron Kramer  
W8QK, Muirl Robinson  
  
KC9GF, Ed Deutsch  
WA9YWK, Keith Peterson

## LITTLE TARHEEL MOBILE ANTENNA

A few of us within ASCRA have a passion for operating HF mobile. Michael, KGØXU quickly comes to mind, and so does David, N5LCL. For those of us interested in mobile HF operations the antenna is always an issue.

I have used a Hustler mobile antenna, as well as Yasue, Ham Sticks, and more recently Comet antennas. One thing true about all of them is that tuning is critical. Some provide more bandwidth, others less. Most work well on 10 meters, but are less efficient on lower bands, and as you move from the resonant point on each band, they become increasingly less efficient.

On 80 meters you are lucky if the usable bandwidth is 25 Khz either side of the resonant point. On 40 meters the usable bandwidth doubles. It doubles again on 20 meters, and it is possible to work nearly 200 Khz, but with less efficiency as you move from the resonant point. The mobile antennas are never very efficient even at resonance, about half as good as a dipole. So, if moving just a short distance in frequency reduces the efficiency further, the change can have a dramatic effect on one's ability to make and maintain contacts.

In the past, if you wanted to maintain efficiency, you had to stop the car to change antennas, or retune the antenna for the new frequency. Only a few antennas, like the Comet, permitted operating on more than one band. But changing frequency away from the resonant point continued to be a problem.

The Little Tarheel II mounted on my PT Cruiser solves those problems. The picture shows the little Tarheel II mounted on a ball mount on the rear quarter panel above the gas filler. To mount the antenna took drilling a sizable hole through the body of the vehicle and a smaller hole for the power and control. A control line passes through the small hole and is routed to a control switch that allows the operator to change the frequency of the antenna. The Little Tarheel II covers 40 through 6 meters. It works well. Numerous reports attest to that fact. And it can handle up to 500 watts – which means my lunch allowance is being hoarded in order to pay for one of those in a few months.

I do miss the instant band change associated with the small comet HF antenna. But I don't miss the other antennas with their requirement to stop the car to effect a band change.

Terry - W6LMJ

Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs, Inc.  
Request for Nominations to the Board of Directors  
for the 2005-2006 term.

The following current board members serving until 2005 are NOT eligible to be nominated:

Hale Collins, W6RWH  
Terry Redding, W6LMJ

David Gates, N5LCL  
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT

Muir Robinson, W8QK  
Fred Troeh, NØELM

All other members including the following directors whose terms are expiring are eligible for nomination:

Robin Cross, WØFEN  
Ernie Miles, WB2UJL

Bob Farnham, KGØII  
Chuck Palmer, NØONN

Michael Hahn, KGØXU  
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX

You may make up to six nominations. More than six will invalidate all your nominations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm willingness to serve prior to nominating.

Please send your nominations to be received no later than Saturday, October 9, 2004 to:

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX  
Secretary, ASCRA, Inc.  
11312 East 55th Terrace  
Raytown, MO 64133-2965

or E-mail: [wa0emx@arrl.net](mailto:wa0emx@arrl.net)

Any donations (tax deductible) will be gratefully received to help support ASCRA operating expenses, including the IN-SERVICE newsletter. Donations may be sent to the ASCRA treasurer:

Chuck Palmer, NØONN  
700 South Fuller Ave.  
Independence, MO 64052-4027

or include them with your nominations and I will forward them to Chuck.

If you have any changes for the database (upgrades, new post office or e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to [frtroeh@iastate.edu](mailto:frtroeh@iastate.edu) or mail them to:

Fred Troeh  
4117 Quebec St.  
Ames, IA 50014

## **IN-SERVICE**

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