

Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1441
Muncie, IN 47308



The MAARC Exciter

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Sonny McCoy, WA9DOL

Membership Information:

Membership in the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club (MAARC) is open to all Amateurs. Applications should be submitted to the club secretary. The purpose of MAARC is to bring together, for their mutual benefit, persons interested in the various areas of the Amateur Radio Service. Any interested person is cordially invited to attend one or more of our regularly scheduled meetings. We meet on the third Sunday of the month at the Marin-Hunt school library in Muncie at 2 PM. This month's meeting will be August 21, 2005.

Please send general club correspondence to:

MAARC president
PO Box 1441
Muncie, IN 47308

ITALY JOINS NO-CODE RANKS AS FCC REVIVES MORSE DEBATE IN THE US

(from the *ARRL Newsletter*) Italy is reported to be the latest country added to the list of those that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to have passed a Morse code examination to gain HF access. The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> reported this week that current IW-prefix "no-code" VHF/UHF licensees in Italy now will be allowed operate on HF. Canada eliminated Morse as the "sole additional requirement" for HF access in late July. To date, more than two dozen countries around the world--including such major players as the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and New Zealand--no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination to operate below 30 MHz. If the FCC's past observations on the subject are any clue, the US may join the no-code-required club in the future.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC maintained in its December 1999 Amateur Radio restructuring Report and Order (R&O) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>>. "As a result, we find that such a license qualification rule is not in furtherance of the purpose of the amateur service, and we do not believe that it continues to serve a regulatory purpose."

The Commission in 1999 retained a minimal 5 WPM Morse requirement for all license classes only because of the treaty obligation then in place. World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) subsequently decided to let countries determine for themselves whether or not to require amateur applicants to demonstrate Morse ability.

In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf> in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, 2005, the FCC proposed to eliminate the 5 WPM telegraphy examination altogether. At the same time, it dismissed petitions calling for--among other things--a new entry-level license with HF privileges.

In wording that closely mirrored remarks in its 1999 restructuring R&O, the Commission said its review of the 18 petitions and comments in the proceeding showed that "the majority agree" with its 1999 stance on the Morse require-

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The President's Corner



**Josh Beeson, N9GQA
President**

Greetings to my fellow club members! I hope everyone enjoyed Field Day this year. I know I had a good time the small amount of time I was able to get out. I would like to thank Gary, KB9ZUV and Skip and Kent for all their hardwork in making field day happen this year. I would also like to thank Gary for running the meeting since I was unable to attend due to work. This is the month for the Muncie Endurathon and I am still looking for hams to assist with communications on Saturday, July 16, 2005. There are pontoon boat, bike course, and run course assignments still available. Volunteers will receive a Staff T-shirt and a free

meal for their help. If you are interested in helping out please contact me by email at n9gqa@arrl.net or on my cell phone 765-212-9904 (leave me a message if I do not answer) as soon as possible. Hope to see everyone at the meeting this month.
73, Josh Beeson, N9GQA

Editor's Note: This is Josh's submission from last month. Work has been keeping him very busy!

Morse Code continued . . .

ment. The FCC said it believes it should treat Morse code like any other Amateur Radio mode. The FCC further said it was not persuaded by the ARRL's petition request to retain the 5 WPM Morse requirement solely for Amateur Extra applicants.

But perhaps recalling what it also said in 1999--that few issues coming before the Commission "present such a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" as Morse code--the FCC stopped short of making the Morse requirement disappear. Instead, it invited another round of comments.

The US Amateur Radio community has taken up the Commission's offer with great enthusiasm. As of week's end, more than 1400 comments had been posted via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The majority focused solely on the Morse issue. While most tend to file brief "yea" or "nay" comments, many postings reflect the deeply emotional nature of the Morse debate.

Those favoring the Morse requirement

frequently suggest that dropping it altogether will lead to a overall decline in the skill and dedication of new operators. Others cite Morse as a longstanding tradition that ought not be cast aside lightly, and a few cite its potential in emergency communication. The FCC already dismissed such arguments in 1999.

Those endorsing its elimination often assert that Morse is largely irrelevant today and that retaining the requirement is keeping a lot of people from pursuing Amateur Radio. Several commenters also have contended that Morse code should rise or fall on its own now, not be mandated for licensure. These are arguments the FCC essentially agreed with in 1999 and again in 2005.

Generally speaking, the Commission has been disinclined to revisit what it considers once-trod ground.

Following WRC-03, Switzerland became the first country to announce it was eliminating Morse code as a requirement for HF access. It was followed in short order by the United Kingdom.

In addition to Italy, Canada, Switzerland, the UK, Germany, Australia and New Zealand, the list of

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Editor's Notes

Another August has rolled around and I start my fourth year as your newsletter editor! Thank you for your support!

I've also been busy with the start of school and several new projects for this school year. I have a class on



Dave,
WA1MKE

Tuesday mornings so I will not be able to join the Tuesday breakfast except for a few Tuesday "breaks."

It's also time to start thinking about next year's officers as a nomination committee must be formed and nominations presented for the election of officers. Don't be afraid to step forward and help your club!

I have noticed quite a few "for sale" or "wanted" items showing up on our various nets. Don't forget that if you have something, there is free ad space for club members in the newsletter. The nets attract a lot of active hams but the newsletter reaches a wide audience. Don't forget it is free to club members.

73 - Dave, WA1MKE

P.S. Although we have had a "quiet" summer, severe weather season is still with us. Are you ready for the "big one" if it should come to Delaware county?

ARRL VHF/UHF QSO Party

This contest is sponsored by the **ARRL** from 1800Z September 10 - 0300Z September 12. Frequencies: 50, 144 MHz and higher bands, except 146.52 MHz (and other national simplex calling frequencies) and repeater frequencies. Please avoid the DX windows and international calling frequencies.

Exchange: Call sign and four-digit Maidenhead grid (Delaware County is EN70). Work Rover stations in each grid. QSO Points: 50, 144 MHz - 1 pt, 222, 432 MHz - 2 pts, 903, 1296 MHz - 3 pts, 4 pts on higher bands.

Score: QSO Points x grids counted once per band (Rovers count grids from each activated grid). For more information: See QST or the ARRL website.

Editor's Note:

Don't forget that I'll be on for this one and I have done well in the past! I hope to hear an work you on all the VHF and UHF bands. -

Dave, WA1MKE

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countries that have dropped Morse code as a requirement includes the Czech Republic, Spain, South Africa, Iceland, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Kenya, Luxembourg (provisional CEPT Class 2 HF access), The Netherlands, Norway, Poland (limited), South Africa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and Singapore.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the ECFS site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and click on "Submit a Filing" or "Search for Filed Comments."

In either case, type "05-235" in the "Proceeding" field, being careful to include the hyphen but not the quotation marks. Directions for filing comments, which can be in the form of an attached document, are on the ECFS site. Click on "Getting Started" to learn more.

The FCC is not expected to release a Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 until late this year at the soonest.

AMATEURS TO GET "NEW" SATELLITE

(from the *ARRL Newsletter*)

PO-28 (POSAT-1)--Portugal's first satellite, launched 12 years ago--will be turned over to Amateur Radio use in the very near future. That was the word July 30 from AMSAT-UK Secretary Jim Heck, G3WGM, during the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium in Guildford, England.

Launched September 25, 1993, the satellite operated as a packet store-and-forward BBS (9600 baud FM FSK) on Amateur Radio frequencies for several weeks in early 1994. Over the years, PO-28's primary usage has been commercial, although plans have called for eventually shifting its operation to ham radio use. G3WGM reports that follow-

ing lengthy negotiations it has been agreed that the satellite can be switched permanently to amateur frequencies. The changeover is expected to take a couple of weeks.

The Portuguese satellite was built at the University of Surrey as part of a collaborative satellite technology program that involved industry and academe. Uplink frequencies will be 145.925 and 145.975 MHz. Downlink frequencies will be 435.075 and 435.275 MHz. More information on PO-28 is on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/n7hpr/po28.html>>.

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For Sale/Wanted:

MFJ Roller Tuner \$90, Rigblaster for icom 706 with ps and cables \$30, Rohn Tower 24 ft that is up + an 8 ft section. Take it down and you can have it!
Larry, WA9OAO , 747-5130

I have a collection of 5 ft to 25 ft sections of Andrew FSJ1 (1/4 in) heliax. No expensive connectors needed since a PL259 + RG59 sleeve works. \$1.00/ 3 ft.
Dave, WA1MKE, 358-3280

This space is available to all members!

The price is right for your ad!

Do You have something for sale?

Your ad could be
here!

It's free!

Please send your ad to me at
ddoiron@bsu.edu
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