

The PROPAGATOR

February, 2000

The Monthly Newsletter of South Orange Amateur Radio Association

Amateur Radio Responds to Changing Rules and Changing Times

New Question Pool Available.

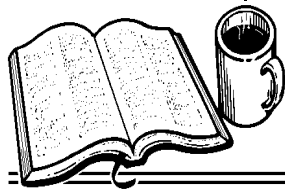
The long awaited FCC License Restructuring Report and Order was released at the end of 1999 and has caused much excitement in the amateur community. Written tests, which used to number six, will be reduced to three effective April 15, 2000. The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiners Coordinators has moved quickly and released the new question pools for all three written exams. Scarcely a month after the FCC's official announcement the new pools were available for study.

Available on the ARRL web site are

the entire question pools for the new Elements 2, 3 and 4. Element 1 is the 5 WPM Morse Code test. Question pools are in plain text format with the graphics for elements 2 and 4 in PDF format. The URL is <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>.

Rather than introduce new questions, the committee has used questions from the current pools. Some questions have been modified to reflect the new (as of April) rules. For instance the new General, Element 3, has changes only in two of the ten Subelements. Five additional questions under the topics of "Commission Rules" and "Operating Procedures" expand the test from 30 questions to 35. In eight of the ten Subelements there are no changes from the present pool.

The Technician test (Element 2) will consist of only 35 questions — the old tests (old Elements 2 and 3A) totaled 65 questions. Since the questions are taken from the old pools and carry indications of their old numbers, the old books can be used along with the new pool for studying. Now is the time to be thinking of advancing your skills.



Upgrade Class in Progress

The General Class upgrade teaching sessions for those wishing to upgrade started on Thursday February 3. Classes are open and any one can attend any class. There is no registration required. Classes meet in the Norman P. Murray Civic Center in Mission Viejo at 7:00 PM. A pre-class session at 6:30 PM is devoted to mastering the Morse code for the 5 WPM test.

Ten sessions have been scheduled in order to cover all of the topics in the present Element 3B. As noted in a related column, the new Element 3 will use an almost identical question pool.

Class Dates are:

1	Thursday	February 3 @ 7:00 PM
2	Monday	February 7 @ 7:00 PM
3	Thursday	February 17 @ 7:00 PM
4	Wednesday	February 23 @ 7:00 PM
5	Thursday	March 2 @ 7:00 PM
6	Thursday	March 9 @ 7:00 PM
7	Thursday	March 16 @ 7:00 PM
8	Thursday	March 23 @ 7:00 PM
9	Thursday	March 30 @ 7:00 PM
10	Thursday	April 6 @ 7:00 PM

Instructors for the sessions bring many years of experience and expertise to the sessions. They include:

NZ1M, Paul
AB6ZF, Jim

KD6SBI, Heiko
W8RRV, Dale
AC6XG, Jim

AE6H, Ray

KO6SY, Malcolm

Commission's Rules
Operating Procedures
Radio Wave Propagation
Amateur Radio Practices
Electrical Principles
Circuit Components
Practical Circuits
Signals & Emissions
Antennas & Feedlines
RF Safety



Certification Program Planned

The American Radio Relay League has announced that it will develop a Certification Program which will provide the opportunity to earn credentials at various levels of depth and difficulty in different courses of study.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, sees the certification program not only as a welcome opportunity for individual self-development but a response to the perceived "dumbing down" of Amateur Radio qualifications. The program is intended to provide an added emphasis on education and development in communications skills and in the radio arts.

The first step in putting the program in place will be to solicit the ideas of ARRL members. A Web-based message board will be set up to obtain input on appropriate topics to be included.

Local HRO Store to Re-open

Submitted by Richard, WW7D

On Sun Jan 23 at 2:30 AM a fire started in the Dentist office next to HRO in Anaheim. It spread quickly through HRO and two other stores with smoke and water damage to three others. The fire was very hot and spread fast. It took 80 firemen 2.5 hours to put it out.

HRO is remodeling a unit in the same mall and hopes to be able to open the doors before March. They will start restocking as soon as the suppliers can ship after that. License restructuring is expected to generate a demand for HF gear. HRO will be there to meet the demands for quality equipment.

HRO is dedicated to serving the local hams. Come see me in March at the *brand new* HRO in Anaheim.

73, Richard, WW7D

500 kHz — The Passing of an Era.

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500 kHz - Part 7: A Typical Night

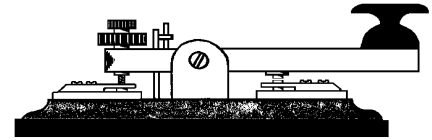
This part differs from the previous in that what follows will be an actual log of signals copied during a typical hour. During our training at Coast Guard Radioman School in Petaluma, CA, we were advised to attempt to log *everything* we heard. That was an impossible task due to the number of calls passing over the seas nightly. Keep in mind that only short calls were permitted on 500. As soon as contact was made one was to quickly move to a working frequency. What you'll see in the following log consists of only about 10-25% of the signals heard.

The log consisted of 3 columns: the actual signals copied, the frequency, and the time. A

slash (/) was used to indicate a break between two transmissions, except when it was actually sent over the air to indicate two frequencies. You'll see ``454/440" meaning ``you send on 454 kHz and I'll send on 440 kHz" (the — · · — · is actually sent). Ships had a choice of using 425, 454, 468, or 480 kHz as their working frequencies, while shore stations were only assigned one working frequency, usually near one of the above. In order to work duplex one of these closest to the shore station's frequency, would be used by the ship.

Everything you see below will be actual transmissions except:

- 1) When preceded by OPNOTE (= operator's note)



- 2) The BEGIN or END SILENT PERIOD entry.
- 3) The NO SIGS entry (meaning no signals heard in last 5 min.)

You noticed the exchanges were short (with operators quickly moving off 500 kHz to a working frequency) and informal with generous use of pleasantries such as TU = thank you, TKS = thanks, SU = SEEU = see you, OM = old man, GE = good evening and of course the ever present 'dit dit'.
73, Jeff KH6O

RADIO LOG		
U.S. COAST GUARD COMMSTA HONOLULU: NMO		
RADIO DAY: 17 JULY 1979 POSITION: MF CW (500KC / 600M)		
OPNOTE: RM3 J.D. HERMAN ON WATCH, OPS NM		
0800Z		
OPNOTE: OBTAINED WVVH TIME TICK - CLOCK CORRECT		
0801Z		
VVV VVV TEST TEST DE NMO GE / GE / GE ...	500	
0802Z		
3WLM 3WLM 3WLM DE ZLW ZLW HW? / ZLW DE 3WLM QRU? /		
R 480/488 / OK UP / UP / EE / EE	500	0803Z
CQ CQ CQ DE VIA VIA VIA FOR TFC LIST QSW 446 AR 500		0804Z
KOK KOK KOK KOK KOK KOK KOK / DE / KOK KOK KOK KOK KOK /		
LID / KOK KOK KOK / DE / KOK DE FJNB / FJNB DE KOK GE UP /		
R UP / EE / EE	500	0806Z
JKPN JKPN DE JLRT JLRT / JLRT DE JKPN QTH? / NW AM		
1500 KM SAILING 153 DEG OUT OF TOKYO / JLRT DE		
NMO PSE QSY / SRI NMO / JKPN DE JLRT UP 512 / UP 500		0807Z
OPNOTE: STATIC CRASHES ARE EAR-SPLITTING TONIGH		
0810Z		
CLA CLA CLA DE 7XMC 7XMC K / 7XMC DE CLA GE / GE		
OM DO U HV SOUTH PACIFIC WX BETWEEN 20 ES 30 S		
W OF 180? / NOT YET - WILL HV IN 30 MIN - LSN FER		
OUR CQ / OK TKS / SEEU / SU	500	0814Z
BEGIN SILENT PERIOD		500
0815Z		
VVV <SOMEONE TUNING UP> / SP / SR	500	0816Z
TTT TTT TTT CQ DE VIM VIM VIM CYCLONE WRNG NR 17		
QSW 428 UP / TTT TTT TTT CQ DE VIS VIS VIS CYCLONE		
WRNG NR 17 QSW 460 AR	500	0817-18Z
END SILENT PERIOD		500
0818Z		
FUM FUM FUM DE KNLW KNLW OBS K / KNLW DE XSU FUM		
QRT TIL 0900 K / R HV OBS K / OK UP 480/488 K /		
R UP / EE / EE	500	0820Z
CQ CQ CQ DE ZDLK ZDLK BT ANI ONE HV 0700 HYDROPAC		
BCST? / ZDLK DE DJKV R UP 480 HW? / OK / EE / EE	500	0824Z
NMC NMC DE WRTY WRTY / WRTY DE NMC GE / GE I NEED		
NTM NR 12-384 K / R UP 425/428 K / R UP / EE / EE	500	0827Z
TTT TTT TTT DE KNLH KNLH KNLH BT HAZARD TO SHIPPING		
LOST CONTAINER OVERBOARD QSS 425 UP	500	
0830Z		
OPNOTE: SHIFTED TO 425 KC TO COPY KNLH'S MSG		0830Z
OPNOTE: KNLH LOST CONTAINER IN POSN 43.48N 135.81W - INFO		
PASSED TO RCC FOR DISTRICT 12 NTM		0831-33Z
KNLH DE NMO QSL WILL PASS UR MSG TO SAN FRAN K / NMO		
DE KNLH R TU OM NIL VA / DE NMO SU VA / EE / EE	500	0834Z
CQ CQ CQ DE CLA CLA CLA FOR SOUTH PAC WX ES NAV		
WRNGS QSW 470 AR	500	0835Z
JNA JNA JNA DE JNTS JNTS NW ARR TOYKO K / JNTS DE		
JNA QSL QRU K / QRU VA / EE / EE		500
837Z		
CQ CQ CQ DE KPH KPH KPH TFC LIST ES WX 512 AR 500		0840Z
BEGIN SILENT PERIOD		500
0845Z		
XXX XXX XXX DE 9FJT 9FJT 9FJT BT ENGINE ROOM FIRE		
NOW EXTINGUISHED NO POWER DIW NEED ASSISTANCE 28.38S		
28.38S 165.55W 165.55W / 9FJT 9FJT DE VIB VIB QSL		
UP 425/430 K / VIB DE 9FJT R UP / EE / EE	500	0847-49Z
OPNOTE: SPVR NOTIFIED OF 9FJT'S XXX		0849Z
SILENT PERIOD ENDED AT 0848Z		
0850Z		
CQ CQ CQ DE NRV NRV NRV WX AND CG MARINE INFO BCST		
QSW 435 KC AR	500	0850Z
NMO NMO DE KPDR OBS K / KPDR DE NMO UP 454/440 K / R		
UP / EE / EE		5000854Z
KPDR DE NMO GE K / NMO DE KPDR GE OBS QRV? / R		
AA 99		440/454 0855Z
OPNOTE: RCVD OBS FROM KPDR		454
0856Z		
KPDR DE NMO QSL QRU? K / NIL TU OM SU VA / SEEU VA /		
EE / EE		440/454 0856Z
CQ CQ CQ DE XJA XJA XJA FOR WESTERN PACIFIC WX QS /		
CQ CQ CQ DE 5JA 5JA 5JA TFC LIST AND WX QSW 4 / CQ CQ		
CQ DE KFS KFS KFS TFC LIST Q / CQ CQ CQ DE / <QRM 5>		500
0900Z		
<TUNER> / LID / UR A LID / AM NOT / ARE TOO	500	0902Z
XXX XXX XXX CQ DE 7JN 7JN 7JN OVER DUE FISHING VSL		
QSW 441 AR		500
0905Z		
5LVW 5LVW DE <QRN> / ? / 5LVW DE <QSA1> / ? DE 5LVW		
SRI OM NO COPY / UP 8361 KHZ / R UP / EE / EE	500	0909Z
NPQM NPQM DE NOJ NOJ / NOJ DE NPQM 12 MHZ IS WASTED		

Year 2000	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General Meeting 7:00 PM	24	28	20	17	15 Auction	19	17	21	18	16	20 Auction	No meeting
VEC Testing 5:30 PM	24	28	20	17	15	26	17	21	18	18	20	
Propagator Deadline	8	12	4	1	4/29	3	1	5	2	9/30	4	2
Board Meeting	31	3/6	27	24	22	26	24	28	25	23	27	
Spring Auction					15							
ARRL Field Day						26 - 27						
SOARA picnic								7				
Fall Auction											20	
SOARA Holiday Party												3

PSK31 Lecture

Submitted by KO6SY Malcolm

This month's meeting will feature a presentation of PSK31, with live demonstrations. PSK31 is the latest craze to hit HF. The station computer, using the DSP on the sound card, becomes a high performance digital transceiver. Audio is decoded in the computer as well as generated for transmission. All you need is a cable between your rig and the computer's sound card. The mode (PSK31, Phase Shift Keying 31.5 baud) is very narrow band, as narrow as CW, and therefore can be received well into the noise. I have just worked Southern Brazil with 10 watts and a mobile antenna on 10 meters. The presentation will explain the software as well as hand it out for you to get started. We will also try to put the K6SOA station on the air and have a live QSO. Come along and join in.

Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

Submitted by Ray, AE6H

Recently, the City of Laguna Niguel appointed SOARA member Mike Rogers, AC6XL, as the new Emergency Services Coordinator for the city. Mike was formerly Code Enforcement Officer for Laguna Niguel.

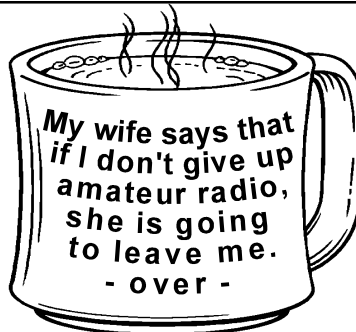
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) mandate that every incorporated city and county have an Emergency Services Coordinator. This person is responsible for compiling, writing, and implementing an approved Disaster Response Plan, as well as organizing and equipping the city Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and training city staff in the Standard

Emergency Management System (SEMS) and other disaster related matters.

Mike, AC6XL, is uniquely qualified for this position with his prior experiences as a Deputy Sheriff, Police Officer, weather forecaster, and even business executive.

As a Ham, Mike appreciates the benefits of a RACES organization within the Emergency Services organization of a city, and wants to build a strong RACES group. Hams who are residents of Laguna Niguel, or nearby communities, with an interest in emergency communications and community service can contact Mike at Laguna Niguel City Hall, (949) 362-4312, for more information or an application.

Radio Raffle this month will be a Radio Shack HTX-10. The HTX-10 is a Ten meter mobile radio which will operate in AM, SSB and FM. With many members working on upgrading to obtain HF privileges, it was decided that an HF radio would have wide appeal. Ten meters has been open with a lot of activity. Come to this month's meeting and buy some chances on this fine radio.



Here is an opportunity to put some of those communicating skills to work. The Association of Hand-crafted Automobiles will hold a show at Knott's Berry Farm on the weekend of April 29 & 30, and they need communicators. If you would like to participate in this event, please call Heiko, KD6SBI at (949) 859-3868 or contact him via e-mail at: kd6sbi@soara.org.

The PROPAGATOR

South Orange Amateur Radio Association
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Mission Viejo, CA 92690

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Meeting: Monday 2/28/00 at 7:00 PM "PSK31 a New Digital Mode"

☛ **SOARA** meets at the Mission Viejo Community Center, 26932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. Changes to the meeting time or place are announced in this newsletter and on the two-meter repeater.

☛ **License Exams:** Amateur License Exams are given prior to most SOARA meetings. Exams are from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. You must make an appointment at least a week in advance. Call Lou Parker, KA6BJO, at 951-0336. (No calls after 9:00 PM please.)

☛ **Contacting SOARA:** Questions about SOARA? Send e-mail to: info@soara.org, or leave a message at 949-249-1373: a SOARA board member will respond as soon as possible.

☛ **Web Site:** SOARA maintains a web site with current club information. The URL is: <http://www.soara.org>.

☛ **Repeaters:** The SOARA 2-meter repeater is open to all licensed hams. The SOARA 440 repeater is for club members only.

SOARA 2m — 147.645 - (110.9)

SOARA 440 — 447.050 - (110.9)

The SOARA 220 and HROC 440 repeaters are shared by members of both clubs. Each machine is subject to the operating rules of its respective club. Call AC6XG for details.

SOARA 220 — 224.100 - (110.9)

SOARA 220 — 224.640 - (123.0)

HROC 440 — 447.180 - (131.8)

☛ **Nets:** SOARA 2 m repeater open net is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM following the Laguna and M.V. emergency nets.
40 meter HF net (7.235 MHz +/- for QRM), Sunday 7:30 AM

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