

The HAPPY NEW YEAR HomeBrew

JANUARY 2007

ENID OKLAHOMA

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1



Enid



Oklahoma

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FCC Releases Report and Order in "Morse Code" Proceeding

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- The FCC has issued the complete *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The *R&O* follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The *R&O* also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future -- who have not passed a Morse code test.

"In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement," the FCC concluded in the *R&O*, released today. "We also believe that these rule changes will allow Amateur Service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the Amateur Service and will enhance the usefulness of the Amateur Service to the public and licensees."

The FCC took the opportunity in the *R&O* to act on the League's *Petition for Partial Reconsideration* in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, to retain the 3620-3635 kHz segment for automatically controlled digital stations. "We conclude that the expansion of the 75 meter band should not be so limited," the FCC said. "We agree with the ARRL, however, that the Commission did not intend to reduce the amount of spectrum available for automatically controlled digital stations."

To rectify the "unintended consequence" of the rules adopted in the omnibus proceeding, the Commission amended §97.221(b) to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations.

Finally, the Commission said it would conform the Amateur Service rules to reflect that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has reduced from two to one the number of Amateur Radio license classes.

The Commission is amending §97.301 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

No Effective Date Yet

Today's *R&O* spells out the specific Part 97 changes going into place once the new rules go on the books and indicates that the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the *Federal Register*. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going into effect in February.

Reprising the History the Morse Decision

Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) effectively eliminated the international requirement to demonstrate Morse proficiency to gain access to HF bands, the FCC recounted in discussing how it reached its decision in the Morse issue. A dozen and a half petitions for rule making -- most calling on the Commission to simply eliminate the Morse requirement -- in the wake of WRC-03 gave rise to the "Morse code" proceeding. A flurry of comments followed.

"The record reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community regarding this proposal," the FCC's *R&O* said. "Many of the comments from individual Amateur Radio operators support eliminating the telegraphy proficiency requirement." Others suggested dropping the requirement for General applicants while keeping it for Amateur Extra applicants, the FCC noted.

"Others argue that the present telegraphy examination requirements should be maintained because any reduction in these requirements will be detrimental to the Amateur Service while providing no long-term benefits," the Commission continued.

The HomeBrew

The *HomeBrew* is a monthly newsletter about the *Enid Amateur Radio Club*. It is available in both print and electronic form. The printed version can be found at *Wheat Capital Communications* 306 W. Willow, Enid Ok. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed on the second Thursday of each month. It is also available on the *EARC* website at <http://www.enidarc.org/>.

To submit an article or place an ad for equipment, e-mail the editor at thehomebrew@hotmail.com. Submissions need to be received by the second Monday of each month for publication.

The views contained in the *HomeBrew* are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the *Enid Amateur Radio Club*.

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The Enid Amateur Radio Club

The *Enid Amateur Radio Club (EARC)* was founded in 1936 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in Enid, Garfield County and the state of Oklahoma. The *EARC* is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization.

The purpose or purposes for which the *EARC* is formed is a non-commercial association of radio amateurs, for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications and experimentation's.

For the advancement of the radio art and for the assistance and education of those who are interested in the theory, fundamentals, and operation of Amateur Radio.

For the maintenance of emergency communication facilities, to aid in times of disasters and emergencies to those in need as a public service, and to make said communication facilities available without cost.

Article Four of the EARC Articles of Incorporation

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$25 per year (Jan-Dec) for individuals. Family membership is \$30 per year. Membership dues can be mailed to:

Enid Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 261
Enid Ok. 73702

The Enid Amateur Radio Club shall not discriminate against race, creed, national origin, or sex for eligibility for membership.

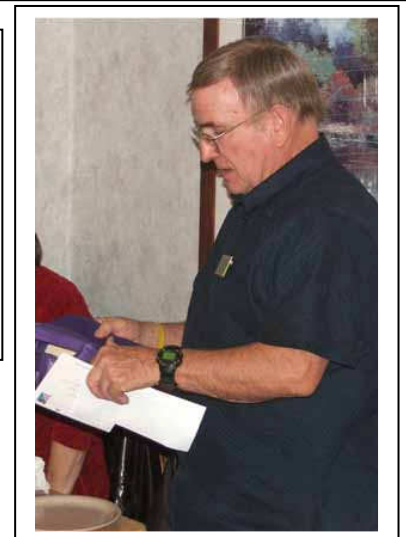
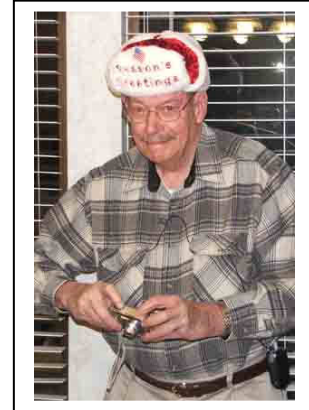
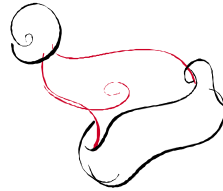
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- 2009
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- 2010
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ENID ARC HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

The *Enid Amateur Radio Club* held it's annual Christmas dinner at the Golden Corral again this year. This get-together was in place of the December monthly club meeting. About 30 members and their guests were in attendance for a time of eating and just plain having a good time with each other.

Al Fox-KD5BA *EARC* president welcomed everyone to the annual event. Al later surprised the members and guests by having a drawing for two give-a-ways. The first prize which was a lantern style flashlight was awarded to Terrie Burford . The second prize was won by John-KE5BCR who received a year subscription to CQ VHF magazine. The festivities began at 6:30 and were still going strong until after 8. There was no business conducted during this meeting.



"Morse Code" cont.

The FCC proposed in 2005 to drop the Morse examination requirement altogether, although the ARRL was among those who felt the Commission should retain it for Amateur Extra class applicants. The FCC remained unconvinced.

"We nevertheless believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The Commission said its reasoning "applies equally" to both the General and the Amateur Extra class licenses. "We are not persuaded that the Amateur Extra Class being the highest license class is a sufficient reason alone to retain a requirement that we conclude is otherwise inappropriate and unnecessary." At the same time, the FCC said, its action doesn't preclude Amateur Radio licensees of any class "from pursuing and/or continuing to pursue Morse code proficiency should they so desire."

The FCC said its rules don't require applicants to pass practical examinations to demonstrate proficiency in non-telegraphy communications techniques, and it feels the current regime of written examinations is "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

No Special Advantage to Retaining the Morse Requirement

In today's *R&O*, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse code requirement would help in keeping out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. "As a result, we concur with the observation that 'maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does.'"

The Commission further reiterated its belief that the ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency doesn't necessarily indicate an applicant's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. "A number of commenters agree that the Morse code requirement 'keeps individuals that would enhance the hobby from getting a license,' and that there is 'no relationship between an individual's knowledge of Morse code and that individual's knowledge of radio regulations and practices and skills necessary to operate an amateur station.'"

Eliminating the Technician Disparity

The FCC also reviewed how it changed its mind regarding requests to eliminate the distinction between Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees. In its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in the proceeding, the FCC said it wanted to maintain the status quo. The League was among those asking the Commission to reconsider.

"Based on our review of our rules, we agree," the FCC explained in its *R&O*. "Consistent with our decision herein to eliminate the Morse code requirement, we are eliminating this disparity by amending Section 97.301(e) to afford Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

The rule revision will mean Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees will get voice and telegraphy privileges in four HF bands that are identical to those of Novice class licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

No Additional Changes

The FCC again denied requests -- including one from the ARRL -- to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license along the lines of the old Novice ticket. Pointing out that the rules it's adopted grant Technician licensees additional operating privileges in four HF bands, the Commission said it didn't see any need for additional changes. The FCC also declined the League's request to grant Novice and Technician licensees voice and image privileges in certain segments 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

"Our action today giving Technician class licensees the same privileges as Technician Plus class licensees does effectively provide some of the relief ARRL seeks because Technician class licensees now have voice and digital privileges in the 10 meter HF band," the FCC said.

The Commission expressed concern that giving Novice and Technician holders voice privileges on other HF bands "would be a disincentive for these licensees to improve their knowledge and skills and attain a higher class license."

Go to the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/> for more information.

Amateur Radio; Emergency Communications, Asset or Liability? Part 1 of a Series ©

By Robin L. Faulkner, N7GSU

Over nearly forty years of involvement in emergency communications in amateur radio, the military and public safety; I have been asked many times for my input in matters pertaining to the emergency communications capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service. Having served on both sides of the fence, I suppose one does sometimes have the advantage of being able to see the forest, in spite of all those trees.

The truth is, those not directly involved in Amateur Radio, and in some cases, those that are; do not fully understand how truly unique Amateur Radio is.

From the standpoint of its potential as an emergency communications asset, unlike the communications systems normally deployed by public safety agencies; Amateur Radio has the ability to adapt and expand to meet the rapidly changing requirements of *any* communications emergency. This is not the case with any other public safety radio system, no matter how large, well designed or financed it might be. This aspect of the Amateur Radio Service alone is in no small way responsible for our very existence, and one of the reasons why nearly every nation on the planet has set aside very valuable radio spectrum to it. Our many available modes and bands allow us flexibility unmatched by any other single communications service. In an emergency, we can simply select additional channels to handle the increased traffic load. Our spectrum space is nearly limitless, whereas even the largest public safety agency system has a finite number of channels available. Our high frequency capabilities using NVIS and other techniques, allows communications in any terrain, without the support of fragile infrastructure, such as repeaters.

Even with all our capabilities, there are some very real, and not so real, shortcomings of our service in the minds of some public officials.

Although there are many Emergency Managers, public safety agency chiefs and elected public officials with Amateur Radio Licenses; even these professionals are often of the opinion that our service is more a liability than an asset, when it comes to its use in an actual emergency. Unfortunately for all concerned, this opinion is often not without foundation. Although from a technical point of view, there is little doubt our service has *potential* as an asset to public safety in an emergency, the volunteer nature of our service, if not it's very name; is often the greatest obstacle to its greater acceptance and utilization by those agencies we seek to serve.

To many, the very word amateur is associated with being less than professional, or something less than expert. When one is used to dealing with human lives and property, you can see where a term like "amateur paramedic", or "amateur police officer" might give one pause, where the term "professional paramedic" or "police professional" might invoke completely different feelings. Amateur, as in 'Amateur Radio' of course, reflects the unpaid, volunteer nature of the service, i.e., 'amateur athlete'. But this is an example of why we are sometimes met with some reservation on the part of those charged with the public safety, when it comes to being utilized in their emergency operations plans. This however, is only one example, and one more easily dealt with.

There are, unfortunately, other examples that are more difficult to overcome. There are 'volunteer paramedics' and "volunteer fire fighters" and we know that this reflects only the fact they are unpaid for their services to the public. This does not mean they are less trained than their paid counterparts, or that they are exempt from meeting certain standards of education and conduct. Perhaps we should move to have the term Amateur Radio Operator changed to Volunteer Radio Operator? I would probably not support that idea, but I certainly do support becoming more like our volunteer cousins, the fire fighters and paramedics. These folks train and work very hard, and subject themselves to certain demands of conduct, training and experience. Certainly a person having just completed basic training as a fire fighter is not going to be expected by the public, his peers, or his superiors to be as well suited to all aspects of the job, as one who has undergone additional training above the basic level, or one with more experience in the field. Why is it then that many of the Amateur Radio fraternity feel that having an operator's license makes them an automatic asset to public safety communications? Unfortunately, this attitude is held by many amateurs, and is an example of something in need of change. A driving license gives one the right to drive upon the public streets and highways, but does not entitle the driver to drive a heavy truck for hire. It is the minimal requirement for additional training and experience.

A Technician or even an Extra Class Amateur License does not make anyone an emergency communications expert or even an asset to the public safety. Unless one is willing to undergo additional training and experience, and to subject one's self to accepted standards of conduct and discipline, these serve only as minimal requirements.

An Emergency Manager or Fire Chief is not going to place anyone at risk; including his other personnel, and certainly not the public; without making very sure you know what you are doing. In matters pertaining to emergency communications, this means you are expected to know more than how to hook up and use a radio transmitter and antenna. You must also know something of how to conduct yourself concerning sensitive communications, dealing with the press, your limitations as well as your assets.

If you expect to be dumped into the middle of a forest fire to provide emergency communications to professional and volunteer fire crews, then you had best also know the basics of fire fighting, and how it related to your own safety, that of the public at large, and the other members of 'the team'.

Amateur Radio; Emergency Communications, Asset or Liability cont.

In short, you might be the best communicator in the world, but if you expect to be placed in the thick of it, you might want to know which way the wind is blowing! Until a Fire Chief or Emergency Manager is relatively confident you will be more of an asset than a liability, he or she is not going to utilize you in any meaningful way. At best he risks a lawsuit; at worst he might be responsible for having cost someone's life. Unless you become part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Be willing to view the issue from his or her perspective, and you will soon realize there is more to it than just showing up with a car full of radios, and an orange vest. If you are willing to show up for offered training, and not just when there is a real emergency. If you are willing to listen as well as talk. The Fire Chief or Emergency Manager might just move you and your ARES group into his asset column, and out of the one headed 'liabilities'.

<http://www.emcomm-products.com>

Part Two Next Month



**President's
Corner**

Here it is 2007 already. 2006 was a good year for the club with many successes.

Congratulations to all of the new licensees and to those who upgraded.

I had the occasion to renew both my license and my wife's recently. It is hard to believe she has been a ham for 10 years. It is even harder to believe that she actually became a ham.

The FCC has made renewing licenses extremely easy as long as you have registered with them and received an FRN number and CORES password ahead of time.

The ARRL will do the work for you but it is just as easy to log on and do it yourself. Of course W5YI graciously offers to do it for you for \$7 but if you can pass a ham exam you should be able to master a renewal.

Remember to attend the January club meeting as we will be discussing the annual Presidents' Chili Supper meeting in February. I was a little unhappy with some of the chili I ate at the Enid Chili Cookoff so I hope we show them up. I think not getting to eat any of Ralph's(NONOU) chili this year was part of the problem so I expect him to make up for it at the club chili supper. He really cooks good chili. Remember the February meeting is a family event so mark your calendar for both meetings.

Oh yes, it is time to renew your dues also. The cost is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family membership. What a bargain!

Isn't this a great hobby?!!!

73,
Al- KD5BA

EARC ATTENDANCE RECORD

The following club members had the highest attendance percentage to club meetings for the 2007 year.

Phil-K5ECI	92%, 11 meetings	Greg-KD5MFY	75%, 9 meetings
Mike-KD5OFF	92%, 11 meetings	Jess-KA5HYK	67%, 8 meetings
Al-KD5BA	92%, 11 meetings	Bill K.-K5ICI	67%, 8 meetings
Richard-KD5ZOY	92%, 11 meetings	Bill W.-KC5OKG	67%, 8 meetings

It's NIMS time!

By Bob Josuweit-WA3PZO

Unless you've been totally out of touch with your local emergency coordinator or radio officer, you're probably aware that as of September 2006 all emergency management staff, which includes amateur radio operators, were supposed to be certified in at least three National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses. Some areas of the country had been given additional time to meet the NIMS requirements. This month we take a look at NIMS and the forms that go along with the Incident Command System (ICS) which is the local version of NIMS.

NIM is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels. The intent of NIMS is to be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents in hazard scenarios, regardless of size or complexity. It is also intended to improve court nation and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of domestic incident management activities.

NIMS provides an a flexible framework that facilitates government and private entities at all levels working together to manage domestic incidents. This flexibility applies to all phases of incident management, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity. If responders come in from a neighboring town, county, state, or from across the country, NIMS provides a set of standardized organizational structures, as well as requirements for processes, procedures, and systems designed to improve interoperability.

NIMS is comprised of several components that work together as a system to providing national framework for preparing for, preventing, responding to, and recovering from domestic incidents. These include: command and management; preparedness; resource management; communications and information management; supporting technologies; an ongoing management and maintenance.

According to NIMS, preparedness activities are conducted on a "steady-state" base, well in advance of any potential incident. Preparedness involves a combination of planning, training, and exercises; personal qualification and certification standards; equipment acquisition and certification standards; publication management processes and activities; mutual aid agreements and Emergency Management Assistance Compacts.

Resource management will define standardized mechanisms and establish requirements for describing, inventorying, mobilizing, dispatching, tracking, and recovering resources over the life cycle of an incident.

Communications and information management has a standardized framework for information sharing support at all levels of incident management. Incident management organizations must ensure that effective, interoperable communications processes, procedures, and systems exist across all agencies and jurisdictions. Information management systems help ensure that information flows efficiently through a commonly accepted architecture. Effective information management enhances incident management and response by helping to ensure that those making decisions are better informed.

Technology and technological systems provide supporting capabilities essential to implementing and refining NIMS through voice and data communications systems, information management systems, such as record keeping and resource tracking. Finally, ongoing management and maintenance make sure that people in systems are ready to respond.

How do hams fit in?

Emergency management officials have told most amateur radio groups that they must take and pass courses on ICS Introduction (IS100, IS200) and the National Incident Management System (IS700). For those working in an emergency operations center the National Response Plan (IS800) is also required. Specific courses may vary a bit around the country, so check with your local emergency coordinator or radio officer. The first three courses should be able to be completed over one weekend.

Today amateur radio operators providing emergency communications need to have a real commitment to their area interest. They must be trained and have a good attitude. With the Incident Command System being implemented there is very little room, if any, for walk-on operators. Bucks County (PA) Amateur Radio Emergency Service operators found themselves using the Incident Command System during a July 4th parade.

With ICS, the primary area of interest to the amateur radio operators is the Logistics section and the Services Branch Communications Unit. Normally the primary served agency will contact the amateur radio emergency coordinator and advise him/her of the nature of the incident and where to report. This could be the emergency operations center, the command post, or the staging area. Here the Logistics Chief or the Communications Unit Leader will fill in the hams with information on the incident. A properly trained ham may be asked to function as a leader in the Incident Command System. This individual will have to be familiar with the Incident Command Structure, forms, methods, and procedures.

As people respond to help in an area that is not local to them, there is also a considerable confusion in the operational performance of major incidents. Regardless of who the Incident Commander may be and regardless of what agency that person is with, it becomes his/her responsibility, along with his/her staff, to coordinate the on scene operations of the incident. When an incident crosses jurisdictional boundaries, another part of the NIMS/ICS comes into play, and this is known as the unified command. This command process allows multiple jurisdictions to develop strategies for the overall incident. However, the primary Incident Commander is still in charge and is responsible for the overall outcome.

NIMS and the Incident Command System do not change the procedures used by amateur radio operators. The various amateur radio nets will still run the same, and the FCC rules and regulations are unaffected by NIMS and the ICS. The primary differences are some of the nomenclature (who's called what) and the forms used for written messages and other purposes. As an Archer radio operators participate in drills and other forms of training, they should add NIMS and the ICS programs to their already valuable skills.

In Littleton, Colorado, 17 members of the Arapahoe County ARES group participated in a training event created by Training Officer Shawn Shenton, KC0LZE, to build upon items that could use some improvement from the 2005 Simulated Emergency Test. The goal was to have ARES members practice and radio programming, map reading, communication skills, and basic Incident Command System procedures. Members were given a radio frequency to program and would establish contact with a designated individual. Then members were given a new frequency and location. The member would have to program the radio and use a map to determine the location of the designated contact, drive to the location, and find the designated contact.

According to David Markham, KC0VES, a loose ICS command was setup. He said, "Members tracked their time and information on their own ICS 214 for." The ICS 214 Unit log a form is used to record information received or transmitted and any actions taken by the unit and resources. Markham says the Arapahoe County ARES group has been using some form of ICS for about the last ten years. "We tried to use an ICS forms as much as we can during events in trainings. The ARES group provided communications following hurricane Katrina, when Colorado participated with Operation Safe Haven. During the event, amateur radio operators from around Colorado assisted the state and local officials the providing communications for evacuees at receiving sites. Operators from five counties worked twelve to eighteen hours per day for two weeks providing communications between the State Multi-Agency Coordination Center/Emergency Operations Center, Aurora Fire/Police, Arapahoe county Sheriff's Office, Buckley AFB, and various voluntary organizations, including the Salvation Army

Form Usage

Bucks County ARES members commented how useful it was to have someone writing down information while they were operating the radio during the July 4th parade. They worked closely with the local CERT Team (Community Emergency Response Team). The CERT members wrote down the information while the radio operators tended to communications. One advantage mentioned is that the CERT team knew the local neighborhood better than many of the hams who had traveled into the area. Here's a list of ICS forms that were used during the parade:

- **ICS 201**-Incident Briefing Form. The Incident Commander briefed the participants prior to assignment.
- **ICS 202**-Incident Objectives. The Incident Commander stated the objectives of the parade, which included reporting on progress of the parade utilizing the BCARES radio system an ICS forms.
- **ICS 203**-Organizational Assignment List. The Incident Commander identified the various Unit Leaders.
- **ICS 205**-Incident Communications Plan. The communications Unit Leader identified to the radio frequency an assignment for the various users of the radio system for the incident.
- **ICS 210**-Resource Status. The Resource Unit used in this form to advise the Situation Unit of the status of the resource.
- **ICS 211**-Check in List. The Resource Unit identified all resources assigned to the incident.
- **ICS 213**-General Message Form. Used by all units in the Emergency Operations Center for the written transmission of information from one unit to another.
- **ICS 214**-Unit Log Form. Used to record information received or transmitted and any actions taken by the unit and resources.
- **ICS 215**-Operations Planning Worksheet. The Incident Commander and the communications Unit Leader identified resources required for the event.
- **ICS 215a**-Incident Action Plan Safety Analysis form. Used by the Incident Commander to identify potential threats (heat and oncoming storm) for the participants of the exercise.
- **ICS 216**-Radio Requirements Worksheet. Completed by the Communications Unit Leader.
- **ICS 221**-Demobilization Check out form. Used as resources were released from the exercise.

The key to using the forms was accountability. They provided knowledge of what staffed in radio equipment were being sent to a particular location. Members of the local fire departments said it is much easier to work with volunteers who they know have incident am and knowledge. With all of their other responsibilities, it is just one last item they have to worry about.

QST Magazine November 2006 Issue page 48-52.

NEVER KICK A COWCHIP ON A HOT DAY

Will Rogers was a man of many talents, some of which were his wit with words. Following are a few words of wisdom to live by.

1. *There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman...neither works.*
2. *Never miss a good chance to shut up.*
3. *Always drink upstream from the herd.*
4. *If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.*
5. *The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.*
6. *There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.*
7. *Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.*
8. *If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.*
9. *Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.*
10. *After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral:
When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.*



Air Force Security jams Garage Doors

What do remote control grudge door openers have to do with national security?

A secretive Air Force facility in Colorado Springs tested a radio frequency this past week that it would use to communicate with first responders in the event, a homeland security threat. But the frequency also controls and estimated 50 million are garage door openers, and hundreds of residents in the area found and their's had suddenly stopped working.

“It would have been nice not to have to get out of the car and open the door manually,” said Dewey Rinehard, pointing out the outage happened during the first cold snap of the year, with lows in the teens.

Captain Tracy Giles of the 21st Space Wing said Air Force officials were trying to figure out how to resolve the problem of their signal overpowering garage door remote.

“They have turned it off to be good neighbors,” he said.

The signals were coming from Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, home to the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a joint U.S. and Canadian operation setup during the Cold War to monitor Soviet missile and bomber threats.

Technically, the Air Force has the right to the frequency, which it began using nearly three years ago at some bases. Signals previously had interfered with garage doors near bases in Florida, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

In general, effects from the transmissions would be felt only within ten miles, but the signal is beamed from atop 6184ft. Cheyenne Mountain, which likely extends the range.

Holly Strack, who lives near the entrance to the facility, said friends in the neighborhood all had the same problem.

“I never thought my garage door was a threat to national security,” she said.

David McGuire, whose overhead door company received more than 400 calls for help, said the Air Force may be able to slightly adjust the transmission frequency to solve the problem. If not, it will cost homeowners about 200 in \$50.00 to have new units installed.

“The military has a right to use that frequency. It is a sign of the times,” he said.

Denver Colorado

Enid News and Eagle paper the December 5th 2006



The Enid Amateur Radio Club (EARC)
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING
November 16th, 2006
American Red Cross Building, Enid, OK

Attendance: Al Fox\KD5BA, Tim McAnally\KD5KTB, Bill Wehling\KC5OKG, Cynthia Herndon\KE5LIG, Richard Herndon\KD5ZOY, Ralph Gandy\N0NOU, Greg Veit\KD5MFY, Bill Keck\K5ECI, Frank Penner\KC5PCI, Phil Burford\K5ECH, Mike Cofer\KD5OFF, David Locke\KC5SII, Gene Brintnall\N5SPY, and Jess Andrews\KA5HYK.

Club President Al Fox\KD5BA called the meeting to order at 1900 CDT.

Al introduced guest Robin Unruh, Executive Director, American Red Cross Cimarron Valley Chapter, who addressed the matter of background checks now required of all ARC employees and volunteers. Amateur radio operators participate as Red Cross volunteers for communications services through the ARES organization, but may also individually volunteer for other forms of service. Ms Unruh gave an overview of the need for background checking, outlined the procedures for initiating the process, and provided or agreed to provide information specific to the issues of submitting ones Social Security Number vs other acceptable forms of government-issued identification. The extended deadline for completion of this mandatory background check is 31Dec06.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the October 19th meeting as circulated.

Al presented the Treasurer Report prepared by D.Posey, especially noting receipts from the club table at the 2006 Enid Hamfest and a special donation to the club by Tom Worth.

Membership Report. B.Keck and others reported that Clint Clay\KB5OEQ is due to finish rehab on Wednesday, 22Nov06. B.Weuhling reported that Martha is looking good and in good spirits while awaiting test results.

Correspondence. Note of appreciation (18Sep06) from Ricki Crabtree, Enid Chamber of Commerce, for club's role in 2006 Cherokee Strip Parade. Letter of appreciation (02Oct06) from Mike Stuber, Enid AMBUCS, for the club's role in the 2006 Bike Rally.

Old Business

Al thanked all who helped set up the new W5HTK club room and install antennas. Informal agreement that the antennas will remain in place and not be used for field day.

The ARC Cimarron Valley Chapter will not participate in the Amateur Radio Preparedness Exercise on Saturday, 18Nov06. Informal agreement to meet in the club room between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for familiarization, equipment testing, and possible check-in with Area 4 net control station for the exercise.

"Enid Light Up the Plains," Friday, 24Nov06. Those willing to help keep spectators away from the debris fallout area will meet in front of Mark Price Arena at 6:00 p.m. Use the 147.375 repeater.

ARES meeting in Perry, Saturday, 02Dec06. Sign-in at 9:00 a.m. Morning discussion followed by IS-00100 "Introduction to the Incident Command System" course in afternoon. Participants should already be enrolled. <ARESOK.org> website has more information.

Books on the adventure of ham radio are in hand and ready for M.Cofer to distribute to local junior high school libraries.

New Business

R.Gandy and G. Viet presented the annual audit report of the club finances for the period 01Oct05 through 30Sep06. All checks, receipts and transactions were found to be in order. They also presented the results of property/equipment inventory as of 28Oct06. All property and equipment items have been accounted for, these having an estimated replacement cost of \$12,070.

M/S/C to accept the reports.

Al announced that the club's Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, 14Dec06, at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Corral. M/S/C to invite Sergeant Miller (EPD) and Robin Unruh (ARC), each with one companion, to be guests of the club at the dinner.

Club-sponsored Technician classes will begin in January, in the ARC meeting room. Details to follow. Morse code classes pending.

EARC Board Chairman G. Veit installed the 2007 club officers:

PRESIDENT - AL FOX
VICE-PRES - MIKE COFER
SECRETARY - BILL KECK
TREASURER - DWAYNE POSEY
BOARD MEMBER (2011) - AL FOX

Reminder that 2007 EARC membership dues should be received in January.

D.Locke advised that a 60-ft break-over tower is available free for removal. Contact him for details.

D.Locke asked the club to consider ways to get newly licensed operators to get on the air and participate in club activities---e.g., by loaning or giving radios to those unable to provide their own. C.Herndon encouraged club members to help newly licensed members evaluate and choose appropriate radio equipment.

B.Webling encouraged additional volunteers to serve as NCS for the EARC Monday Night Net.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The next regular meeting will be incorporated into the club Christmas dinner, Thursday 14Dec06.

Respectfully submitted by B.Keck\K5ECI, Club Secretary