

# Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 8, Issue 1

February 2004

## December Meeting

December 2nd, 2003

**Ray Johnson – W9RAY**

The regular scheduled meeting of TCRA was held at Ruby's Roadhouse on December 2nd. Members in attendance were W9DNB, AB9EJ, N9RVV, N9XMU, N9UBS, KA9GNG, KB9WYO, W9RAY, N9UXH, and KC9CGW. Guests present were KG9RA.

A call for nominations for officers for 2004 was taken. No nominations were received. The 2003 officers will have another term.

Rudy's advised they would like a heads up before the meetings so they can prepare for the amount of people.

Walt has been in contact with the club. He advised the repeater is working well and the new antenna and controller will be installed when he has time.

Door prizes were drawn and everybody walked away with something. A big thanks to Mike AB9EJ for getting everything put together for the drawing.

Door prizes were donated by Amateur Electronic

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## Door Prize Winners

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Paul Brooten – KB9TYC**

Here is the list of who won what at the annual Christmas Party. Many thanks to those who donated prizes this year.

Prize	Winner
Burghardt's Hat	Bill Noble - KA9GNG
Burghardt's Hat	Gary Zabel - KB9WYO
Burghardt's Hat	John Brenner - N9UXH
Burghardt's Hat	Matt Metzdorf - KC9CGW
Burghardt's Mug	Bill Noble - KA9GNG
Burghardt's Mug	Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ
Burghardt's Mug	John Holman - W9DNB
Burghardt's Water Jug	Ray Johnson - W9RAY
\$10.00 AES Gift Certificate	Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ
\$10.00 AES Gift Certificate	Matt Metzdorf - KC9CGW
\$20.00 AES Gift Certificate	Scott Baselt - N9UBS
\$20.00 Hardware Hank Gift Certificate	Dale McGraw - N9XMU
2004 ARRL Handbook	Marv Opitz - N9RVV
\$150.00 Burghardt Gift Certificate	John Holman - W9DNB

73,

KB9TYC ❖

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## 2004 TCRA Officers

President: Dale McGraw – N9XMU  
Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY  
Secretary: Paul Brooten – KB9TYC  
Treasurer: Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

<http://www.tcra.org>

Supply in Milwaukee, WI; Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, SD; Hardware Hank; and the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. The grand prize provided by the club was a \$150.00 Gift Certificate for Burghardt's.

There was no Treasurers report or Secretaries report.

The next meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

73,

W9RAY❖

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION DECEMBER MEETING

PLACE: RUBY'S ROADHOUSE IN BLOOMER

DATE: FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2004.

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

### VE TESTING

PLACE: UW-STOUT - MENOMONIE

DATE: MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2004.

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

CONTACT JAMES LEY AT (715) 235-3998 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### VE TESTING

PLACE: SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL – EAU CLAIRE

DATE: APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2004.

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

CONTACT JONATHAN CASE AT KE9KW@ARRL.NET FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## Mike's Code Corner

### Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

#### Code Corner #5 Results

One of the first things you'll notice when you tune the low end of any vhf band is that most qsos include an exchange of grid squares. Grid squares are a shorthand means of describing your general location anywhere on earth. For example, instead of trying to tell distant stations that, I'm in Cadott, WI. I tell them, I'm in grid square en44. It sounds strange, but en44 is a lot easier to locate on a grid square map than a small town.

Grid squares are coded with a 2 letter 2 number code. This handy designator uniquely identifies the grid square and your exact location in latitude and longitude; no two have the same identifying code. ❖

## ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### ARRL Headquarters

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last

July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to

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upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General Licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/), for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class. ❖

## Renewal Reminder

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Paul Brooten – KB9TYC**

The time has come once again to renew your membership with the Tri County Repeater Association. Your dues help Walt maintain the 145.470 repeater and fund club activities.

Dues remain at the affordable price of \$20.00 a year for a single or family membership.

To pay your dues for 2004 send a check payable to TCRA to:

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ  
23701 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Cadott, WI 54727

Thanks for your continued support!

73,

KB9TYC ❖

**Please check your information on the membership roster. If you see anything that is wrong please send corrections to [kb9tyc@tcra.org](mailto:kb9tyc@tcra.org) or call and leave a message at (715) 475-9212.**

Thanks,

KB9TYC ❖