



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



February, 2007

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 7, Number 2

IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio



license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse

No Code *cont'd pg.2*

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.
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 Reader submissions encouraged!

Ninth Annual Minnesota QSO Party Saturday, February 03, 2007

Don't miss the action from all parts of Minnesota. Here are the details on the one event that puts Minnesota on the air for amateur operators worldwide.

* 8:00 AM CST (1400 UTC)
 Through 6 PM CST (2400 UTC)

* Plaques and Certificates for Winners in All Categories

* Special Gift of Minnesota Premium Wild Rice for Top 20 Non-Minnesota Scores!

* Special Club Competition

Additional Information available on the Minnesota Wireless website; <http://www.w0aa.org/mnqp.htm>

* MnQP 2006 Results

* Reflections From a First Time MnQP Rover

* Rover White Paper

* MNQP 2007 Log Sheet (Adobe PDF) Revised 1-7-07

MN QSO Party *cont'd pg. 2*



Happy Valentine's Day

ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)
 Breakfast Saturday, Feb. 10th**

SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
ARES			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Neighboring Nets			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

No Code *cont'd from pg. 1*

code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

BREAK - OVER

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MN QSO Party *cont'd from pg. 1*

Here's Where to Find Us in the
2007 Minnesota QSO Party!

Band/Mode	Freq.	CST	GMT
10 CW	28050	Noon	1800
10 SSB	28450	2:00 PM	2000
15 CW	21050	11:00 AM	1700
15 SSB	21350	1:00 PM	1900
20 CW	14050	All Day!	All Day!
20 SSB	14270	All Day!	All Day!
40 CW	7050	All Day!	All Day!
40 SSB	7250	All Day!	All Day!
80 CW	3550	All Day!	All Day!
80 SSB	3850	All Day!	All Day!
160 CW	1850	5:30 PM	2330
160 SSB	1870	5:30 PM	2330

BREAK - OVER

There's no limit to what we can accomplish

if no one cares who gets the credit.

Ronald Reagan

40th President of the United States

"I TAWT I HAD A GOOD ID!"



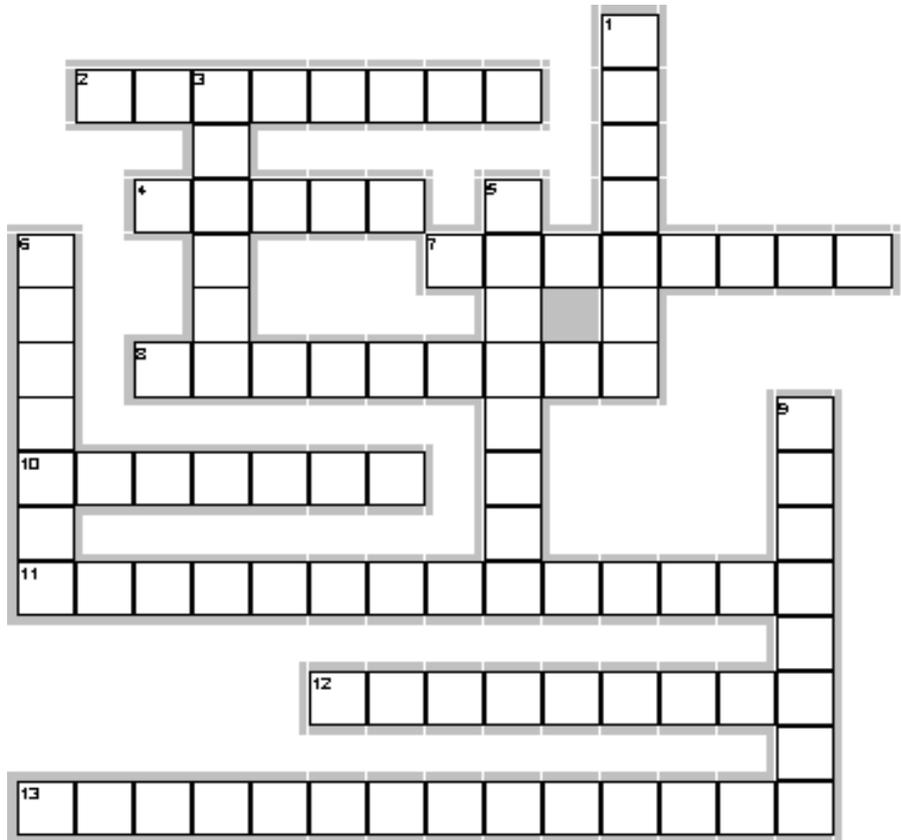
Don't get caught short like good old Sylvester Kat! Check your Scott ARES Identification Card today to see if it has expired. If you need a new card, email your photo to NOBHC and get the renewal process started. No, you cannot hire a model to pose for the photo! Be sure to include your Metro Skywarn number in the email and list any corrections or updates since your ID was issued.

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**Remember our
Presidents**

President's Day Feb. 19th

POWER SUPPLY BASICS



Across

- 2. A surge suppression device used to absorb transients and spikes occurring on the power lines.
- 4. An extremely short perturbation on a powerline, usually lasting for hundreds of milliseconds to several seconds.
- 7. A type of current limiting which reduces the current through the regulator to a low value under a short circuit condition.
- 8. A device or circuitry for maintaining a constant output voltage over a range of load currents and input voltages.
- 10. A term used to denote the common two junction transistor types (NPN or PNP) as opposed to the FET devices.
- 11. Refers to the effective value of an alternating voltage or current corresponding to the dc voltage or current that would have the same heating effect.
- 12. A short perturbation on a powerline, usually lasting for microseconds to tens of milliseconds.
- 13. The transistor that controls the passage of power between the unregulated dc source and the load in a regulator.

Down

- 1. A resistive load across the output of a supply to quickly discharge the stored energy once the supply is turned off.
- 3. The residual ac left after rectification, filtration, and regulation of the input power.
- 5. The product obtained by multiplying the current times the voltage in an ac circuit without regard for the phase angle between the two.
- 6. A last-ditch protection circuit which senses an overvoltage condition and fires an SCR to short circuit the supply and protect the load.
- 9. A circuit for producing ac power from a dc source.

Punxsutawney Phil sez, "What does a guy have to do to get some sleep around here?"



Mental Exercises

Ready for a little creative thinking? Check these out and watch for the answers next month.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. |
| man | stand | /r/e/a/d/i/n/g/ | r
road | cycle
cycle
cycle | 0 |
| _____ | _____ | | a
d | | _____ |
| board | i | | | | M.D.
Ph.D. |

NIMS Knowledge Answers (from the January test)

1. Fill in the appropriate ICS organizational element that if activated directs the activities listed below, the organizational elements are listed below.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| A. Incident Command | E. Logistics |
| B. Information Officer | F. Operations |
| C. Safety | G. Planning |
| D. Finance/Administration | H. Liaison |

ICS organizational elements

- F Responsible for staging areas
E Provide Support and Services to meet incident needs
A Set objectives and priorities
G Collects and evaluates information, maintain status
B Prepares information releases
D Monitor cost, provide accounting, procurement and time recording services
C Develops measures for the safety of all personnel
F Conduct tactical operations, develop tactical objects, and direct all tactical resources.
H Primary contact for agency representatives
2. The ability to communicate within the Incident Command System (ICS) is absolutely critical. To ensure efficient, clear communications, ICS requires the use of
- B. Common terminology
3. One of the basic Incident Command System (ICS) principles is that the first Incident Commander is responsible until the:
- D. Authority is delegated to another person
4. The ability to communicate within ICS is absolutely critical. To ensure efficient, clear communications, ICS requires the use of:
- B. Common terminology.



Get Your NIMS Answers Here

Training requirement for emergency communications volunteers are constantly changing. The following FEMA on-line courses are required for ARES members working with any government served agency.

- The four on-line self-study courses are;
- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System,
 - IS-200.FW Basic Incident Command System
 - IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 - IS-800.A National Response Plan (NRP)

The address for the FEMA courses is: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. When you complete the course, send the documentation to Bob Reid, NOBHC, Scott County E.C..

BREAK - OVER

January Crossword Solution

Presidential Facts - Gerald R. Ford

Across

2. VICEPRESIDENTANDPRESIDENT—Held these two offices without ever having been elected.
4. SWIMMINGPOOL—Had this facility rebuilt at the White House, because Richard Nixon had it removed.
7. MONTEREY—Ford was assigned to this light aircraft carrier during World War II.
10. GRANDRAPIDS—The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is located in this city.
14. CENTER—What position, on the University of Michigan football team, did Gerald Ford play?
16. COSMOPOLITIAN—Ford appeared on the cover of this magazine in 1942 along with the woman he was dating at the time.
19. GREENBAYPACKERS—Ford was offered professional football tryouts with the Chicago Bears and this team.
20. EAGLESCOUT—First President to earn this Boy Scout rank.

Down

1. MEMPHISCLASSIC—Scored a hole-in-one in 1977 at this golf tournament.
3. WARRENCOMMISSION—Studied the assassination of President Kennedy as a member of this group.
5. MALEMODEL—Gerald Ford was employed part-time as a ?
6. LESLIE—Gerald Ford's last name by birth was King, before he was adopted by his mother's second husband, Gerald Ford Sr. What was Ford's original first name?
8. MAYAGUEZ—In May 1975 Ford ordered US forces to rescue the crew of this US merchant ship after it was seized.
9. SENIORPROM—His daughter, Susan, hosted this event at the White House.
11. ANNARBOR—The Gerald R. Ford Library is located in this city
12. SEVENTEEN—Sara Jane Moore attempted to assassinate Ford how many days after the attempt by Lynette Fromme?
13. BOXING—Was head coach of this team at Yale University.
15. SACRAMENTO—"Squeaky" Fromme attempted to assassinate President Ford in this city on September 5, 1975.
17. NEBRASKA—In what state was Gerald Ford born?
18. STEVEN—Portrays Andy Richards on the soap opera Young and Restless, and is related to Gerald Ford.

BREAK - OVER

It's Spotter Training Time!

Now that we are caught in winter's icy grip here comes a sure sign of spring! Metro SKYWARN has announced the Spotter Training Class schedule for the 2007 season. Here are a small selection of classes being held in the south metro area. The complete list is available at the Metro Skywarn website at <http://www.metroskywarn.org/sked.html>. Check you SKYWRAN ID card to see if this is your year to complete the training.



March 3rd Saturday 1 pm to 5 pm
Twin Cities Repeater Club
Burnsville City Hall
Civic Center Dr & Nicollet Ave
Jeff Goodnuff [w0kf\(at\)tcrc.org](mailto:w0kf(at)tcrc.org)
952-927-0201

March 28th Wednesday 6 pm to 10 pm
SMARTS
Carver County Govt Center
Chaska, MN
Dean Anderson 952-466-3808
[en\(at\)gothaos.com](mailto:en(at)gothaos.com)

April 7th Saturday 8 am to noon
Bloomington Emergency Com.
Fire Station # 1
10 West 95th St.
Bloomington, MN
Gene Clemens 952-831-3089
[scoutgc\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:scoutgc(at)earthlink.net)

June 9th Saturday 9 am to 1 pm
Twin Cities Repeater Club
Burnsville City Hall
Burnsville, MN
Civic Center Dr & Nicollet Ave.
Jeff Goodnuff 952-927-0201 [w0kf\(at\)tcrc.org](mailto:w0kf(at)tcrc.org)

BREAK - OVER

Winter Preparedness



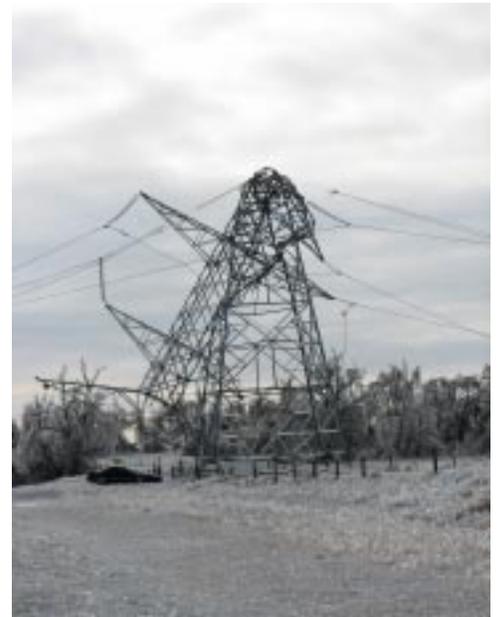
One of the first principles of emergency communications is to make sure your family is safe. You cannot be part of an emergency response if you are worried about your family. With weather conditions and temperature variations, ice storms and blizzard conditions are a concern in our area.

The National Weather Service issues severe weather watches and warnings in advance in most cases. With the ever-changing conditions, it is important to stay tuned to local news and weather experts for storm updates and adhere to guidance and warnings issued by local and state officials.

Anticipating these severe weather events is your best tool for use in comfortably surviving these storms. Following the Boy Scout's Motto, the first step is Be Prepared.

* Get a kit – Buy or gather supplies to help you weather the storm, including the following essentials water, non-perishable food, battery powered-radio, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid supplies and special items for medical conditions. Have extra blankets on hand and warm clothing including a coat, gloves or mittens, hat and water-resistant boots for each household member. Put items in an easy-to-carry container that is accessible in the event you need to evacuate. Assemble a kit for your vehicle as well in case you need to travel while the weather is less than ideal.

* Make a Plan – If evacuation might be a possibility, be sure you have an evacuation plan that includes identifying multiple exit routes in case some roads are inaccessible. Prepare your plan before you slide behind the wheel to leave. Identify motels/hotels, emergency shelters/warming center or other places to stay along your evacuation route outside the affected area. Finally, make or update an emergency communications plan and contact list, and contact loved



Winter *cont'd from pg. 5*

ones now to tell them your plans if you must evacuate.

* **Be Informed** – Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information. Find out now how authorities will notify you and where evacuation or emergency sheltering centers are likely to be in or near your community. Check maps for alternate routes out of your neighborhood in the event that streets are flooded or blocked. Pay close attention to news reports not just for weather updates but for information related to road closings, power outages or affected utilities and services in your own and adjacent communities. Follow the instructions of local public works and government officials.

There are some important concerns you need to consider for your family and yourself during a severe weather emergency.

* **Stay Hydrated** – People may not realize that dehydration is as much a problem in cold weather as it is in hot, when fluid loss is more visibly apparent. Exertion, such as shoveling snow or scraping ice, and dry, heated air can exacerbate the problem.

* **Dress Appropriately** – Stay inside; if you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves or mittens and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.

* **Be a Good Neighbor** – Check on neighbors who are older, have disabilities or have several infants or young children in the home and might appreciate a little extra assistance during harsh weather.

* **Avoid Travel** – Be alert to changing weather conditions and avoid unnecessary travel.

When severe weather events do occur people often perform tasks outside the routine. Common sense is often the first casualty in these situations and extra caution must be exercised. Be especially careful in the following situations.

* **Alternative Heat Source** – Use extreme care when using alternative heat sources such as coal or wood-burning stoves, wood or gas fireplaces and portable heaters. Improper use or placement is a common cause of winter home fires. Follow all directions and keep any flammables far from the heat source. Cooking appliances should not be used as a heat source; never use an outdoor grill inside.

* **Generator Safety** – Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator during a power outage. Do not use generators inside.

* **Food Storage and Safety** – Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer during a power outage to keep food cold as long

THE ELECTRONIC HOLE THEORY EXPOSED AS FRAUD

How things really work

Submitted by A. Nonny Moose, Reporter-at-large

Have you ever been confused by the Electronic Hole Theory of Semiconductor Physics? I do know my stuff when it comes to electronics and have done a careful study of the illusory phenomenon of electron flow and here is what I have found.

After years of research, I have come to realize that the hole theory may not be correct. My theory, which has been proven time and time again in service shops all across the country, is this. All electronic devices and especially IC's work on smoke... Yes, that's what I said, smoke!

I have recently discovered that every electronic device manufactured and all IC makers, encapsulate a certain amount of black smoke in every one of their devices. This smoke is what does the work and performs the magic of electron flow inside the device. Undoubtedly, you have often noticed that a component will quit working when this encapsulated smoke leaks out.

I have documented this many times and it conclusively proves my theory. After all, when a storm comes up, the sky gets black, the lightening starts to flash through the black clouds, which must be smoke. Because when the sky clears and is no longer black the lightening stops! So the Smoke is the answer to electron flow...

Proof Positive: Have you ever been able to operate an electronic component after the Smoke leaked out? I rest my case.....

BREAK - OVER

Winter *cont'd from col. 1*

as possible. An unopened refrigerator will keep foods cold enough for at least a couple of hours. A freezer that is half full will hold for up to 24 hours – a full freezer for 48 hours.

* **Snow and Ice** – After the storm has passed, use extreme caution when walking on sidewalks and driveways; a thin, light layer of snow may be masking a slick ice patch. If you shovel snow, be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so take frequent breaks to avoid overexertion and stay hydrated.

Finally, waiting out a winter storm in close quarters with windows and doors shut up tight can increase stress, making people more anxious and triggering conflicts. Consider planning some fun indoor activities and diversions, such as reading, board games or arts and crafts projects, to entertain household members and stave off that dreaded "cabin fever." While so much energy is focused on physical safety and comfort, your psychological and emotional well-being is important too.

BREAK - OVER

ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee Report

The ARRL Board of Directors accepted the Report of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) when it met January 19 and 20 in Windsor, Connecticut. The Board set in motion a process to identify and implement action items in the report as soon as possible. The Committee was charged with developing comprehensive recommendations to improve the League's response to regional, national and international disasters. Among other things, panel members evaluated the responses and actions of ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) during Hurricane Katrina as well as lessons learned.

"If 'lessons learned' are not followed by 'behaviors changed,' then the lessons have not been learned at all," the report concludes. The report describes disaster preparedness as "a moving target, moving faster all the time." No recommendations, plans or systems should be considered "the permanent answers for all circumstances and hazards," the report asserts.

While the level of expertise in emergency communications and emergency management among US radio amateurs is growing, the report noted, so is the expectation that the ARRL provide first-rate leadership and guidance.

Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations and suggestions:

- * enhance ARRL and ARES training in basic message handling.
- * develop a continuing education course covering installation, configuration, and use of Winlink 2000 for e-mail.
- * formally establish a national ARES volunteer database for use during major disasters and establish training criteria.
- * institute a Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) function to coordinate responses to large-scale national or regional disasters or emergencies.
- * become better acquainted with the emergency response needs of distant ARRL sections, such as Pacific, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Alaska.
- * improve working relationships with national-level served agencies.
- * ensure ARRL staff training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) and, as necessary, adapt ARRL's emergency response structure to the Unified Command model.

BREAK - OVER

Quick Training Tips

Directed Net Check-in

Let's take a look at some recent activity on a directed training net. The NECOS asks for station check ins by saying, "Stations when checking in call W0XDC, net control, and list your call, location, and precedence and destination of any traffic."

Three stations respond to the call for check-ins;

- A. "Kay Sea Zero Hard Drive Amplifier from up north. How are you doing tonight?"
- B. "Kay Bee Zero Under Public Works"
- C. "W0XDC" unkeys the mic, listens, and continues, "Alpha Charlie Zero Delta Foxtrot, Jordan, No traffic, OVER"

Suppose you are the NECOS for this net and the net is holding several pieces of very important traffic to pass on behalf of the served agency. All three stations are located in the same area and could each deliver the messages.

Based on their performance, to which of the stations would you route the traffic? Suppose one of the messages read, "Dike above the 1200 block of Lagoon Street is ready to burst XRAY Send more sandbags ASAP" Oh, by the way, you live at 1218 Lagoon Street.

There is no place in emergency communications for operators who do not know or refuse to follow procedures that have been developed to facilitate Accurate, Rapid delivery of information for the served agency. BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast

Saturday February 10th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule - February, 2007

5 Feb	N0PI Dan
12 Feb	WONFE Bob
19 Feb	KB0FH Bob
26 Feb	AB0YQ Steve
5 Mar	K0KTW Pat
12 Mar	N0PI Dan