

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Canadians Comment on Lowering Morse Exam Speed to 5 wpm!

Comments are pouring in to Canada's telecommunications regulator, *Industry Canada*, supporting the reduction of the Morse Code exam requirement from 12 to 5 wpm. On January 6, 2001, *Industry Canada* released Gazette Notice No. DGRB-001-01 "A proposal to Grant Full Operating Privileges in all Amateur Radio Frequency Bands Below 30 MHz to Amateur Radio Operators Holding a 5 word per minute (wpm) Morse Code Qualification."

The proposed lowering of the Morse code test speed in Canada to 5 wpm has overwhelming support. More than 300 submissions (107 pages worth!) from the public have been posted (in both French and English) to the *Industry Canada* website at: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/pics/sf/comments.pdf>. More than 80 percent favor the reduction.

Selected representative comments include:

"I am concerned that the future of Amateur Radio is going to be limited at best, unless this action is taken and soon."

"I fully support the proposal. We need to have an appropriate balance, respecting the past and also looking forward to the future...."

"I think [code] should be dropped completely and have another mechanism in place to enjoy HF privileges."

"Whatever you decide, let me suggest that you harmonize with the main countries following the CEPT recommendations as this is the gauge acknowledged by a majority of licensing authorities."

"Amateurs wishing to use Morse will continue with their

studies in this mode on their own, improving their skills without further regulatory hurdles."

"We need to renew interest in Amateur Radio, and the reduction of the code speed will allow those with sound technical skills - now developing from interests in computers - to merge their interests with new and exciting radio and communications technology."

"The Basic 'no-code' has not turned 2 meters into CB radio... Therefore, we should not fear our HF bands turning into a platform for unqualified operators..."

"I feel that CW is a mode for some people to use, just as 'snail mail' is one of a number of ways for people to communicate. CW may never die out completely nor will 'snail mail' die out completely. But one should have the option to choose."

"How fast you can discern the meaning of random tones has nothing to do with being a good ham and should never have had the importance it has now."

"I believe the testing should place more emphasis on operating procedures, including on-air operating courtesy."

"Frankly, I fail to see why Morse code should be a requirement for any privileges as it is now just another operating mode. If not for the Morse requirement I would have gotten into ham radio 40 years ago."

"There is no requirement to show competency in any other mode of operation in order to obtain or upgrade a license. So why should there be any requirement at all for Morse code?"

"I believe this is a great step forward for young people to get into Amateur Radio. This will also bring us in line with

the rest of the international community..."

"There has to be something done to keep the 'CBers' attitude and aptitude out of the amateur bands. With this condition satisfied, make the HF bands available to as many as possible."

"If the view that 'CW is an outdated modulation technique' is indeed the case, why bother with maintaining 5 wpm? Why not drop all Morse code requirements?"

"I believe the requirement for a higher speed needlessly and unfairly excludes amateurs from privileges they deserve."

"Decreasing the [Morse exam] requirement ...will encourage upgrading of no-code licensees and promote use of our amateur HF bands."

"Knowing 7 wpm more than I currently do will not make me a better amateur operator nor a better person."

"Simply put CW is a mode not an entry qualifier ...a mode that is able to overcome poor propagation conditions not a way to ensure amateur operator good behavior. ...If it is necessary to take steps to address amateur operator behavior on HF (why only HF, the problems are everywhere) then meet the challenge with better education and enforcement programs."

"Full band privileges [without high speed code] essentially means no more barriers, the sky is the limit!"

"We feel that it is important to look ahead and join the multitude of Nations who have decided to decrease their Morse code proficiency to 5 wpm."

"It appears to be the proper regulatory response to the changing realities of the hobby of Amateur Radio."

"This will better allow many licenced amateurs to expand their knowledge and technical experience, through experimentation in the new emerging technologies of today's wireless communications."

"What is needed in the qualifications ...is more detailed testing and practical applications concerning all aspects of amateur radio, and not the ancient style of exams that put tubes and Morse code in the same category as satellites and digital technology."

"Today's amateurs are not like those of earlier years who did much of the building of their amateur radios and transmitters. Today's amateurs are simply appliance operators who do not own the necessary equipment to properly calibrate and adjust home-brewed equipment."

"Although I know how to rebuild an automobile engine, it is not required of me to pass a test regarding engine repair. Nor do I have to know the combustion formulas for the fuel that I use. So why should such stiff requirements pertain to an amateur license?"

"...the objective of any 'hurdle' to obtaining operating privi-

leges should be aimed at ensuring that individuals understand the principals of Radio Communications sufficiently well that they do not cause problems for themselves and others using the spectrum."

"Morse code is a historical phenomenon which could be replaced entirely by appropriate training requirements in more modern digital communications."

"I'm a little sorry to see it change, but if it will attract more people to become Amateur Radio operators than so be it."

Here are some comments that are opposed:

"I feel that your proposed actions are premature, and would ask you to await the decisions of the WRC. ...[I] fear a significant drop in quality of the Amateur Service."

"Watering down the requirements for HF operation is the only way that I can describe what's happening in HF operation worldwide. All the citizen band operators must have strong lobbying powers to government."

"We are against it. We believe [Morse proficiency] truly represents a dedication to the hobby."

"I believe that the ability to communicate in CW is a worthy skill and that it is important to have a pool of people in our society who are proficient in CW. Five wpm is not proficiency. ...I am also concerned about the deterioration in behavior and operating practice on the HF bands."

"CW is not dead or outmoded as many people would have us believe. ...5 wpm is not much of a test to prove that a person is worthy of a higher class license. ...I believe this is the thin edge of the wedge to eliminate the CW test altogether."

"I get the impression that there is also pressure from the manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment to reduce the HF requirements so that more equipment can be sold."

"I use Morse every day at twenty-five or thirty words per minute and it is a highly useful means of communication. Five wpm is nothing more than an exercise in futility."

"I believe that Proficiency in Radio includes proficiency in all of the commonly used communication techniques, and Morse code is still in common use."

"Why is it that Canada always has to be a follower and never a leader? ...Where are our leaders...the men with guts! (and I do not mean fat bellies!) I mean men with Integrity and leadership who once believed in fighting for a cause as it was worth something.... Maybe they are too old to care anymore."

"...Amateur Radio will be nothing more than a useless CB band and who wants to listen to 'You Got Your Ears On Good Buddy'?"

"I like the idea of having a higher standard for full HF privileges. I don't think we should join the rush to the bottom."

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WESTERN EUROPE ADOPTS 5 WPM CODE STANDARD

CEPT's (*the Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations*) Amateur Radio telegraphy requirement was discussed at a Working Group meeting held January 24-28, 2000 in Helsinki, Finland.

Its document T/R 61-02 covers the examination requirements for long term Amateur Radio operation in another CEPT country. These requirements included 12 words per minute Morse proficiency, even though many CEPT and non-CEPT countries required lower speeds.

For example, CEPT members Denmark and Sweden require 5 wpm as their top speed. It was further understood by CEPT that there are administrations, which are considering not to require any Morse code test at all in future.

At a recent meeting in The Hague, CEPT's *Radio Regulatory Working Group* (WGRR) adopted a revision of Recommendation 61-02 to include a new 5 wpm Morse code sending and receiving standard of 3 minutes duration with a maximum of 4 uncorrected errors. The *European Radiocommunication Office* (ERO) published the revised version of T/R 61-02 on March 6, 2001.

The revision establishes the telegraphy requirements for the *Harmonized Amateur Radio Examination Certificate* (HAREC) - an Amateur Radio certificate recognized by all CEPT member countries confirming that the holder has successfully passed an Amateur Radio examination which complies with the Examination Syllabus for the HAREC level A (full privilege license) or B (VHF/UHF.)

It was not necessary to change the requirements in T/R 61-01 since no particular Morse code exam speed is mentioned in that document. Recommendation 61-01 covers short term visits to other CEPT nations.

In other CEPT news, the United Kingdom was elected as the next President of CEPT to take effect October 1, 2001 when the term of Norway's presidency expires. Portugal will take over the Presidency after the UK.

The CEPT was created in 1959 by 19 postal and telecommunications administrations in Western Europe. The organization has since been reorganized several times. Today it consists of administrations from 43 European countries.

(Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Vatican.)

CQ PROPAGATION EDITOR GEORGE JACOBS, W3ASK, NAMED DAYTON RADIOAMATEUR OF THE YEAR

CQ magazine Propagation Editor George Jacobs, W3ASK, has been named the Dayton Hamvention's *Amateur of the Year for 2001*.

Jacobs, who celebrated his 50th anniversary as CQ's propagation columnist in the magazine's March issue, is being honored by the *Dayton Amateur Radio Association* for his half-century of helping amateurs understand radio propagation.

Also being honored this year are Special Achievement Award winner Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, for his work with amateur radio in space; and Technical Achievement Award winner Peter Martinez, G3PLX, for his development of the PSK-31 digital mode. PSK31 is a new easy-to-use digital HF mode that is based on the RTTY manner of operation. It is useful for real-time keyboard-to-keyboard QSOs and is available for free in many platforms, including Windows© with SoundBlaster-type soundcards.

Jacobs began writing CQ's Propagation column in March, 1951, and never missed a deadline, despite jobs that took him all over the world. A professional broadcast engineer, he is credited with pioneering and developing the world-wide broadcasting system of the Voice of America, and with overseeing the post-1974 modernization of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty broadcasting facilities.

Jacobs is also an expert in the international regulatory aspects of broadcasting, and has served as a member of U.S. delegations to almost every major broadcasting conference convened by the International Telecommunication Union since 1949. He is also a long-time Contributing Editor for the *World Radio-TV Handbook* and co-author of CQ's "The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook."

"George has shared his knowledge of radio propagation with CQ's readers for five decades," noted CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. "As a result, many of today's most active hams have a far greater understanding of how propagation works, and of what to expect from different ham bands under different conditions. It has been our great fortune to be associated with George for so many years."

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, added, "One of the most important things George has done for our readers each year is his last-minute predictions of conditions during the CQ World Wide DX Contest. It is a testament to his great skill that, over the course of a half century, he has been right over 90% of the time. All of us at CQ congratulate George Jacobs on this well-deserved honor."

Jacobs, Bauer and Martinez will receive their awards at the Hamvention Banquet on May 19, 2001.

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AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE CENSUS - INDIVIDUAL STATIONS MARCH 31, 2001

State	Extra	Advanced	General	Tech +	Technic.	Novice	March 2001	March 2000	% Increase
AK Alaska	446	392	631	387	1,197	159	3,212	3,170	1.3%
AL Alabama	1,534	1,306	2,040	1,368	3,919	413	10,580	10,413	1.6%
AR Arkansas	1,009	829	1,228	899	2,731	298	6,994	6,787	3.1%
AZ Arizona	2,171	2,108	3,001	2,078	5,753	620	15,731	15,310	2.8%
CA California	11,071	11,681	16,721	14,501	41,174	7,574	102,722	103,046	-0.3%
CO Colorado	1,822	1,651	2,394	1,668	4,110	604	12,249	11,983	2.2%
CT Connecticut	1,327	1,139	1,883	1,190	2,042	738	8,319	8,318	0.0%
DC Dist.of Columbia	69	76	104	45	94	30	418	410	2.0%
DE Delaware	238	180	323	204	362	81	1,388	1,390	-0.1%
FL Florida	5,588	6,299	9,680	5,453	9,889	3,085	39,994	39,813	0.5%
GA Georgia	2,097	2,067	2,907	2,066	4,755	686	14,578	14,429	1.0%
HI Hawaii	484	390	561	473	1,173	221	3,302	3,172	4.1%
IA Iowa	971	1,082	1,482	790	1,768	432	6,525	6,425	1.6%
ID Idaho	558	455	827	573	1,811	168	4,392	4,286	2.5%
IL Illinois	3,340	3,037	4,887	3,162	6,766	1,602	22,794	22,649	0.6%
IN Indiana	1,996	1,847	3,118	2,229	4,841	927	14,958	14,758	1.4%
KS Kansas	959	853	1,606	1,010	2,376	490	7,294	7,226	0.9%
KY Kentucky	1,197	973	1,661	1,241	3,253	541	8,866	8,783	0.9%
LA Louisiana	1,013	1,023	1,365	939	2,082	375	6,797	6,834	-0.5%
MA Massachusetts	2,417	1,992	3,160	2,148	3,656	1,111	14,484	14,434	0.3%
MD Maryland	1,886	1,655	2,296	1,597	3,015	738	11,187	11,147	0.4%
ME Maine	675	546	1,035	616	1,278	277	4,427	4,360	1.5%
MI Michigan	3,053	2,695	4,551	2,905	6,842	1,187	21,233	20,783	2.2%
MN Minnesota	1,644	1,486	2,411	1,402	3,227	580	10,750	10,593	1.5%
MO Missouri	1,887	1,699	2,734	1,642	4,119	704	12,785	12,585	1.6%
MS Mississippi	680	651	934	568	1,669	215	4,717	4,653	1.4%
MT Montana	442	364	636	363	1,123	173	3,101	3,061	1.3%
NC North Carolina	2,677	2,403	3,593	2,550	6,170	1,211	18,604	18,214	2.1%
ND North Dakota	220	168	366	228	500	85	1,567	1,567	0.0%
NE Nebraska	551	561	984	539	1,044	222	3,901	3,884	0.4%
NH New Hampshire	871	599	1,023	723	1,448	285	4,949	4,923	0.5%
NJ New Jersey	2,550	2,327	3,402	2,434	3,768	1,321	15,802	15,737	0.4%
NM New Mexico	797	725	974	609	2,157	167	5,429	5,257	3.3%
NV Nevada	651	602	1,056	587	1,652	194	4,742	4,530	4.7%
NY New York	4,528	4,211	6,739	4,763	9,228	3,009	32,478	32,713	-0.7%
OH Ohio	4,216	3,649	6,130	4,909	9,530	1,915	30,349	30,115	0.8%
OK Oklahoma	1,266	1,120	1,593	1,214	3,601	438	9,232	8,980	2.8%
OR Oregon	1,723	1,682	2,968	1,797	4,282	724	13,176	12,899	2.1%
PA Pennsylvania	3,880	3,406	5,416	3,589	6,458	1,643	24,392	24,123	1.1%
PR Puerto Rico	358	491	836	1,644	1,169	1,882	6,380	6,797	-6.1%
RI Rhode Island	389	269	532	428	529	196	2,343	2,362	-0.8%
SC South Carolina	1,043	880	1,556	910	2,153	336	6,878	6,731	2.2%
SD South Dakota	246	249	377	171	441	101	1,585	1,569	1.0%
TN Tennessee	2,070	1,853	2,720	2,056	4,685	653	14,037	13,807	1.7%
TX Texas	6,372	5,924	8,156	5,533	14,118	1,865	41,968	41,072	2.2%
UT Utah	763	639	1,023	1,205	4,838	277	8,745	8,482	3.1%
VA Virginia	2,771	2,389	3,410	2,391	5,082	969	17,012	16,795	1.3%
VI Virgin Islands	51	29	82	32	95	20	309	289	6.9%
VT Vermont	348	244	440	289	808	105	2,234	2,228	0.3%
WA Washington	3,181	2,940	4,823	3,524	8,491	1,282	24,241	23,885	1.5%
WI Wisconsin	1,548	1,441	2,306	1,313	3,467	564	10,639	10,481	1.5%
WV West Virginia	798	594	1,095	846	2,840	319	6,492	6,399	1.5%
WY Wyoming	234	197	314	206	589	78	1,618	1,569	3.1%
Other*	247	124	201	212	810	71	1,665	1,558	6.9%
Total - March 2001	94,923	88,192	136,291	96,219	224,978	43,961	684,564	+6,780	1.0%
Percent of Total:	13.9%	12.9%	19.9%	14.1%	32.9%	6.4%	100.0%		
Total - March 2000	75,985	103,048	109,787	133,688	204,646	50,630		677,784	
Percent of Total:	11.2%	15.2%	16.2%	19.7%	30.2%	7.5%		100.0%	

(* Other = APO Addresses, Guam, N. Mariana Islands, American Samoa.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AMATEUR RADIO - RENEWALS, CENSUS AND GROWTH

Amateur Radio Renewals by Month - Beginning August 1999

Month	Expired	Extra	Advan.	Gen.	Tech+	Tech.	Novice	Renew	% Ren.
Jul-2001	6,311								
Jun-2001	3,895								
May-2001	5,423								
Apr-2001	6,205								
Mar-2001	3,425								
Feb-2001	3,789	493	416	598	0	1,718	198	3,423	90.3%
Jan-2001	2,154	344	259	445	0	812	140	2,000	92.9%
Dec-2000	2,952	360	289	432	0	650	160	1,891	64.1%
Nov-2000	2,587	350	266	377	15	540	155	1,680	64.9%
Oct-2000	2,271	283	236	318	0	386	121	1,344	59.2%
Sep-2000	2,856	365	326	403	0	451	184	1,729	60.5%
Aug-2000	3,464	359	288	399	7	437	117	1,607	46.4%
Jul-2000	3,818	384	285	408	44	470	120	1,711	44.8%
Jun-2000	3,223	378	356	500	1	651	129	2,015	62.5%
May-2000	5,046	294	240	280	1	546	123	1,484	29.4%
Apr-2000	2,950	304	302	298	339	332	177	1,752	59.4%
Mar-2000	3,479	361	404	394	855	1	225	2,240	64.4%
Feb-2000	3,045	224	296	268	578	2	169	1,537	50.5%
Jan-2000	3,565	277	370	332	697	1	165	1,842	51.7%
Dec-1999	2,807	310	362	292	647	0	161	1,772	63.1%
Nov-1999	2,246	270	342	276	558	1	152	1,599	71.2%
Oct-1999	3,201	221	240	204	359	1	126	1,151	36.0%
Sep-1999	2,450	115	143	148	274	1	72	753	30.7%
Aug-1999*	2,749	99	88	85	204	0	41	517	18.8%
Totals	68,282	5,791	5,508	6,457	4,579	7,000	2,735	32,047	46.9%

The figure in the column to the left represents the total number of individual Amateur Radio license expirations in a given month. The license class data by month is the number of licensees renewing and the total license renewals for that month.

The "Total" expirations (68,282) does not include the months of March to July 2001. *The chart begins in August 1999, since this is the month that the FCC changed to the new *Universal Licensing System* (ULS). All expiration and renewal information utilizes data posted daily to the Web by the FCC.)

- (1.) Since August 1999, approximately 47% of all radio-amateurs eligible to renew their Amateur Radio licenses have done so. Non-renewal of licenses represents amateurs who have lost interest in the hobby, simply neglected to renew or normal attrition through death. Some renewal notices (which are automatically sent out approximately 90 days before expiration by the ARRL to its members and the W5YI-VEC to all others) never get delivered because the amateur failed to notify the FCC of address changes during the license's ten year term.
- (2.) The Technician Class renewals between April 2000 and December 2000 were Tech Plus licenses that were renewed as Technician. The first No-code Technician Class license was issued on March 12, 1991 and these licenses become eligible for renewal beginning in January 2001. Note the large number of Technician renewals during February 2001.
- (3.) There were no Tech Plus Class renewals after April 2000, since (after April 15, 2000) Tech Plus licenses are being renewed as Technician. These licensees still retain their code credit, however.
- (4.) A license may only be renewed in the final 90 days before expiration. Therefore, the large number of Dec. 1999, Jan. 2001 and Feb. 2001 Technician renewals reflects not only Technician Plus licenses that are being renewed as Technician, but some No-Code licensees whose licenses expired in March-April-May 2001.
- (5.) The "Percent Renewed" column does not relate to the same month, since licenses may be renewed up to 90 days before expiration. But the total percentage is accurate "over time." For example: The Feb. 2001 renewals (1,718) include licenses that expire during the February through May time frame ...plus some that were in the two year grace period.

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Amateur Radio Census by Month, Year and License Class -- (Last 3 Years)

End of the month census not including Amateurs whose license has expired but are still in the two year grace period.

Month	Extra	Advanced	General	Tech+	Technician	Novice	ARS Total
March-2001	94,923	88,192	136,291	96,219	224,978	43,961	684,564
March-2000	75,985	103,048	109,787	133,688	204,646	50,630	677,784
March-1999	74,855	103,636	111,162	134,598	194,223	56,245	674,719
February-2001	94,824	88,344	135,437	97,704	222,921	44,564	683,794
February-2000	75,609	103,215	110,047	133,220	203,492	51,263	676,846
February-1999	74,689	103,532	111,176	134,348	192,958	56,700	673,403
January-2001	94,147	88,618	134,616	99,804	220,299	45,118	682,602
January-2000	75,428	103,360	110,201	133,153	202,814	51,762	676,718
January-1999	74,622	103,436	111,259	134,421	192,087	57,008	672,833
December-2000	93,807	88,783	134,144	100,885	218,989	45,632	682,240
December-1999	75,392	103,471	110,386	133,359	202,409	52,375	677,392
December-1998	74,669	103,592	111,513	134,857	191,575	57,617	673,823
November-2000	93,417	89,032	133,689	102,580	217,083	46,362	682,163
November-1999	75,293	103,455	110,406	133,378	201,415	52,819	676,766
November-1998	74,496	103,526	111,498	134,719	190,510	58,034	672,783
October-2000	92,903	89,310	132,818	104,321	215,054	46,776	681,182
October-1999	75,252	103,447	110,488	133,368	200,554	53,078	676,187
October-1998	74,509	103,723	111,851	134,882	189,674	58,423	673,062
September-2000	92,541	89,605	132,144	105,942	213,560	47,180	680,972
September-1999	75,207	103,512	110,518	133,480	199,714	53,510	675,941
September-1998	74,366	103,775	111,989	135,003	188,840	58,705	672,678
August-2000	92,015	89,937	131,361	107,541	212,046	47,670	680,570
August-1999	75,186	103,608	110,651	133,719	199,032	53,825	676,021
August-1998	74,318	103,943	112,255	135,149	188,233	59,021	672,919
July-2000	91,142	90,320	129,789	109,738	210,093	47,839	678,921
July-1999	75,166	103,723	110,780	133,979	198,467	54,203	676,318
July-1998	74,315	104,219	112,623	135,371	187,426	59,448	673,402
June-2000	90,451	90,837	128,652	112,054	208,838	48,441	679,273
June-1999	75,113	103,705	110,838	134,161	197,681	54,502	676,000
June-1998	74,274	104,509	112,977	135,737	186,458	60,125	674,080
May-2000	83,104	96,759	117,903	123,921	206,646	49,016	677,349
May-1999	75,004	103,645	110,914	134,222	196,598	54,993	675,376
May-1998	74,210	104,604	113,061	135,989	185,471	60,638	673,973
April-2000	77,530	101,725	111,337	132,013	205,857	50,077	678,539
April-1999	74,981	103,714	111,100	134,587	195,451	55,696	675,529
April-1998	74,192	104,927	113,603	136,460	184,328	61,594	675,104

EXTRA CLASS: The number of Extra Class amateurs began increasing dramatically in April 2000 when the FCC reduced the Morse code exam speed from 20 to 5 words-per-minute. There are now about 95,000 Extras - versus 75,000 ...an increase of about one third more.

ADVANCED CLASS: This class began decreasing when new Advanced licenses were eliminated a year ago. There are now 15% less. Existing Advanced Class tickets may be renewed indefinitely.

GENERAL CLASS: Like the Extra Class license, this

class began increasing when the 13 wpm code speed was dropped to 5 wpm. There are about 30% more Generals than a year ago ...136,000 versus 111,000..

TECH PLUS: licensees are being renewed as Technician resulting in 35% less Tech Plus amateurs.

TECHNICIAN: Class has lengthened its increase aided by Tech Plus licenses now being renewed as Tech.

NOVICE: licensees continues its decline as the No Code Tech license became the entry level of choice in 1991.

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

The California Smart Traveler system is a new initiative that provides real-time door-to-door service for people traveling in California.

Through a network of interregional systems, Smart Traveler interfaces with the public through cell phones (411 calls), personal computers, and hand-held and in-vehicle devices. Besides designing personalized multimodal travel plans, the program provides real-time traffic condition updates with travel alternatives, carpool and shared-ride information, electronic payment of tolls, fares, and parking, a means to report accidents, injuries, roadway obstacles, in-vehicle "Yellow Pages" and personal 'Mayday' signals.

Sony, the maker of the popular PlayStation video game console, says it won't make a hand-held video game platform. Instead, it is placing its bets on Internet-enabled cell phones. Sony said there is no need to develop small, portable game hardware when cell phones have already emerged as a viable video game platform. Users will soon be able to play PlayStation games that are formatted to fit on mobile phones' business-card sized screens. Nintendo also plans to be mobile phone compatible.

RF engineering Web site. Click to the RRF Cafe at www.rfcafe.com. for a veritable library of information about radio-frequency (RF) engineering. Download software that lets you simulate circuit behavior. Click to links for access to web sites for the many RF-based engineering journals that are on line.

Coming Soon: <www.where's-my-kid.com> Low cost tracking by satellite. SENS (Satellite Enabled Notification System) is an innovative, inexpensive, reliable data messaging system. SENS allows you to gather information on location, status, or both, from scores, thousands, or millions of tiny, low cost transmitters.

The candy-bar sized units receive GPS signals, and then retransmit their own signals to dedicated AeroAstro (of Herndon, VA) satellites. That information is available to clients over the web.

In addition to industrial operations, other SENS applications include "Personal Trackers" for the adventure traveler

...even keeping track of your youngsters. SENS can track and monitor nearly any object. The system is being operated at 2300-2305 MHz under experimental license WB2XDW granted by the FCC a year ago.

SENS collects data using a network of 10 tiny 10-kg nano-satellites in low-earth orbit at intervals you designate, from every few seconds to only when something happens you want to know about. Your information is routed through a terrestrial or space-based relay directly to the World Wide Web and your computer terminal.

SENS uses spread spectrum technology, which increases the reliability and capacity many fold over traditional wireless methods. The system is designed to accommodate an infinite variety of sensors and applications. <www.aeroastro.com>

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

American consumers will be able to use the new Third Generation i-mode wireless content service beginning next year. I-mode, owned by Japanese telecommunications company NTT DoCoMo, is wildly popular in Japan.

The low-cost service currently has 20 million subscribers and 40,000 specially-designed content services. In addition to conventional voice communications, users can access a wide range of sites by simply pressing the i-mode key.

Users of i-mode can send e-mail, catch up on the news, check stock prices, book restaurants, and carry out many other activities using their mobile phones. I-mode phones are more advanced than most other web-enabled mobile phones. They have a color screen, for example.

NTT DoCoMo invested nearly \$10 billion (yes, billion!) in AT&T Wireless stock and plans to jointly develop the U.S. mobile multimedia market using AT&T Wireless's nationwide network and NTT DoCoMo's "i-mode" based mobile Internet technology. AT&T will offer its U.S. I-mode service in Seattle initially before rolling it out to the rest of the country.

The two firms also will jointly promote the expansion of W-CDMA spread spectrum technology in the U.S. market. With downstream speeds up to 384kbps, wideband-code division multiple access is a new next generation wireless technology developed by Japan's NEC Networks., the first to launch a 3G commercial network.

Check out: <www.nttdocomo.com/i/>

Commercial Web radio stations may be the mode of the future. ESPN.com, a division of the Walt Disney Internet Group, has launched ESPNRadio.com (www.espnradio.com). The site also offers users a chance to interact with sports analysts, anchors and reports from ESPN TV.

COMPUTER INFO

Now let's talk about obsolete software. Remember BASIC programming? It was easy to learn and many hams cut their programming teeth on it. Yet today, computers are no longer programmed with languages that require line numbers. It's been said that today's structured Visual Basic can accomplish with just one command what took previous generations of BASIC over 500 lines to do.

Too much computing power? In certain industrial applications, it is possible to waste energy by applying a computer that runs too fast for the system it's supposed to control. Maintaining a motor-drive control system doesn't require much computing power in and of itself; the mechanical linkages have a certain operating frequency of their own, and engineers say that a computer with a clock speed at least 20 times faster than the system's bandwidth is not necessary.

INTERNET NEWS

Web gaming is supposedly the next big thing. According to a new study from online research firm PC Data, women make up the majority of Internet users gambling and playing games online. Of an estimated 30 to 40 million online gamers in the U.S., based on the study, women represented 50.4 percent. Female gamblers tend to be "escape gamblers" who gamble at luck games such as Solitaire and Bingo. Men are more likely to be "action gamblers," playing skill games such as Poker and Black Jack.

After raising \$6 million in funding, Bingo.com came online January 1999 as a pay-for-play Web site.

But later that year, it gravitated to a free-play model because of legal and regulatory concerns. Bingo.com, a public company listed on the OTC Nasdaq (BGR) is now

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in the process of merging with privately held The Lottery Channel, operators of Lottery.com which provides winning numbers from state lotteries, streaming video of Powerball drawings, other lottery information and a variety of games.

There are rumors that Lottery.com (partially owned by NBC) may get permission later this year to sell lottery tickets online from state regulators using their specially designed Oracle software. The thinking is that people who play Bingo will also want to purchase lottery tickets. Bingo.com exists by selling banner ads and licenses its gaming technology to other companies. They attract some 60,000 visitors a day - mostly women 30 to 50 - who stay an average of 70 minutes per session.

According to a new "E-Gaming Revisited - At Odds With The World" report from researcher Bear Stearns & Co, the number of gambling sites on the Web has doubled over the past year. The study estimates that there are now currently between 1,200 and 1,400 gaming sites, up from 600 to 700 a year ago.

Most web-based betting operations are operating in such gambling-friendly governments as Antigua, Barbuda, Costa Rica, the UK, and South Africa.

But anticipating a possible change in the regulatory climate, U.S. casinos MGM Mirage and Harrah's Entertainment have entered into agreements with online gaming companies to develop play-for-fun sites. "They are building a large customer base that they should easily be able to tap if the regulatory environment becomes more accommodating," the report says.

In addition, the sites encourage visits to the actual casinos by allowing customers to book hotel rooms and order show tickets online.

Look for a big push by AOL and Yahoo into the legitimate digital music market now that Napster and Gnutella file-swapping appears to be on the way out. Both AOL Music and Yahoo Music are newly created divisions at the top two Internet portals.

AOL has purchased Nullsoft, makers of the popular Winamp MP3 player, and online radio outlet Spinner.com ...and is said to be working on a streaming music subscription service.

According to PC Data statistics, Winamp is the No. 3 music player reaching 14 percent of all home computers. (Real-

Networks has an estimated 64 percent share; Microsoft's Windows Media Player is second at 39 percent.

Yahoo Music is also looking for joint-venture deals, mergers and acquisitions.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

Congress Overwhelmed By E-Mail Explosion. New report, "E-Mail Overload In Congress: Managing a Communications Crisis" finds Congressional offices not keeping pace with technology. The bottom line: don't use E-mail to write your Congressman; send them a postal letter. They get so many e-mails each year from special-interest groups and constituents that most are ignored.

"...neither office budgets nor office technological capabilities have kept pace with the demands, leading to a growing disconnect between Members of Congress and their constituents," the study concludes.

According to the Congress Online Project, the number of E-mails sent to Congress has more than doubled in two years, with senators and representatives receiving as many as 55,000 e-mail messages each month. Last year alone, a total of 80 million messages were received.

Furthermore, "...90 percent of House and Senate offices continue to answer constituent e-mails with postal mail, and fail to take advantage of available technologies that could reduce staff workloads and increase the response time to constituents." The complete report is available at: <www.congressonline-project.org>.

Robert P. Hanssen, the FBI agent - Rham operator (K9QVL) turned Russian spy was never polygraphed by the FBI to determine whether he might be a security risk during his entire 25 years at the agency ...including the last 15 years that he spied for the Soviet Union and then Russia. Hanssen came under suspicion late last year when U.S. intelligence sources turned up a Russian case file on his activities as a secret agent.

The lie detector policy at the FBI will now change. All prospective agents are polygraphed before they are hired, but veteran agents are not subject to the tests. CIA agents, on the other hand, are routinely and periodically monitored by polygraph.

After a closed door Senate intelli-

gence committee meeting, it was decided that the FBI will give lie-detector tests to about 500 employees with access to intelligence information. Among the employees who will face the first polygraph exams of their careers are about 150 top managers at FBI's Washington headquarters and special agents in charge of regional offices.

Hanssen had repeatedly entered his name into the agency's classified computer files to determine whether he was under suspicion. A review of all "sensitive investigations" will be undertaken to determine if other employees accessed information outside their regular duties.

K9QVL was arrested at a park in suburban Virginia where he was dropping off a package of classified documents. Nearby was a second site where agents recovered \$50,000 in cash that was intended for Hanssen.

The FCC has fined American Tower Corporation \$212,000 for 36 separate violations of the Commission's antenna structure rules. These violations included improper lighting, failing to register, failure to notify FCC of ownership changes and failure to post required information at tower sites. The fines resulted from routine investigations and inspections conducted by the Enforcement Bureau's Field Offices. American Tower Corporation had repeatedly been warned about its non-compliance with the antenna structure rules.

Formed in 1995, American Tower Corp. (Boston, MA) is the nation's largest provider of communications and broadcast towers. They own and operate more than 13,000 sites in North America. Three other tower firms also were fined a total of \$115,000.

The FCC's antenna structure painting, lighting and registration requirements operate in concert with FAA regulations to ensure that antenna structures do not present hazards to air navigation. Generally, FCC rules require that antenna structures located close to airports or that are greater than 200 feet in height comply with painting and lighting specifications designed to ensure air safety.

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A T&T (headquartered in New York City) has been fined \$640,000 for violating the FCC's anti-slammng rules. Slammng is the illegal practice of switching consumers' preferred long distance or other telephone service providers without their consent. There were more than 1,000 slammng complaints against AT&T last year.

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AMATEUR RADIO

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Joshie Yasin Nakamurs, Sr., (East Palo Alto, CA) has been slapped with a \$17,000 fine for operating an unlicensed Amateur Radio station and transmitting a phony distress signal in Morse code. A year ago, agents from the FCC's San Francisco Office monitored unidentified "SOS" signals on 445.175 MHz being transmitted from Nakamura's home. An inspection determined that no distress situation existed and a "Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation" citation was issued. The FCC continued to receive complaints throughout the summer and (on Sept. 10, 2000), FCC agents again traced unidentified 2-meter (144.63 MHz) signals coming from Nakamura's residence. He was again issued a citation. The FCC said in a *Forfeiture Notice* issued on March 19, 2001, that "...based on the gravity of the violations ..." he was liable for a \$10,000 fine for unlicensed operation and \$7,000 for causing malicious interference. Nakamura has until April 19th to respond to the allegations.

George D. Cairns (Waldron, AR) has been issued an FCC Warning Notice for allegedly operating on the Amateur 10-meter band without a license.

Donald G. Bertone KK6AN (San Francisco, CA) was also warned due to his failure to respond to information requested on Jan. 26th by the FCC concerning his KK6AN repeater which operates on 147.975 MHz.

James F. Chambers KF4PWF (Greenville, SC) has voluntarily had his Extra Class Amateur Radio license returned to the General Class. He has previously been given several opportunities to retake the Extra Class examinations.

Steven R. Decho KF6FX (Draper, SUT) has been notified that his 70-cm (447.250 MHz) repeater is causing harmful interference to coordinated repeater, WA6UZS. The FCC said information indicates his repeater is not coordinated and operates 10 kHz away from WA6UZS. "It appears that the system is operated with no apparent control operator, during which times violations of the Amateur Radio Service rules are taking place." Decho has been asked to respond to several questions concerning the operation of his KF6FX repeater including the identities of the control operators and action taken on any received complaints.

Lazaro P. Duarte ex-KF4WSM and Lnow KG4KXE (Memphis, TN) had his previous license canceled for failure to appear for re-examination. He was re-licensed in December 2000 as a Technician Class operator. Duarte is now being required to answer to allegations that he has been operating on the 15-meter phone band. "...you will be subject to license revocation and a forfeiture of up to \$7,500" if these violations continue.

Barry J. Fisher KC8PWL (Roscommon, MI) had been ordered to retake his Technician license exam by March 15, 2001. He did not appear and has now had this deadline extended to April 30, 2001. His license will be canceled if he does not appear.

Jerry W. Pack KD5KEL (Stephenville, TX) had his General Class license canceled due to failure to retake the FCC required exams after he had received a time extension.

James R. Vining N5RLX (Conroe, TX) had his Extra Class license returned to Advanced Class after failing to pass the Element 4, Extra Class theory exam.

The FCC has withdrawn the requirement that **Elaine Kam KHJ7YQ (Honolulu, I)** retake the Element 1, Morse code exam.

Richard W. Parker KB2DMD (Pennsburg, PA) has been cautioned that his alleged 75-meter phone operation is not authorized by his Novice license.

Thomas J. Wolson W4JAR (Mars Hill, NC) was warned about his alleged operation on 7228.5 MHz a "...frequency not licensed to you under your Technician Plus license." Both licensees are to contact the FCC concerning their operation.

The Cumberland Electric (Clarksville, TN) utility company has been advised that the FCC has received complaints that their company is causing harmful power-line interference to Amateur Radio Service operations. The complainant (Paul Fulk, N8ITF) has been unsuccessful at working through their complaint resolution process. "FCC rules require that the operator of the device that is radiating interference locate and correct the interference," FCC said.

Jerry P. Wine KH6UH (Honolulu, HI) has been warned that the 2-meter band is not to be used "...for lengthy broadcasting, effectively preventing the use by other Amateurs." He is also expected to comply with licensee and control operator requests not to use the WH6CZB repeater.

Ray Adams W4CPA (Western Carolina VEC, Knoxville, TN) has been notified that the FCC is auditing two license examination sessions conducted in Rainbow City, Alabama during January 2000 and 2001. All records, documents, worksheets, forms and other papers from these two sessions are to be forwarded to the FCC in Gettysburg, PA.

Marcus L. Vucinovich, Jr. formerly AI5T (Shreveport, LA) has been advised by the FCC that he should no longer be using AI5T since that call sign expired on June 21, 1998 and has been reissued. The FCC database does not show him to be currently licensed.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION CALL SIGNS

...sequentially issued as of the first of April 2001

Radio District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen.	Group D Novice
0 (*)	AB0QO	KI0RX	(***)	KC0KFQ
1 (*)	AA1XY	KE1LZ	(***)	KB1GNL
2 (*)	AB2RE	KG2RN	(***)	KC2HTZ
3 (*)	AA3WR	KF3EB	(***)	KB3GIV
4 (*)	AG4HS	KV4FK	(***)	KG4MSD
5 (*)	AD5DP	KM5XK	(***)	KD5NXB
6 (*)	AD6WE	KR6ER	(***)	KG6FWI

7 (*)	AC7MM	KK7WU	(***)	KD7MOB
8 (*)	AB8KG	KI8JZ	(***)	KC8QYS
9 (*)	AB9BQ	KG9RA	(***)	KB9ZES
N. Mariana	NH0Z	AH0BB	KH0MX	WH0ABP
Guam	(**)	AH2DO	KH2VI	WH2ANX
Hawaii	(**)	AH6QY	(***)	WH6DGN
Am. Samoa	AH8U	AH8AI	KH8DO	WH8ABF
Alaska	(**)	AL7RR	KL1BZ	WL7CVG
Virgin Islands	(**)	KP2CQ	NP2LS	WP2AIN
Puerto Rico	WP3L	KP3BL	WP3JX	WP4NOT

* All 1-by-2 and 2-by-1 call signs, ** 2-by-1 and *** "N-by-3" call signs have been assigned. (Source: FCC Database)

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AMATEUR OPERATES UNLICENSED MILITIA RADIO STATION

"The Kentucky State Militia (KSM), like most modern-day militias in the U.S. labeled by the mainstream press as 'right-wing extremists,' believes in the dissolution of the federal government. Its members perceive that their liberties, guaranteed by the American Constitution, are being revoked by a bloated government, which itself, is under pressure from an international 'New World Order.' KSM, according to its website, wants to 'Take Back Kentucky' and, if need be, secede from the United States. Station was run by Major Steve Anderson of the 6th Battalion of the KSM." (From Clandestine Radio Watch website.)

In our January 15th and March 15th issues, we reported on the questionable Amateur Radio operating activities of KF4ZMG and AA8DP. Both are leaders in the militia movement. The Kentucky State Militia, "...a group of armed American patriots who oppose the powers of the federal government" is one of many militia-type organizations that appear to be at war with the United States. It's radio activities have been under investigation by the FCC since it apparently uses ham and other frequencies for its communications and broadcast needs. KSM does not recognize U.S. government or FCC authority.

KSM is headed up by "State Commanding Officer" Charlie Puckett (Nicholasville, Kentucky) who holds Amateur Radio station license KF4ZMG. Last December, Puckett was cited by the FCC for operating on 80 meters (3.860 MHz), a frequency not authorized to Technician Class licensees. Puckett denied the violation, stating that the transmissions were under the "control" of Stephen Anderson AA8DP (Somerset, KY), Extra Class. Anderson was also warned by the FCC in December for his operations just below the 40-meter ham band on 6.890 MHz, a frequency not authorized to Amateur Radio at all.

Puckett denied monitoring reports that the KSM or its members were involved in the alleged transmissions, which reportedly jammed WWFV, a commercial short-wave radio broadcaster operating out of Copperhill, Tennessee.

When the FCC requested specific details from Anderson about the Puckett 80 meter transmissions, Anderson returned his license to the FCC claiming that the agency "...is an agent of a foreign corporation" with no authority over his radio operation. He also stated he does "...not reside in any territory or possession of the Federal Government of the United States of America... [and] ...not subject to any regulation by this fictitious entity."

Anderson launched unlicensed Kentucky State Militia Radio (KSMR) on March 3 and broadcasted nightly on 3260 kHz USB between 0300 and 0400 UTC. The live programs, supposedly sponsored by the KSM, begin with a song called "Take My Gun (From My Cold Dead Hands)" and militia announcements. "...And then," according to a Clandestine Radio Watch (CRW) writeup, "...proceed into a commentary [on] Christianity, alleged

U.S. government cover-ups, and justifications for the existence of patriot militia movement."

CRW said Anderson announced during a broadcast on Friday, March 9, that he received another letter from the FCC, presumably for his transmissions as KSMR. He said there is no point in citing him. "This is the Kentucky Militia station.... We don't want to hear from you [because] you don't have anything to say to us. You don't have any authority over us. We are asserting our First Amendment Rights here and are protecting them with the Second Amendment." ...which refers to the right to bear arms.

Anderson told CRW that KSMR operates at 800 watts using "...an extended-double zep antenna at 110-ft." The antenna, he said, provides for a 3dB gain over a regular dipole antenna, and plans are in the works to employ a 3kW amplifier he called the "rock crusher." CRW confirmed that "...the station is already heard coast-to-coast and has even been monitored in Western Europe."

Supposedly on Wednesday, March 14, Anderson tested 6880 kHz and claimed that "...the station will soon carry live programming from the Genesis and Heritage radio networks through a satellite feed. If all goes as planned, the station will operate full-time from 9 a.m. (1400 UTC) to 12 midnight (0500 UTC) on 3260, 6880, and 12181 kHz USB..." which is 10 kHz below WWFV "...to avoid interference." But the programming never materialized.

CRW quoted Puckett as saying "KSMR is truly a national effort..." with \$2800 in collected donations and inspiring other militia groups to take to the airwaves.

According to CRW, the FCC took KSM's defiance seriously and was planning to close the station, levy a minimum 7,500 fine and seize the transmitting equipment. Anderson said he was "...not worried. There's about 13,000 of us down here..."

"During a 'major' militia rally in Norm Creek, Kentucky, [in April], Anderson is scheduled to lead a discussion on communications and antennas to members of other groups who will attend." KSM Commander Puckett, who appears uneasy about a confrontation with the FCC, has now denied that KSMR is an arm of the Kentucky State Militia, instead it is sponsored "...by Militia's, and patriots all across this country." But the broadcasts mirrored KSM's news content.

On March 21st, KSMR disappeared from 3260 KHz after weeks of broadcasting. A March 24th CRW bulletin said it had "...learned that KSMR's operator 'Major' Steve Anderson, may possibly return to the air with a new station. This operation may be a militia-supported station, but may have a different callsign and fewer, if any, ties to the KSM."

(Excerpts from CRW's website at: <www.clandestine-radio.com/watch/latest.htm>. KSM website at: <www.freekentucky.com/ksm/contents.htm> and <militia.clarksriver.com/>.)