

# The Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club



P.O. Box 2135  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-2135



December 2006

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE GRAND STRAND ARC**

## Notes from the Oval Office:

**First and most important:** Our annual **January dinner** will be held at **Ryan's Restaurant**, Highway 17 Bypass Surfside Beach in the area of the Surfside Wal-Mart. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 6 PM.**

Our **Sunday net** on 145.110 will change to our **147.330 (85.4)** repeater on **January 7, 2007 at 8 PM.**

**We "CONGRATULATE" Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE** as the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club's **"HAM of the YEAR 2006."**

As usual, we had a productive and informative meeting. We elected a new Club **Secretary for 2007, James Reiner, KI4JKV.** Please keep in mind, James will be producing our clubs newsletter, he will be looking for information for OUR newsletter, don't let him down.

**DUES:** Club dues for 2007 are due. Our Secretary accepts cash or check made out to "GSARC." Please take a minute to complete a new application with any updates and turn it into our Secretary with your dues. Or, you can mail it in.

## Your club officers for 2007 are:

Jim Roble, N4GSA - President  
Bob Gagliardi, N4XML - Vice President  
James Reiner, KI4JKV - Secretary  
Sandra Dunn, KF4HYG - Treasurer  
Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE - Public Information Officer

For his dedicated service to our club for many years as Secretary, we thank Robert Battle, KE4HGB.

Don't forget the **Myrtle Beach Marathon** is just around the corner in February. As information becomes available, Matt McGuire, AF4UZ will keep us informed. With this in mind, Matt will be looking for volunteers to work the race.

We welcome and congratulate Dick, N1URL and Gayle, N1UVJ for making the Myrtle Beach area there new home. **"WELCOME"**

Let us not forget our fantastic **"Beachfest 2006."** We thank Edward, KF4ECK and Robert, KE4HGB for without question a job well done.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all Club Officers for the year 2006 for a very positive year.

I wish **"All of You a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year."**

"God Bless America"

73  
Jim, N3BRS  
President, GSARC

**Our New Secretary Notes**  
**James Reiner, KI4JKV**

Club Meeting Minutes December 4, 2006

The President called the meeting to order and thanked:

Don, KR4ZRW for getting the key and making arrangements for us to use the room at Santee Cooper building.

Tom, K2PJ and his assistants for keeping our repeaters on the air.

**Net Reports** – The nets are being covered mostly by KI4HEE and KI4JKV and a few others. Net Control can be done by anyone and others are encouraged to participate. HEE & JKV will gladly “pass the baton.”

**Applications are out** – You may print one out, or one will be included with your newsletter. Please fill them out and send them in.

The January Dinner Meeting will take place January 6, 2007 at 6pm at Ryan's in Surfside, just south of 544. The last 2 years at Golden Corral there have been problems of outsiders being seated in the private room. Thanks to N4XML for getting the private room at Ryan's.

**PIO Report** – Bob Hawkins KI4HEE received many good comments about Beachfest. There was also a discussion from KF4VGV and AD4TZ regarding the coverage with the FM Transmitter. It worked very well with great sound and good coverage. Thanks to KR4WM for setting it up and loaning it to us.

Bob said that the old Civil Defense logo will be replaced with a new bank type symbol. Anything that you own with the old logo will be a collector's item someday, so hold on to it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A Motion was made and passed that the Sunday evening net will move to 147.330. This will begin January 7 and will be for a 90 day trial, at which time it will be reviewed.

The 147.120 Mid Week Mid Day net has not been going very well. The listing will be removed from the website. If a net is held, net reports will be accepted. We'll see how it goes for another month. K2PJ will address the PRM problems that sometimes occur with the repeater as soon as they get a chance. It was then decided that an informal net be held without a net control operator for a “Lunch Bunch Rag Chew.”

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – The ballots have been counted and the changes for this year are Club Secretary Duties will be held by James, KI4JKV. Many thanks to Robert KE4HGB's service for our club.

**2006 Ham of the Year is Bob Hawkins, KI4HEE**

**ARES/RACES UPDATE** – Matt AF4UZ has informed the club that the cards still have not arrived. He will keep following up until they arrive. When they do arrive, a meeting will be held at the M.L. Brown Building to allow for photographs to be taken. Also he is involved with a mini project – all of the schools in the US are using radios purchased by Homeland Security and the schools are asking for volunteers to setup the radios. Matt will be programming the radios and in the spring, ham radio will be presented on a career day. Matt will give more info as this becomes closer and may need volunteers to demonstrate amateur radio for the school to generate interest.

Eddy AD4TZ brought a digital slow scan demo for show and tell. He and K2PJ are going to try exchanging images on 50.325 (Upper Side Band) following the 440 net on December 5.

Eddy AD4TZ won the 50/50.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully Submitted  
James Reiner, KI4JKV

## THE SECRETARY IS TALKING

The club has elected James Reiner, KI4JKV as the new Secretary. Please support him with articles for the newsletter. Best of luck James you will do a good job.

Give the 2007 Executive Committee all your support. This is a club's club; this means it is your club.

Your new application is enclosed for 2007. Please read it carefully, there are changes plus fill out your birthdates "not the year." We will build a database for announcements of the date only. Membership runs from January 1 thru December 31 of the current year. If an application is not enclosed you are current for 2007.

My resume.....Joined the GSARC October 1993

President (3 times), Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (2) this job was combined for years and Secretary (2). Hamfest Chairman (2) highest grossing over \$4200 with a net of \$3000 in 1995 and Co-chair hamfest 2006. GSARC "HAM OF THE YEAR 2004." Enjoyed recruiting new members to the roles of our rosters. There were years we had 180 members. Printed the first club handbooks which contain by-laws, club roster and other useful information. Requested and received over \$35,000 for club use. Acquired permission from South Carolina DOT use of the tower site where our 5.11 repeater is located. We are the only club using SC sites (per the Superintendent of Communications in 2003). Coordinated along with Olen Persons, W4EZR, the building of the shelter in which the 5.11 is housed. Purchased original equipment and arrangement of installation. Acquired permission for re-installation of the 7.12 repeater which was taken down for building renovating for over a year. Our repeater located on the south end originally 146.255, a point of contact was given to me by Johnathan, KI4HED, afterward permission was given for this repeater which is now the 147.330. Visited sick, those during their time of need and made phone calls to members near and far to check on their status. As you can see I believe in this club and want to see continued success and this is where you come in with your support

Robert Battle, KE4HGB  
Out Going Secretary for 2006

### **End of an Era: FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes**

Newington, CT, Dec 15, 2006 – In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission today adopted, but hasn't yet released, the long-awaited *Report and Order (R&O)* in Wt Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding. Also today, the FCC adopted an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 – the "omnibus" proceeding – modifying the Amateur Radio rules in response to an ARRL request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. The Commission said it will designate the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations, although the segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data as it has been. In a break from what's been the usual practice in Amateur Radio proceedings, the FCC only issued public notice at or about the close of business today and not the actual *Report & Order*, so some details – including the effective dates of the two orders – remain uncertain. Currently, Amateur Radio applicants for General and higher class licenses have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. Today's *R&O* will eliminate that requirement all around.

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirements across the board, however, and it held to that decision in today's *R&O*.

Perhaps more important, the FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 appears to put all Technician licensees on an equal footing: Once the *R&O* goes into effect, holders of Technician class licenses will have equivalent HF privileges, whether or not they've passed the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse examination. The FCC said the *R&O* in the Morse code docket eliminates a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician and Technician Plus class licensees -- something the ARRL has asked the Commission to correct following the release of the FCC's July 2005 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician class licensees and Technician Plus class licensees should not be retained," the FCC said in its public notice. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

Technician licensees *without* Element 1 credit (i.e., Tech Plus licensees) currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. Tech Pluses or Technicians *with* Element 1 credit have limited HF privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Under the Part 97 rules the Commission proposed last year in its *NPRM* in WT Docket 05-235, current Technicians lacking Morse credit after the new rules went into effect would have had to upgrade to General to earn any HF privileges.

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall -- especially since the FCC instituted an across-the-board 5 WPM Morse requirement effective April 15, 2000, in the most-recent major Amateur Radio licensing restructuring ([WT Docket 98-143](#)).

The FCC said the *R&O* in WT Docket 05-235 comports with revisions to the international *Radio Regulations* resulting from World Radio communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.

The list of countries dropping the Morse requirement has been growing steadily since WRC-03. A number of countries, including Canada, the UK and several European nations, now no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. Following WRC-03, the FCC received several petitions for rule making asking it to eliminate the Morse requirement in the US.

Typically, the effective date of an FCC Order is 30 days after it appears in the Federal Register. If that's the case, the Morse requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely not go into effect until late January or early February 2007. That's not clear from the public notice, however. The FCC and order its decision effective upon release.

The ARRL will provide any additional information on these important Part 97 rule revisions as it becomes available.

***Editors Note:***

***For a revised copy dated Dec 19, 2006 16:38 ET click this link***

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/15/104/?nc=1>

***As well as this second article published by the ARRL***

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/19/101/?nc=1>

**JOIN US SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007, 6 PM FOR THE ANNUAL CLUB MEETING**

**LOCATED BEHIND WALMART OFF HIGHWAY 17 BYPASS SOUTH IN SURFSIDE BEACH OR ACROSS FROM LOWE'S**

**BRING A FRIEND**

**THANKS TO JIM, N4GSA AND JAMES, KI4JKV FOR YOUR INPUT FOR THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.**

**GRAND STRAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURN TO:

**Secretary-Treasurer  
GSARC  
P.O. Box 2135  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-2135**

*PLEASE PRINT*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mate/YL \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*To help control club expenses please send Club Newsletter & Information via email:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*ARRL Membership is not a requirement, but strongly recommended.*

Would you like information on ARRL Membership? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer for club projects such as Teaching, VE Testing, Field Day, Special Event Stations, etc.? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about the GSARC? Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Repeater \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Hamfest \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your special talents or things you would like to see our club do in the future to improve and enhance amateur radio in the Myrtle Beach area \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list Birthday (mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_ Please list Spouse Birthday(mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Type Membership you desire:**

**Regular** \_\_\_\_\_ (Regular Membership (VOTING) \$25.00/Year)

**Family** \_\_\_\_\_ (Family Membership, in same household (VOTING) \$10.00/Year)

**Associate** \_\_\_\_\_ (Associate Membership (NON VOTING) \$15.00/Year)

**Cash/Check amount** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_