



AMATEUR RADIO SERVING THE PUBLIC

CMRA Newsletter

P.O. Box 283 Columbia, MO 65205

January 1991

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Corresponding Secretary Dale Huffington, AEØS
Treasurer Earl Felten, KFØGE
Board Member-at-Large Don Blenden, NUØT

WDØDVG
Repeater
146.161.76
Antenna atop
Paquin Towers
at 1023 ft. ASL

December Meeting

The December meeting was the annual CMRA holiday banquet. About 40 members and their families attended. Food, friendship, and holiday cheer were in ample supply.

Antenna Storm Damage

The unseasonable tornado that caused damage across the west side of Columbia on Nov. 27 also caused extensive damage to the HF beam at the club station. The tower at the Red Cross building on W. Worley was undamaged, but the mast was bent and the triband HF beam was a near total loss. The 2 meter beam, however, survived with only a few slightly deformed elements that can be easily straightened. Several days after the storm, Doug, NØIKD, and Don, NUØT, removed the antennas with the help of the Columbia Fire Department. Don, KBØCDS, club station committee chairman, took possession of the HF beam remains. Rumor has it that he is concocting a bidirectional beam for use on Field Day.

HF Beam Donated

Floyd Delon, WØFAP, after seeing the storm damage to the club station antenna, has donated to the club a replacement. Floyd is shortly moving out of town and generously offered a Mosley Classic triband beam. The antenna will be ready for installing after only a little cleaning and when the weather allows. Thanks to Floyd for his gift. Thanks also to Earl, KFØGE, for help in hauling the antenna to the club station.

Repeater Controller Upgrade

The fund for purchasing the repeater controller upgrade has reached \$450, which is 90% of the \$500 goal. This upgrade will offer significant improvements to the programmability of the repeater and will allow for more complete announcements and messag-

es. The club voted to acquire this upgrade through voluntary donations. Even if you have already donated to the fund, you might consider giving a few more dollars at the Jan. meeting so we can purchase and install the upgrade before the arrival of the spring-time storm season. Contributions to this fund are tax-deductible.

Novice Class to Start

The CMRA is sponsoring a Novice license class that will have its first meeting on Jan. 15 at 7:00 pm in the club station at the Red Cross Chapter office, 1805 W. Worley. The class will cover theory, operating procedures, and Morse code. This class will also serve as the first step for those wishing to obtain the new Technician class license without taking a Morse code examination. The Novice class committee is Don, NUØT, Mac, K4CHS, George, NØIMS, and Bill, KFØKC. Others are welcome to participate. Please publicize the class to anyone you know who has an interest in Amateur Radio.

Club Dues

It's January, and time again to pay club dues! Dues for 1991 remain at \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a family living at the same address. Dues may be paid at a club meeting or by check to the CMRA post office box address. Club dues must be current in order to remain on the CMRA active member roster.

President's Corner

Of special note this month is the recent FCC announcement of a new class of amateur radio license that will not require a Morse code examination. [See ARRL press release on next page.] Whatever your opinion about the advisability of this action, it is in everyone's best interest to help integrate new hams of whatever license class into the amateur radio community. We can help by pub-

licizing the availability of the new license class, assisting with exams through our club VE program, and helping new hams learn proper amateur operating procedure. We will benefit from new licensees as they become interested in public service opportunities and upgrading to higher license classes. Let's welcome new hams into our club and the amateur community.

CMEN Report

The Central Missouri Emergency Net is an NTS affiliated net that meets every Wed. at 9 pm to handle traffic, practice emergency procedures, and make announcements of interest to local radio amateurs. Net manager is Ann Guptill, WBØTEG. For December, the net was called five times, had 61 check-ins, and handled 5 pieces of traffic. A special session was called in conjunction with the statewide earthquake emergency preparedness exercise on Dec. 2.

January Meeting

The next CMRA meeting will be at 7 pm on Jan. 8 in the community meeting room of the Boone Electric Coop, 1413 Rangeline Rd. On the agenda is election of CMRA officers for 1991.

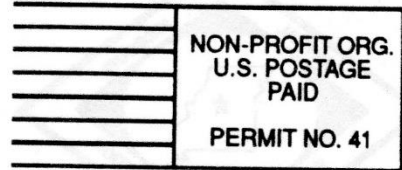
VE Exams

ARRL/VEC coordinated FCC license examinations will be given after the January meeting. All exams, written and code, will be available. Contact the club VE liason, John Turner, NDØN (657-2391), for more information.

The **CMRA Newsletter** is published monthly by the Central Missouri Radio Association. To be included on the mailing list or to submit informational, editorial, or technical articles, contact Dale Huffington, AEØS, at 2709 Cimarron Drive, Columbia MO 65203 (875-6170). Equipment ads by individuals can be included on a space-available basis.

Central Missouri Radio Association

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FCC Creates Codeless Amateur Radio License

For the first time ever, starting in February it will be possible to obtain an Amateur Radio license in the United States without passing a Morse code test. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has eliminated the need for new Technician class Amateur Radio license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code in order to have all amateur privileges above 30 MHz. The implementation date may be as early as February 1991. Technicians who obtain their licenses prior to that date will be grandfathered, meaning their existing HF privileges will continue.

The codeless Technician written examination will have 55 questions. New Technicians wishing to gain access to

the HF privileges below 30 MHz now enjoyed by Novices and Technicians will be required to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test before three Volunteer Examiners accredited by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, and will be given a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to serve as evidence of their qualifications. There will be no call sign designator to indicate Technicians who have or have not passed a code test.

The FCC took this action in response to numerous petitions and public comments. By offering a codeless class of license with privileges exclusively above 30 MHz, an entry level license will become available to those who find the Morse code a barrier to becoming an amateur radio licensee. The FCC decided to retain the current Novice Class operator license as an alter-

nate entry level license for those persons able to pass the 5 WPM Morse code test instead of the more comprehensive written exam required for the Technician Class license. No changes in Novice examinations or privileges were announced.

At a press briefing held just after the Commission's meeting, FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller said, "The Amateur Service is not growing as it should relative to what it has to offer." He said that the Amateur Service is where our nation's technical expertise comes from—that the changes should attract people who are interested in computers and digital communications, and should help the U.S. to be more competitive.

February *QST* will carry more details.

[ARRL news release, Dec. 13, 1990]