



# BACKSCATTER

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



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## Volume 28 Number 2

On the web: <http://lakelandarc.homestead.com/>

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P. O. BOX 792 EATON PARK, FLORIDA 33840

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### February 2004

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON FEB 2<sup>ND</sup>. INSTEAD, THIS MONTH, A PICNIC WILL BE HELD AT LAKE PARKER PARK ON SATURDAY, FEB 7<sup>TH</sup>.

ALL ARE WELCOME. BRING A SIDE DISH. THE HOT DOGS & HAMBURGS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CLUB.

STARTS AT 1030-1100. EAT AT 1200. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FOX HUNT & QRP STATIONS OPERATING TALK IN ON 146.685-

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

February

#### **Arrl To Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free Hf Access.**

Most of you may have heard about this happening at the ARRL. For those of you who didn't get the word here's a recap for you. We may wait awhile for the final result but, this is what's on the table.

Fair-Use – The Following is a re-print from the ARRL Letter Vol 23 No. 4 of 1/24/04 for discussion purposes only.

"The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals, put forth by the ARRL Executive Committee, were in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03).

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even

more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" Harrison said the League's proposal would provide "a true entry-level license with HF privileges" to promote growth in the Amateur Service.

The League says its proposal would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

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

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. The ARRL plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a

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Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

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

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

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

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

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

The amateur community and other interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the ARRL proposal once the League formally files a Petition for Rule Making and the FCC puts it on public notice."

All of you can follow the progress as the hearings are held through the ARRL web site.

Should be interesting!

*73 de Carl, N3TJ*

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**From the Secretary:**

**A reminder to all members:** When renewing your dues, please be sure to update your member contact information. During the remainder of the year, members can update contact information whenever changes occur by emailing KF4TXO at [kf4txo@arrl.net](mailto:kf4txo@arrl.net), or sending a postcard to Lakeland ARC; Attn: Rebecca Pirkle; PO Box 792; Eaton Park, FL 33840.

*Rebecca KF4TXO, Secretary*

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**EVENTS**  
**February**

*What:* Picnic. *Where:* Lake Parker Park, Lakeland. *When:* Sat. Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. From 1030 to...??  
*Eat at 12:00. What to Bring:* A side dish to pass.  
*Activities:* QRP Operations & Fox Hunt.  
*Directions:* Off Lakeland Highlands Blvd turn on Granada (left coming southbound, right coming northbound) Gates 1 & 2 to the park on Granada. See you there! Don't Miss This..!

*73, Pirkle, WD4BEK, Events Coordinator*

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**February Program**

The Feb. program will be the QRP operation and Fox Hunt at the Picnic. However, for the March meeting we will try and reschedule James Thompson KB9PGB with us to give a presentation on the Predator Antenna. *Don't miss this one!*

**Bob, N4DOA**

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**Education Department Report**

**February**

The new year has started rather slowly for the Education Committee. After an initial indication by seven people that they would like to take the course, only three actually enrolled. With such a small group and all living in or near Lakeland, it was decided to hold the class in a private home. The class will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, January 24 and January 31. I will report more on this class next month.

Polk County Emergency Management Radio Services in conjunction with the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club is offering an opportunity to become a licensed amateur radio operator in a course to be given in March. This course is part of the Polk County Emergency Communications volunteer program in the Emergency Management Division. You need not be a county employee, however, priority for seats in the class will be given to county employees.

The course offering is for the Ham radio "Technician" license which is an entry level. (Don't let the title scare you) There is NO requirement at this level to learn morse code. Those who complete the course will be allowed to operate Amateur radio equipment in the 6-meter, 2-meter, and 70-centimeter bands. The knowledge, ability, and license to operate radios like this could be a real lifesaver in the event of a disaster. These same skills can also be very useful while traveling on vacation or for just plain fun.

The course consists of two Saturday's in March of classroom training. Class size is limited to 20

people, so sign up early. Family members are welcome to take the course with you and be licensed as well. The cost of the course is \$20.00 which covers the cost of the book. There is a fee of \$12.00 for the test which is paid to the examiner at the time of testing.

If you are NOT a county employee you should send the name, address, phone number, and email address (if any) for each student. You can E-mail me at [ad4ih@arrl.net](mailto:ad4ih@arrl.net) or call me at (863) 688-7351 (home) or (863) 838-4441 (cell). Arrangements will be made to deliver the course books and first reading assignment to a central point in Lakeland. The course fee is payable when you pick up your book.

Do you need help with the General or Extra studies? Contact me.

**73 es 88 de Joe, AD4IH**

For further information contact me at [ad4ih@arrl.net](mailto:ad4ih@arrl.net) .**Joe Pirkle, AD4IH**

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**February Birthdays**



<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Sandra Patrick</b>	<b>KC2FLZ</b>
<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Jim Murray</b>	<b>KC5QWG</b>
<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Dean Rudge</b>	<b>KG4MAU</b>

*If your birthday is in this month and is not listed, contact the Editor at [cjohns56@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cjohns56@tampabay.rr.com) to update the birthday roster.*

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**Humor Break**

**Aerials & Where To Stick Them**

There are a great many types of antenna and most of them function best when they are erect. This is because of 'standing-waves' which produce energy in a vertical plane. Energy in the

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horizontal plane requires 'lying-down waves' and this is why most of the radiated and received energy is termed 'ecstatic' rather than 'magnetic'. (Kirchhoff's fourth and fifth laws of self-immolation present a heated argument on this subject.)

One of the most famous aerials is the diamond-shaped 'Ron Bick' aerial, named after its inventor Ron Bick of Watford, England. This aerial is very good but, because of its size, it has two main disadvantages - it is difficult to erect vertically and it is of limited use in fast-flying jet aircraft.

Another aerial that deserves a mention is the Log Periodic - so I have mentioned it.

I will now move quickly onto the three 'pole' antennas, namely the monopole, the dipole and the tripole. The last-mentioned can be disregarded as it is not now in use. The reason for this is fascinating, but I can't remember what that reason is. The monopole is very useful for LF, MF and HF but has limited usefulness at VHF frequencies where one should use the stereopole if maximum enjoyment is required.

At this point the reader may feel that there has been some neglect of the technical aspect of aerials. This is true and the author intends to deal with the dipole in depth technically, but at the same time try to satisfy the natural curiosity of the non-technical reader.

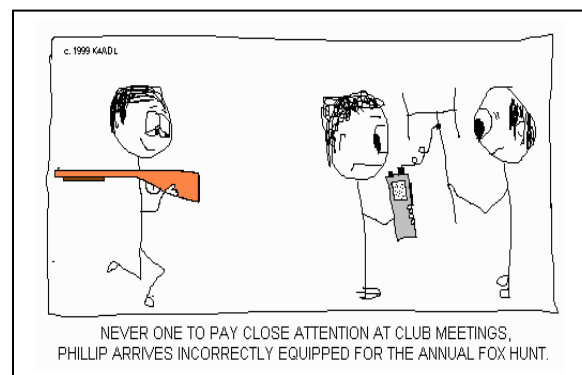
The word 'dipole' is a composite of two Latin words, 'di' meaning 'six' and 'pole' meaning 'sticks'. So it can be easily seen, even by the most ignorant, that a dipole is made from six sticks. As the reader will already know from my in-depth study of the Log Periodic, six sticks will have a much wider aperture than only one stick. Now we come to the technical bit. Pushing these sticks into the ground at regular intervals will give a quasi-omniphysical deltoid stub-matching line-of-sight high incident ground-wave. If three of the 'sticks' are coated with an intensely ionised P material and the other three coated with un-ionised N material then Zowie! - it's instant Receivesville man. (It is hoped that the reader will forgive the author for

occasionally lapsing into the vernacular, particularly when excited.)

Another thing about aerials that must be remembered is feeder independence. If the feeders of dipoles are spread apart it changes the natural independence of the aerial from 75 Ohms to 250 Megohms. As is commonly known it is impossible to hear anything with that sort of resistance in the aerial feeder. So best not to do it.

Other types of aerial in constant use are the 'Beverage' (called the 'T' aerial in Britain). This is also called a long wire and is 1.5 inches long at 16 Ghz. The Inverted X is also famous but not much in use as no-one can decide which way up it is supposed to be.

Finally, we move on briefly to microwaves where there are special considerations to be taken into account. Microwave and satellite signals can 'bounce around' all over the place and can become what is technically known as 'dirty'. However, fortunately there is one aerial which can be used effectively to 'clean up' these 'dirty' signals. This is, of course, the very well-known Carabolic Dish.



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**POLK COUNTY VE SESSIONS**

**ARRL VE Test schedule:**

Third Saturday of the Month, 9:00 AM (ARRL-VEC) (January, March, May, July, September, November)

No walk-ins

Lake Wales Family YMCA

1001 Burns Ave, Lake Wales

Info: Richard Brannen, KA3JCA 863-676-4463 (home) or 863-294-5941 (work)

Email: <mailto:ka3jca@arrl.net>

Please register at least one week before test dates.

**Polk VE Team Test Schedule:**

Polk VE Team will conduct testing on the 3rd Saturday of every other month

at 9AM at the American Red Cross Building, 147 Ave "A" NW Winter Haven.

Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 21, Aug 16, Oct 18, Dec 20, Pre-Registration is required; no walk-ins

Contact Chet Carruth, <mailto:ab4xk@arrl.net> or 863 / 294 - 6243 (Home)

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**FLORIDA HAMFESTS**

**February**

**Miami Feb 7-8** (See QST Dec "Coming Conventions")

**Southeastern Division Convention – Orlando**

**Feb 13-15.** Central Florida Fairgrounds, 5603 W. Colonial Dr. (Rt-50) 3 Miles W of I-4. Admission \$10.00 at the door.

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**Wednesday Luncheons**

Join us for lunch at the South Florida Ave. Golden Corral at 11:00 and at Lings on 98 North on the last Wednesday of the month.

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**AMATEUR RADIO IN POLK COUNTY**

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(<http://lakelandarc.homestead.com>)

([k4lkl@arrl.net](mailto:k4lkl@arrl.net))

**AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS:**

**LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** Meets 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 730 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL

**LAKE WALES REPEATER ASSOCIATION...**

Meets second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Lake Wales Y.M.C.A., 1001 Burns Avenue.

**POLK HAM CLUB...**

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Bartow Air Base EMS Operations Center

**QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION...**

Meets the third Saturday of each month at 11:30 AM at Ryan's on Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland, FL

**TWO-METER REPEATERS...**

Lakeland ARC - 146.685- (tone 127.3)

Lake Wales Rptr Assoc - 147.330+

Polk Experimental Group - 146.655- (tone 127.3)

\*N4KEG - Privately Owned - 147.375+ (tone 127.3)

*Note Frequency Change Below*

\*\*Polk County EOC - 146.985- (tone 127.3)

Primary SKYWARN - 146.985- (tone 127.3)

**70-CM METER REPEATERS...**

\*\*Bartow Polk County EOC - 444.950- (tone 127.3)

Dundee Privately Owned - 444.625+

Lakeland -Privately Owned - 443.900+ (tone 82.5)

\*Lakeland -Privately Owned - 444.775+ (tone 127.3)

\* Located on same tower

\*\*Located on same tower

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**WEEKLY NETS AND SCHEDULES**

**Monday 7:30 PM**

Lake Wales Repeater Association -147.330+

**Tuesday 7:30 PM**

ARES/SKYWARN 146.985+ (PL 127.3)

**Thursday 7:30 PM**

Lakeland Amateur Radio Club - 146.685--

**Thursday 12:30 PM**

Quarter Century Wireless Association 14.235 MHz "Snowbird Net"

**Saturday 09:00 AM**

Quarter Century Wireless Association - 7245 kHz.

**Daily 6:30 PM**

"Turtle Net" - (Local NTS Traffic Net)

147.375+ PL 127.3 (Alternate: 146.685- No PL)



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LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## Board Of Directors

### Executive Board

<b>President</b>	Carl Johnson	N3TJ
<b>Vice President</b>	Bob Herring	N4DOA
<b>Secretary</b>	Rebecca Pirkle	KF4TXO
<b>Treasurer</b>	Conrad Sheldon	K1EC

### Board Members

Jack Falkenhof	K4BYF
Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Patricia Prikle	WD4BEK
Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
Mike Holland	KI4BPR

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Education</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Events</b>	Vacant	WD4BEK
<b>E-Mail Reflector</b>	Fred Kalt	W2XN
	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Field Day</b>	Vacant	
<b>Hospitality</b>	Martha Gochin	
<b>Publicity</b>	Vacant	
<b>LARC Net</b>	Becky Prikle	KF4TXO
<b>Newsletter</b>	Carl Johnson	N3TJ
	Conrad Sheldon	K1EC
<b>Program</b>	Vacant	
<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
<b>Sympathy</b>	Martha Gochin	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH

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