



# DRUMLIN'S RUMBLINGS

DARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

## NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday January 17, 2007**

**Doors open at 7:00pm**

**Meeting 7:30pm**

**New York State EMO**

**Route 31 Newark, NY**

**or try 146.745**

**RACES-ARES JANUARY 2007**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you all! Hasn't the weather (WX in Morse code), been something to talk about this year? Wow! Who would ever thought in Upstate New York we would experiencing the almost absence of snow and such mild temperatures. I for one would think you were talking about some place else in this vast country of ours. Hi! As old Dad use to say, "At least you don't have to shovel this weather." We have been mighty lucky this year. And what a blessing it has been on the heat bills! Hi! It sure is unusual to see the WX as it is.

The Canandaigua "Daily Messenger" paper talked of the North Atlantic Oscillation occurring differently this year. The NAO, as it is abbreviated to, has switched the WX from its normal negative state. The NAO is not as well known as the El Nino we have heard of because it is not an ocean current but more an atmospheric condition. Usually there is a negative effect where we get our normal and Europe's winter WX. But it is working in a positive influence this year as in the past 30 years. The ocean and air temperatures feed of each other. This and the combination with El Nino the continental US is having this weirder WX this season. Is this part of the possible global warming as well? Some British and American researchers seem to think so.

Why is all of this for me to write in this month's article you ask? We have been getting a lot of temperatures near freezing and a lot more rain than snow. That combination does not thrill me at all. Have you noticed the winds have been pretty good

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## MINUTES

**THE DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, LTD  
MINUTES**

**Call to order:** 17:31 on 12/20/2006

**MEMBERS/GUESTS:** KE4VHA, N2JC, N2MLD, KB2KBY, N2HSY, N2RUS, W2CDW, KB2ROP, N2DIT  
and no guests signed in.

**MINUTES:** Motion to accept as published: W2CDW 2<sup>nd</sup>:  
KB2KBY carried:

**TREASURERS REPORT by KB2KBY:**  
Motion to accept: W2ROP 2<sup>nd</sup>: W2CDW carried:

**PUBLIC SERVICE: NTR**

**REPEATERS: 146.745:** ok **146.685** Transmit seem 5-7khz high. **144.950:** ok **444.950** down, still needs controller Equipment insurance did not cover 444.950 controller damage.

**ACTIVITIES & CONTESTS:** Straight key night New Years Eve.

**VE TEAM:** Testing will remain the same this next year, the potential for a large number of upgrades exists with the elimination of code requirements.

**RACES:** No net before Christmas or New Years

**PUBLIC RELATIONS: NTR**  
**NEWSLETTER: OK**

**REMEMBRANCE: NTR**

**OLD BUSINESS:** KB2KBY is still working on the Club logo as a "sew on patch"

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee will update club ARRL info

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## The Drumlins Leaders 06-07

President	Dave Furber, KE4VHA	315-521-0271
V-President	Doug Peeso, KB2ROP	315-587-2889
Secretary	Russ Millspaw, N2RUS	315-483-8924
Treasurer	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Program	Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ	315-986-5779
Director 3 yr	Jim Collinsworth, N2JC	315-483-8136
Director 2 yr	Steve Elliott, N2COJ	315-789-2701
Director 1 yr	Bob Wilkin, W2GIV	315-923-2620
Sysop .745	Jeff Jenson, N2MKT	315-483-1537
Sysop .685	Bruce Blair, WB2QKO	315-597-9731
News Letter	Irv Walter, WA2SOK	315-597-2192
Club Trustee	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Web Master	Doug Wakeman, W2CDW	315-331-2980

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**Club Equipment committee will be held at 19:00 prior to the general membership meeting.**

Discussion on securing the club equipment and marking as club property and the number of keys out in member's hands. KB2KBY changed all oil and gas for club generator. N2JC said he envied W2EVU's new generator. KB2KBY is investigating the possibility of setting up a Sky Warn training session this spring. Some discussion on the HF link for the NWS.

**50/50 DRAWING: \$4.50 WINNER: KB2ROP**

**PROGRAM: None**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion: KB2ROP 2<sup>nd</sup> W2CDW at 20:45**

**NOTICE**  
**EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**AT SEMO – DARC CLUB**  
**7:00PM – JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**PRIOR TO THE REGULAR MEETING**

**News Letter Stuff Send To:**  
 Irv Walter, WA2SOK  
 2881 Macedon Ctr. Rd. Lot 57 Palmyra. NY. 14522  
 Tel: (315)-597-2192  
 E-mail: wa2sok@rochester.rr.com

**RACES NET SUNDAYS 8:45 PM 146.685**  
**Except for Holiday Weekends**

**Web Site: [www.drumlinsarc.com](http://www.drumlinsarc.com)**

## FCC Releases Report and Order in "Morse Code" Proceeding

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 – The FCC has issued the complete *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The *R&O* follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The *R&O* also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future -- who have not passed a Morse code test.

"In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement," the FCC concluded in the *R&O*, released today. "We also believe that these rule changes will allow Amateur Service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the Amateur Service and will enhance the usefulness of the Amateur Service to the public and licensees."

The FCC took the opportunity in the *R&O* to act on the League's *Petition for Partial Reconsideration* in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, to retain the 3620-3635 kHz segment for automatically controlled digital stations. "We conclude that the expansion of the 75 meter band should not be so limited," the FCC said. "We agree with the ARRL, however, that the Commission did not intend to reduce the amount of spectrum available for automatically controlled digital stations." To rectify the "unintended consequence" of the rules adopted in the omnibus proceeding, the Commission amended §97.221(b) to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations.

Finally, the Commission said it would conform the Amateur Service rules to reflect that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has reduced from two to one the number of Amateur Radio license classes.

The Commission is amending §97.301 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

**No Effective Date Yet**

Today's *R&O* spells out the specific Part 97 changes going into place once the new rules go on the books and indicates that the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the *Federal Register*. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going

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strength of late? Have you noticed in the papers how the power has been going out more in areas around us with this freaky WX? One just never knows, so keep those emergency batteries and rigs prepared at all times.

Our own DARC member Hal Post, AK2E, was quoted saying the same in the Albany "Times Union" paper Saturday December 30, 2006. Hal's better half is his XYL, Antje KC2DTP and also a club member. (You may remember this XYL-OM team more with our DARC hamfest prizes this past year. They win a prize for each of them! Hi!) Hal is President of SARA, the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association. As the Times Union article stated, "Most morning the topic of conversation crackling over the air-waves is mundane: How's the weather in northern Canada? How's your family in Australia? But when the power goes out, said Hal... That's when the fun begins."

I am sorry to say, this WX of late gives me the "willies" for its potential! For Hal's area it was a problem of river flooding. "Five years ago the river did flood and flooded a building housing telephone equipment cutting off phone service for most of the city. Hams were stationed at points around the city, ready to call on police or fire companies if someone was stymied when they called 911." Hams from the Capital District helped at New York after 9/11 and even more recently Katrina. "When there's no power, no phone lines, no Internet, we can still get through, [Hal]...said. Hams are still called on to relay emergency information ... wherever there is widespread disaster." Luckily we have had 'disasters' but on a much smaller scale but nonetheless we have been needed.

WX, WX, WX! It is the talk of the town for us. It is not like AZ where it is the same blue sky and puffy clouds and sunshine every day after day after day. (One the XYL and my church friends were out in AZ for 5 years. The OM friend hated it! He said believe it or not but you get sick and tired of the same blue sky, puffy white clouds and sunshine. They moved back to Palmyra and he loves it here. Hi!) We never know what the WX will bring or do. Be like that Boy Scout-always "be prepared!"

Thanks, Hal, for e-mailing the newspaper article to me via one of your ham friends. It was good timing and I needed some 'fuel' for the fingers to type. It is appreciated. It is also nice to see even a big newspaper help lend a hand. Hi! Plus it is nice to see another DARC member's name in the paper and give amateur radio a little credit where it is due. See you next month.

73, Dave KB2KBY

**DRUMLINS POST-CHRISTMAS DINNER DATE**  
**NEW DATE FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
 January 27, 2007

**CLUB ADDRESS:**

Dave Taylor KB2KBY Club Trustee  
 228 W. Jackson St. Palmyra, NY 14522  
 Packet: Kb2kby-1 thru Newark Node  
 Email: kb2kby@rochester.rr.com

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into effect in February.

**Reprising the History the Morse Decision**  
 Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) effectively eliminated the international requirement to demonstrate Morse proficiency to gain access to HF bands, the FCC recounted in discussing how it reached its decision in the Morse issue. A dozen and a half petitions for rule making -- most calling on the Commission to simply eliminate the Morse requirement - in the wake of WRC-03 gave rise to the "Morse code" proceeding. A flurry of comments followed.

"The record reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community regarding this proposal," the FCC's R&O said. "Many of the comments from individual Amateur Radio operators support eliminating the telegraphy proficiency requirement." Others suggested dropping the requirement for General applicants while keeping it for Amateur Extra applicants, the FCC noted.

"Others argue that the present telegraphy examination requirements should be maintained because any reduction in these requirements will be detrimental to the Amateur Service while providing no long-term benefits," the Commission continued.

The FCC proposed in 2005 to drop the Morse examination requirement altogether, although the ARRL was among those who felt the Commission should retain it for Amateur Extra class applicants. The FCC remained unconvinced.

"We nevertheless believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The Commission said its reasoning "applies equally" to both the General and the Amateur Extra class licenses. "We are not persuaded that the Amateur Extra Class being the highest license class is a sufficient reason alone to retain a requirement that we conclude is otherwise inappropriate and unnecessary." At the same time, the FCC said, its action doesn't preclude Amateur Radio licensees of any class "from pursuing and/or continuing to pursue Morse code proficiency should they so desire."

The FCC said its rules don't require applicants to pass practical examinations to demonstrate proficiency in non-telegraphy communications techniques, and it feels the current regime of written examinations is "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an

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Amateur Radio operator license."

### **No Special Advantage to Retaining the Morse Requirement**

In today's *R&O*, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse code requirement would help in keeping out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed.

"As a result, we concur with the observation that 'maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does.'"

The Commission further reiterated its belief that the ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency doesn't necessarily indicate an applicant's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. "A number of commenters agree that the Morse code requirement 'keeps individuals that would enhance the hobby from getting a license,' and that there is 'no relationship between an individual's knowledge of Morse code and that individual's knowledge of radio regulations and practices and skills necessary to operate an amateur station.'"

### **Eliminating the Technician Disparity**

The FCC also reviewed how it changed its mind regarding requests to eliminate the distinction between Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees. In its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in the proceeding, the FCC said it wanted to maintain the status quo. The League was among those asking the Commission to reconsider.

"Based on our review of our rules, we agree," the FCC explained in its *R&O*. "Consistent with our decision herein to eliminate the Morse code requirement, we are eliminating this disparity by amending Section 97.301(e) to afford Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges." The rule revision will mean Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees will get voice and telegraphy privileges in four HF bands that are identical to those of Novice class licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

### **No Additional Changes**

The FCC again denied requests -- including one from the ARRL -- to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license along the lines of the old Novice ticket. Pointing out that the rules it's adopted grant Technician licensees additional operating privileges in four HF bands, the Commission said it didn't

see any need for additional changes. The FCC also declined the League's request to grant Novice and Technician licensees voice and image privileges in certain segments 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

"Our action today giving Technician class licensees the same privileges as Technician Plus class licensees does effectively provide some of the relief ARRL seeks because Technician class licensees now have voice and digital privileges in the 10 meter HF band," the FCC said.

The Commission expressed concern that giving Novice and Technician holders voice privileges on other HF bands "would be a disincentive for these licensees to improve their knowledge and skills and attain a higher class license."

### **Web Site Resource**

The ARRL is posting all information relevant to the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235 on its Web site.

From ARRL Web Site

### **RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing**

**All Elements needed  
to complete a license class.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
Month, Sept. – April**

**Registration – 10:00AM  
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9  
(Park in Lot J)**

**Rochester Institute of Technology  
1 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623**

**Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD to reserve  
Space. Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail  
[n2rd@arri.net](mailto:n2rd@arri.net)**

### **HAMFESTS 2007**

- Jan 27**.....Lockport ARA.....Lockport, NY  
<http://lara.hamgate.net>
- Feb 17**.....GRAM Winter HamFest .....Batavia, NY  
[http://www.geocities.com/gram\\_radio\\_club/page7.html](http://www.geocities.com/gram_radio_club/page7.html)
- Feb 24**.....26th Annual Winterfest.....Horseheads, NY  
<http://www.arast.org/>
- Mar 04**...Greater Buffalo "Winter" Fest..Williamsville, NY  
<http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>
- Apr 14**.....Marbletown Fire Hall.....Newark, NY  
<http://www.drumlinsarc.com>
- Jun 1-3**.....Rochester Hamfest.....Henrietta, NY  
<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org>

# January 14 - February 24, 2007

*Drumlins Amateur Radio Club, LTD*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Jan 14</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b>	<i>Jan 15</i>	<i>Jan 16</i>	<i>Jan 17</i> <b>DARC Mting</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<i>Jan 18</i> <b>N2ODM B'Day</b>	<i>Jan 19</i>	<i>Jan 20</i>
<i>Jan 21</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b> <b>W4ILN B'Day</b>	<i>Jan 22</i>	<i>Jan 23</i>	<i>Jan 24</i> <b>W2GIV B'Day</b>	<i>Jan 25</i>	<i>Jan 26</i>	<i>Jan 27</i> <b>Hamfest</b> <b>Lockport, NY</b>
<i>Jan 28</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b>	<i>Jan 29</i>	<i>Jan 30</i>	<i>Jan 31</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>Feb 3</i>
<i>Feb 4</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b>	<i>Feb 5</i>	<i>Feb 6</i>	<i>Feb 7</i>	<i>Feb 8</i>	<i>Feb 9</i>	<i>Feb 10</i>
<i>Feb 11</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b>	<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>Feb 13</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>	<i>Feb 15</i>	<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>Feb 17</i> <b>HAMFEST</b> <b>Batavia, NY</b>
<i>Feb 18</i> <b>RACES NET</b> <b>8:45pm</b>	<i>Feb 19</i>	<i>Feb 20</i>	<i>Feb 21</i> <b>DARC Mting</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>Feb 24</i> <b>Hamfest</b> <b>Horsehds NY</b>