

Feedback is published by the Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association on a monthly basis. The **NIRAA** meets the second Saturday of each month (**except August**) in the lower level of the Hawkeye Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2530 University Avenue, Waterloo. Meetings start at 7 p.m.; anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend.

Feedback Editor: Joe Hoepfner (N0FHL)

NIRAA OFFICERS, 1999

President: Earl Taggart (K8YWT)
Vice President: Jerry Joens (KI0IH)
Secretary: Jay Nabholz (KC0AKJ)
Treasurer: Dave Berry (KB0OCI)
Directors: Chuck Angel (WA0INC) ('02)
 Dennis Orona (N0RWY) ('01)
 Curt Wilson (NK0T) ('00)

Area Repeaters, *indicates 136.5 PL required

Waterloo/Cedar Falls

W0MG: 146.94*, 444.975*
WA0INC: 146.82*, 443.75*, 444.925* (linked SEITS)
N0CF: 444.65*
KM0K: 146.655*
NK0T: 224.90
Independence – NI0L: 145.33*
Oelwein – KFOHA: 147.345
Waverly – N0RJJ: 145.43*

Hamfest Calendar

Aug 14, 99 – 3rd Annual Rice Creek Hamfest, Forest Lake MN.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hwy 97 ½ mile east of Hwy 61, Messiah Lutheran Church. Talk in on 145.17 repeater. For more info, contact Ron, K0QS, 612-785-6051.

Internet Access

The official club web page on the Internet is located at:
<http://w0mg.nexcommtech.com>
If anyone in the club is interested in designing web pages or has information of use to club members, please contact N0CF.

ITEMS FOR SALE:

[Paid members may advertise any radio related items for sale in this newsletter. Contact the Feedback editor with your listings at least two weeks prior to the club meeting. Listings will run for only one month, to re-list an advertisement the editor must be contacted again.] (S) = For Sale, (W) = Wanted, (G) = Give Away.

November Meeting Minutes

November was the annual Christmas dinner meeting held this year at Bishops at Crossroads Mall. We had the election of officers as the main meeting agenda.

December Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of NEIRAA is Saturday December 12, 1998 at the Red Cross Headquarters on University Ave in Waterloo.

Amateur License restructuring

ARRL Proposes Simplified Amateur License Structure.
Submitted by WA0EEY

The ARRL Board has submitted to the FCC in a formal letter a proposal for a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four license classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board meeting July 16-18 led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the

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privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D. The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone sub-bands expanded by 50kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word-per-minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from “re-farming” of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose. The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone sub-bands expanded by 50kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word-per-minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B. The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence.

Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words-per-minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

From the President

I wish to thank everyone who attended our annual Christmas Dinner last month. We had the election of officers and I am looking forward to an exciting year as the Club president.

I want to acknowledge Larry Tisor, KBOSZV, for a super job he did over the last year. We had some great speakers, some very interesting programs, and a lot of fun with the field day and RAGBRAI. A lot of time and effort by all members went into supporting these various activities. We have had a lot of new faces at almost every club meeting, Boy Scouts, CB Clubs and prospective Hams attending to look us over. I am sure I speak for everyone when I thank Larry for his efforts to promote our club.

While our past president went out in a flurry of controversy over the advertisement in the newsletter, I wish to make my position very clear on this subject. I have spent the better part of 20 years in the military defending the rights of American Citizens to have the freedom of choice and expression. I will defend any member’s right to freely express their ideas or beliefs. I may not always agree with them or I may take exception to what they have to say, but that is my choice. I am glad I live in a country that insures the right of any citizen to have a choice. I do not support censure and I believe our newsletter should include a statement “We do not discriminate in its advertising on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or national origin”.

During the meeting portion of the Christmas party we agreed to let the board make the decision as to what advertising will be presented in our monthly newsletter. I will live by their decision because I trust in their ability to protect the interests of the club. If there are any comments or thoughts you wish to share with me, I can be reached at taggart.earl@tci.com or in the evening at home between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. weekdays at 319-345-2033 (Reinbeck).

As we move into the New Year, I will be asking for everyone’s support in bringing in new members. If you know a ham that was a member, a new ham in the neighborhood, or interested in communications or electronics, invite them along to the next

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meeting. I am hoping to find a way we can involve the whole family in our hobby and open the doors to the JR Operators and the XYL. Bring the family and let's have some activities that will be of interest to the family. Please share your thoughts with me and I will try my best to broaden our club.

Thank you all for the opportunity to work with you more closely over the next year.

Earl Taggart, K8YWT

Don't forget our Sunday Night net at 9:00 pm local time.