



# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### "The Voice of GNARC"

#### January 2007

---

### President's Corner

#### By Toy Alladin K1WYQ

---

#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.** Hopefully we will witness many new and exciting things in the days ahead and most of all, a peaceful end to the current troubles around the globe.

We have come to the end of an era with the demise of Morse Code here in the U.S. and of course, there is mixed emotions over its ending. The FCC has no second thoughts about this. It is a sign of the times, the rest of the world is well ahead of us with this change and we are now following suit with the changing trend. It is now left to be seen whether this change will generate added interest with this hobby.

The recent flurry of activity on the club's email reflector with the suggested name change of the club is really interesting. Not with the proposed name change, but with the excitement that the proposal generated among you. The comments were noted and my wish is to suggest, whether you folks can generate similar interest in coming up with some exciting projects for the club during the course of the year. After all, your comments have just demonstrated how diverse and knowledgeable that you all are.

I must also remind you that we have election of officers for 2007 at our January meeting.

The nominating committee has nominated the current officers with their consent for another term in office. Nominations are still open from the floor and will close with a motion at the next meeting.

Until then, see you at the January meeting.

Toy/K1WYQ

---

### Next Meeting

---

The next meeting will be on January 10, 2007 at the Shop Rite on Connecticut Avenue. Beginning at 8:00 pm.

Join us for pizza at John's Best on New Canaan Avenue at 6:00 pm.

---

### Secretary's Minutes

---

There was no regular meeting in December.

---

### ARES News

---

We're hosting a NIMS training session for IS 700 and ICS 100 for HAM radio operators on Saturday, 1/6/07 here at Troop G from 0900 to about 1200.

These are the basic courses required for all emergency management people and responders. What we intend to do is provide a briefing for both courses so participants can take the exams on-line. The reason we're not giving The test is that it takes months to get them graded while taking it on-line will give you an almost immediate grade.

Jim Hardy of COML Training Course fame will be the instructor and I want to make sure we maximize the class size to make it worthwhile for him to give it.

We have room for a total of about 50 participants and want to maximize participation. So, please pass the word around and let me know who Would like to attend by noon, Friday if possible. However, we won't turn anyone away if they show up w/o letting us know in advance.

Richard L. Fournier  
Phone: 203-696-2640  
FAX: 203-334-1560  
Pager: 860-842-9792  
Cell: 860-250-2478  
*Richard.L.Fournier@po.state.ct.*

**“The Voice of GNARC”**  
**January 2007**  
**Page 2**

---

---

---

## **FCC Ends Requirement for CW Testing**

---

The following is an excerpt from the ARRL web site:

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."

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 into effect in February.

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.

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.'"

---

## **Reflections on Morse Code Past**

---

My first experience with CW was in the summer of 1960. I was attending a summer camp in New Milford CT and the previous summer I learned CW at 5 WPM using a code practice oscillator. I took and passed my Novice license test administered by a counselor at the camp, received my license in the mid-Autumn. I built a horrible "Philmore CR5AC" 5-tube receiver and my Dad got me an Eico 720 transmitter which I loved. His firm sold rubber bumpers to Eico so the boss there gave him a "deal". Only later did I realize that a good receiver is the critical piece of the puzzle. If only he sold something to Hammerlund!!

It was difficult to have CW QSO's. The Philmore receiver drifted each time your hand neared the tuning knob, so I became adept at compensating and also at decoding CW while the audio note either rose or fell. Great fun! I ran mostly 15M because 40M was too full of foreign broadcast stations and I couldn't find a way to put up an 80M dipole.

I made a lot of contacts and met lots of very nice people on the bands. Then my one year Novice license expired. I got a technician license the next summer while at camp and abandoned Low Band operation for several years until I got my General. Only years later did I decided that the Novice license should have been renewable - at least once or twice, anyway.

73, Jess ND1L

=====

I have always really enjoyed CW. In fact, I almost never use a mic at my home station. I remember that I got my novice license when I was 12 years old... then my general license a year, maybe a year and a half later. (I am now 60). I lived in Louisville, KY. My call was WA4BEE. I had a Globe Scout transmitter with a few 80 meter and 40 meter crystals and a Hammarlund HQ-110 receiver, an amazing rig for a young person at that time.

I had a small 'antenna farm' with an 80 meter dipole, some

# **"The Voice of GNARC"**

## **January 2007**

### **Page 3**

sort of 10 meter vertical thing strapped to the chimney and a 40 meter dipole perpendicular to the 80 meter dipole. My parents and neighbors were very accommodating! I used to come home after school and get on the radio ASAP. I recall many CW QSOs to New England in the early afternoon and evening.. and all over the place as well! I used a manual key which I still own and eventually a bug that I loved.

While I'm not as active as I once was, I often get on the hf bands and copy CW. I believe it is an elegant mode of communication, and I will always favor it for hf work.

Best regards to all." John, K1OE

=====

I remember very well my first CW contact as it was also my very first contact after I got my Novice license. I actually got my novice license, KN3EIN, in the spring of 1958 in my home town of Chambersburg, PA, but did not get on the air until June 19, 1958. I had borrowed a friend's Heathkit DX-20 when he went on vacation and my first contact was that evening using the DX-20 and my Heathkit AR-3 receiver.

The station was KN3DVK, also a Novice, located in King of Prussia, PA. I remember the difficulty I had copying "KING OF PRUSSIA" as prior to that I had never heard of King of Prussia, PA. The QSO took place on 80 Meters at 3.745 MHz (Megacycles in those days) and lasted from 1916 to 1936 GMT. I only had two crystals, 3.741 and 3.745. We gave each other 579, exchanged names and addresses and agreed to send QSL cards. (which I still have)

About 25% of the contacts in my log are CW contacts, but I have not maintained that proportion in the last 20 or so years as most are now either SSB or digital mode, usually PSK31. I did manage to make about 40 CW contacts in the CQ WWDX Contest last year, so that did at least maintain my CW skills somewhat.

I am glad I am in the generation of hams where CW was required and I am constantly struggling to do better at it.

73, Ed K3EIN

=====

CW is a lot of fun. It really is the ham's language.

I had to learn the code to get my Novice license in 1957. I did so by listening to W1AW on my ARC-5 surplus aircraft receiver. And then I took the train to NYC, alone, and passed the test at the FCC (fun at 17 years old). A month later I got my license, KN1DMG, and shakily called CQ on 3720 KHz (XTAL) using the J-38 key into my Heathkit AT-1, 20 watts and a dipole. My first QSO was a WN2 in Morristown, NJ. Excited? You bet! I could not finish the QSO because my whole body was shaking!

But in about six months, I had worked more than 100

countries on 21,120 kHz, Novice 15 meter band, with a Heathkit DX-40, 60 watts. Then came the BUG...a mechanical semi-automatic key. My speed shot up and I got my general as well as working all those CW stations and getting all those Certificates. My home made 4-400A kilowatt amp would only work class C, so I was happily stuck on CW. Then we built electronic keyers using lots of TTL IC's. Speed kept getting higher and I got my Advanced and Extra, at the FCC in NYC.

These days, all HF bands are filled with CW QSOs. 70% of all Dxpedition QSOs are CW. I just came back from PJ2T; we came in Second in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest with 7,750 CW QSOs with one transmitter in 48 hours. Our continuous speeds are around 200 QSOs an hour. CW rules....QRM sure shows this.

I still work about 100 station a week on CW, all DX.....1A4A (SMOM), A41JS (Oman), and YI9KM (Iraq) this morning, 1/4/07. CW is very active. But there are many more CW DX stations than US. W1AW, the League, still runs CW practice every day, just like 1957.

Now that we all have keyers, Straight Key Night, December 31<sup>st</sup> is a "walk in the past." I dusted off my rusty j-38 and had a great time last week. Huge activity.

Where are all the GNARC cw ops?

N1ZZ , 1/4/07

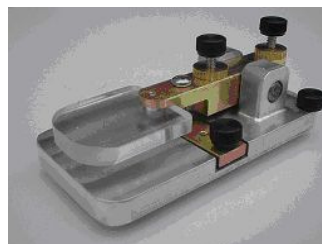
---

## **Product Review**

---

KK-1 Straight Key from American Morse

Iambic paddles and I just don't get along. It's a fact of life I've come to accept. I am sure that using a keyer is a wonderful thing but you need to be conscious (or maybe unconscious) of left from right. That's why I have been hunting for a straight key. Not just any straight key but one that would lend itself to my operating style. That is, it needs to be small enough to be portable.



I found a wonderful key from the folks at American Morse Products of San Luis Obispo, CA. The KK-1 is precision CNC machined from 360 Brass and 6061. The paddle of the key is cut from Lexan. The KK-1 comes as a kit and is a 30 minute

assembly job. The instructions are well written with good quality pictures of the assembly steps.

Prior to dumping the part bags, make sure you have a small tray to contain all the parts. There is a small spring and a #0 washer that is easily lost. I would also suggest you have

**“The Voice of GNARC”**  
**January 2007**  
**Page 4**

---

---

some extra fine steel wool, Scotchbrite, or my personal favorite, a Dremel tool with bullet buffer. This is to polish away some of the tool marks that are left from the machining. You will also need to supply wire and the appropriate plug for your radio's key jack.

My only criticism of the key is in the height adjust and the spring tension adjustments. The adjustment screw is a bit coarse (4-40) and it took a bit of tweaking before Dan N1ZZ or I were happy with the spacing and tension.

The KK-1 is \$30 including shipping. This key and others are available on their website: [www.americanmorse.com](http://www.americanmorse.com)

John N1OLO

---

## Happenings

---

7 January 2007

New York City/Long Island Section Convention  
(Ham Radio University 2007)

Ham Radio University Committee

<http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org>

Talk-In: see website

Contact: George Tranos, N2GA

PO Box 657

Copiague, NY 11726

Phone: 631-691-1801

Fax: 631-691-1809

Email: [n2ga@arrl.net](mailto:n2ga@arrl.net)

*Location:*

Briarcliffe College

1055 Stewart Avenue

Bethpage, NY

---

23 February 2007

Auction/Flea Market

New Providence ARC

<http://www.nparc.org/auction.htm>

Talk-In: 145.75 MHz simplex; 147.255 MHz +.600,  
141.3

Contact: Al Hanzl, K2AL

3 Colony Court

New Providence, NJ 07974

Phone: 908-872-5021

Fax: 973-539-1317

Email: [k2al@arrl.net](mailto:k2al@arrl.net)

*Location:*

New Providence Municipal Center Gymnasium

Academy Street

New Providence, NJ

---

23 February 2007

Auction/Flea Market

New Providence ARC

<http://www.nparc.org/auction.htm>

Talk-In: 145.75 MHz simplex; 147.255 MHz +.600,  
141.3

Contact: Al Hanzl, K2AL

3 Colony Court

New Providence, NJ 07974

Phone: 908-872-5021

Fax: 973-539-1317

Email: [k2al@arrl.net](mailto:k2al@arrl.net)

*Location:*

New Providence Municipal Center Gymnasium

Academy Street

New Providence, NJ

---

25 February 2007

Long Island Indoor Hamfair & Electronics Show

Long Island Mobile ARC

<http://www.limarc.org/fest.htm>

Talk-In: 146.85 (PL 136.5)

Contact: Richie Cetron, K2KNB

198 Haypath Road

Old Bethpage, NY 11804

Phone: 516-694-4937

Fax: 516-694-4937

Email: [hamfest@limarc.org](mailto:hamfest@limarc.org)

*Location:*

Hicksville, NY

Levittown Hall

201 Levittown Parkway

**“The Voice of GNARC”**  
**January 2007**  
**Page 5**

---

**Contest Announcement**

---

ARRL RTTY Roundup  
January 6-7, 2007

Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2400 UTC  
Sunday

**West Mountain Radio**  
**PRINCIPAL AWARDS**  
**SPONSOR**

Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using digital modes (Baudot RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet - attended operation only) on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Any station may work any other station.

This contest is a great excuse to get on the air on a digital mode. And look who is the principal awards sponsor!

For complete contest rules go to the ARRL website:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/rtty.html>

**YOUR AD COULD GO HERE!**

**CONTACT N1OLO@YAHOO.COM WITH  
YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS**

**BIG** or SMALL  
**We Ship it all**

Shipping Services, Packing Services, Freight Services, Moving Supplies, Copying Color Black & White, Faxing , Printing

Greg Bryson  
The UPS Store  
304 Main Ave.  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
PH 203 847-6166  
Fax 203 849-1868  
8-6:30 m-f 9-3 sat

**“The Voice of GNARC”**  
**January 2007**  
**Page 6**

---

**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**  
**October 2006**

<b>Contest Name</b>	<b>Time/Date/(Band)</b>
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 6 to 1500Z, Jan 7
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 6 to 2400Z, Jan 7
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 6 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 7
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 7
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 13 to 2400Z, Jan 14
070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 13
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 13 to 2359Z, Jan 14
SPAR Winter Field Day	1200 local, Jan 13 to 1200 local, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 13
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 13 to 0600Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 18
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 20
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 20 to 0400Z, Jan 22
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 27 to 1800Z, Jan 28
SARL Youth for Amateur Radio	0700Z-1100Z, Jan 27
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 27 to 1200Z, Jan 28
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27 to 1300Z, Jan 28

