



HARMONICS

1916

South Jersey Radio Association

2017



Why Are There So Many Techs?

Dan, KB6NU, *cwgeek at kb6nu dot com*

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- ◆ It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- ◆ Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- ◆ Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- ◆ Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- ◆ Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communi-

cations or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.

- ◆ Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion,

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SOUTH JERSEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

HARMONICS is published monthly and is the official news letter of the South Jersey Radio Association. The SJRA was established on June 16, 1916 and has been meeting continuously since its inception. The club has been affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since 1920.

The SJRA meets each month on the fourth Wednesday, January through September; and usually the third Wednesday, October, November and December; in one of the Meeting Room of the Gibson House at 525 East Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Visitors are always welcome at our general meetings. **“Our Meetings are Smoke Free”**

SJRA operates the K2AA Repeater (145.290 - PL 91.5) located in Medford, NJ and the K2UK Repeaters (146.865 and 442.350 - PL 131.8) located in Pine Hill, NJ. The repeaters are open for use without restriction to all licensed amateur operators.

There are currently over 100 SJRA members active in most all aspects of amateur radio. Membership is by application and is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Club dues are currently \$30/yr. for memberships, \$22.50/yr. for retired-person membership (62 plus 1 yr membership), and \$15/yr. for additional family members and student membership. Membership information is available on the K2AA Repeater or from Mary Von Lintig, KV2M, 856-772-6475

EMAIL: sjra@sjra.org SJRA's web page: www.sjra.org
 SJRA VE Team: ve@sjra.org is the SJRA/ARRL VUCC card checker
 Joe Fisher, KC2TN, is the SJRA/ARRL WAS card checker

 ★ Harmonics is now available for SJRA members on the WEB in pdf ★
 ★ format at: <http://www.sjra.org> ★
 ★ South Jersey ARRL Section News is available on the WEB at: ★
 ★ <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SNJ> ★
 ★*****

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Publisher/Editor: Ted Groke, W2TAG
Alternate Editor: Rick Stoneking, W2RDS
Circulation: Mary VonLintig, KV2M; Jim Vecchiola, KR2T

LOCAL WEEKLY NETS

Monday	K2AA, Medford	145.290 @ 8PM
Fusion on 2 ND & 4 TH Thurs. and 10M on 3 RD Thurs.	Various Locations	28.405 @ 8PM 145.290 @ 8PM, Fusion

Harmonics Deadline

Articles submitted for the next Harmonics will be accepted until Monday, April 10, 2017. Email: ted.w2tag@gmail.com

SWAP SHOP - For Sale/Wanted ads are free of charge and are accepted for Amateur Radio related items only. While ads are not restricted to SJRA members, there is only limited space available and members have priority for listings. No items will be accepted for inclusion in the Swap Shop from commercial vendors or traders. All ads must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the scheduled SJRA general meeting date.

GENERAL ADVERTISING - Limited commercial advertising is accepted on a space available basis. Annual advertising rates range from \$25/yr (Min 1/8 page) to \$200/yr (Full Page). Information is available from Ken Botterbrodt, K2WB.

Meeting Minutes

Membership Meeting Feb 22, 2017

The meeting , held at the Gibson House, opened at 1930 by Ken, K2WB, with a salute to the American Flag, and the question of the month- "will you be working the ARRL DX contest ?"

Membership- KD2ARD- we had two new members this month- Jim Clark KA2OSV and Bill Fisher- KD2MPC.

Health & Welfare- Roy, WB2EOD- the list of March Birthdays have been sent to Harmonics. Matt, N2IDW has returned from his surgery.

Minutes were approved as printed. Motion N2HQL/WA2HJG

Ray,N3RG reported 85 Paid up members. Motion- K2WJL/WB2EOD motion passed.

Programs: Feb- Bull session night. March- Shack showoff. April- Mag Loop Antennas by AC2FO.

Holden, KD2JPV requested help for his demonstration of Amateur Radio during the Stem show @ Collingswood high school.

DX Bangladesh from 3/15 through 3/27. S21KW and S21GU report by N2VW

Radio Sport by John W2FDJ: 3/24-3/26 CQWW SSB WPX: 5/5-5/6 1010 int'l spring contest- 10 m cw only: 5/26 5/27 CQWWWPX CW: 6/10-6/11 ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST. 6/24-6/25 2017 FIELD DAY.

Repeater by JOE KC2TN: trying to

connect a DV4 Mini dongle to out fusion repeater to allow for use in Wires X or Standard internet. Club Stuff- Joe still taking orders.

Web team- IRA, W2IRA: new team members, we will be a secure site (https). Bylaws and member list will be available in members only section.

Field Day- need some reconfiguration on 40/80

Old- Ray, N3RG was looking for candidates for board elections- reminded everyone that all are eligible.

New- Art N2CPR Talked about people needing rides- Suggested volunteers and location be put on the website.

Break @ 2017

Membership Meeting Minutes By:

Lou, N2HQL, Rec. Sec.

Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, 1 March 2017

Meeting was called to order at 1930 hours. Officers Present: President, Ken, K2WB; Vice President Jon, W2MC; Cor. Sec. Dennis, AC2FO. Board Members Present: Ira, W2IRA; Al, N3AVT; Tony, N2ATB; Roy, WB2EOD; Ted, KD2ARD; Rick, W2JAZ. Call In: Treasurer Ray, N3RG. Absent: Recording Secretary Lou, N2HQL; Historian Mark, KD2JPW.

Motion to accept minutes as published in Harmonics made and seconded WB2EOD/ N2ATB.

A Treasurer's report was provided via email, motion to accept W2JAZ/AC2FO.

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Preparing For My First DX Phone Contest

By John, W2HUV, w2huv at arrl dot net

Several months ago a fellow Remote Ham Radio (RHR) member, Dave, N7NR, invited me to join him in operating the RHR station KP4/Palmas remotely during the ARRL DX Phone contest in March, using the call sign KP4/N7NR. I responded, "Why not", since I had never operated in a DX phone contest and operating a DX station should be more of a challenge.

The first thing I decided that I needed to do was to purchase a top-notch headset. After my on-line research, I decided to purchase a Heil Pro 7 with a foot-switch and adapter for my Elecraft K3/0 Mini. During the ordering process, I decided on a dynamic microphone cartridge instead of an electret cartridge because the additional gain of an electret cartridge appears to only be needed for certain radios.

Since I had been using the N1MM Logger+ software for over two and a half years for CW operation, I decided that it would make sense to utilize the phone features that

I had glossed over when scanning the N1MM Logger+ manual. The discussion of these features begins in paragraph 1.5.3.1 if you are interested.

The first obstacle I ran into was that, in addition to running an audio cable from your radio to your PC sound board, you need to run a cable from your PC sound card to the line input jack on your radio in order to have the option to speak into your microphone in addition to playing back .wav (audio) files. My problem is that there is no line input jack on the K3/0 Mini. So, there was no choice but to run the cable to the microphone jack, which requires the use of an attenuator to prevent receiver microphone circuit overload. I purchased a stereo extension cable and a mono extension cable, cut them in half, and connected the two pieces with plugs together with a 10:1 attenuator soldered together between them. A 10:1 attenuation is what the manual (N1MM Logger+) suggests. Testing later indicated that wasn't enough attenuation for my installation. The final attenuator in use consists of two 20K resistors in series with a 1K resistor connected across one of the stereo

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(My First DX Phone Contest from page 5)

inputs. I cut the unused input wire to get it out of the way. The mono cable is connected across the 1K resistor and the plug is plugged into the K3/0 Mini microphone jack. Technically, the attenuation is 21:1.

The next obstacle encountered was that the Pro 7 dynamic microphone output is insufficient to record a .wav file at the level needed without amplification. The manual suggests the use of the microphone 20 dB boost feature of Windows. That would be great, if there was one. I have the initial version of Windows 10 installed on my circa 2007 PC. The 20 dB boost feature doesn't appear. After numerous attempts to install the new Windows 10 Anniversary Edition on my PC, I gave up, concluding that my PC and the Windows 10 Anniversary Edition aren't compatible. Originally, I considered adding an external microphone boost amplifier. Then, I ran across the video at "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfSxnlfxRGo>" that shows you how to add microphone boost with the Equalizer APO and Peace GUI open software available. If you watch the video, you will see that the software is used with a USB microphone or headset. The Pro 7 is not a USB headset.

Next I had to research how to convert the Pro 7 into a USB headset. I hit pay dirt when I discovered the numerous C-Media HS100B USB Chip based audio adaptors available, such as the one described at "<http://plugable.com/products/usb-audio/>." I ordered one of the devices and returned it because there was no response to my microphone. Then I discovered the question in the FAQ in the preceding link, "Why doesn't my microphone seem to work or record?" The answer is that the mono microphone plug on the Pro 7 shorts out the stereo microphone jack provided. A stereo jack

is provided because most microphones and headsets these days are designed to be plugged into a stereo jack. The solution is a mono to stereo adapter.

Recording the .wav files was next. Unfortunately, the manual is focused on the use of the Configurer "Audio" tab and older versions of Windows instead of the newer "Logger+ Audio Setup..." Config item and newer versions of Windows, Windows 10 in my case. You are left on your own to figure it out.

The title of the window that appears when you click "Logger+ Audio Setup..." is "Audio Setup Monitor". There are three tabs, "Monitor", "Playback" and "Message Recording". Select the microphone that you are using, such as "Microphone (USB Audio Device)", and check "Zero Mic Level During Playback" on the "Message Recording" tab. Use the default "Sample Rate" initially.

Increase it later if you are not happy with the clarity of your recordings.

Select the speakers that you are using, such as "Speakers (USB Audio Device)", on the "Playback" tab. The files that you playback will be listed there. The two controls on the "Monitor" tab are critical to proper operation. The position of both controls is recorded by the logger, so you need to use them in order to insure that the proper levels are set each time that the logger is used to playback files. The "Set" level determines the output level. The microphone level automatically returns to the "Record" level when the microphone is unmuted.

During the time that I was preparing for the contest, N7NR decided not to participate because a friend that he was counting on to work with us wasn't interested. That's

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President's Message

Ken – K2WB

The last meeting program was very successful, as we broke into small work groups with subject matter experts. Subjects covered the Website, N1MM setup, EME, SDR to name a few.

Last week a couple of members put K2AA on the air for the ARRL DX. A fun time was had by all. It was a low key operation to help members gain experience with logging and contesting.

Field Day will be here before we know it. Time to start thinking what you can do for the SJRA at field day, we are a team and it requires many talents to keep the SJRA No. 1 in the 6A category. Contact me and be part of the team! This is our only club event and *The SJRA Needs You*.

Ray, N3RG, has been getting a large number of Membership Renewals; we have almost 100 members and hopefully more to come. If you had not done so it is time, otherwise you will not be receiving Harmonics after this issue. Please send in your SJRA membership renewal as soon as you can, act now so you don't get missed in the next roster.

Support our nets and check in. It is a good way to meet other members of the club. Check in today.

Radio Sport aka Contests

John, W2FDJ, johnd152 at verizon dot net

Member's activities

Please send your thoughts and ideas to me at johnd152@verizon.net for publication.

The ARRL International DX contests for 2017 are now history. SJRA once again put K2AA on the air with a good number of members signed up as operators / guides.

Dom, KD2EPM
Ken, K2WB
Mark, KD2JPW
Bob, KE2D
Bob, KD2AWE
Joe, K2WJL
Holden, KD2JPV
Al, KD2LBT
Riz, KH7JO
Jon, W2MC

Ken, K2WB reported the group did well with many QSO's in 55 countries.

John, W2HUV operated as DX using the Remote Ham Station in Palmas, Puerto Rico. This was John's first Phone contest entry and despite only three hours on the air he amassed 262 QSO's for 49,329 points.

Joe, KC2TN who in previous years has been part of the K2AX operation decided to heavily pursue the contest from his home shack this year. He had an excellent result with over 800 contacts for over 600,000 points.

Paul, KF2Y snagged 20 countries; Jack, WA2HJG got 9 countries and Art, N2CPR was also in the action.

(Continued on page 9)

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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(Radio Sport aka Contests from page 8)

So at least 15 SJRA members participated, I believe at least another 5 or so were active too.

The final step is filing your logs, if you didn't file your logs with ARRL you may have a few more days depending on when you read this. Deadline for CW is 7:59PM EDT Mar 21 and for SSB is 7:59PM EDT Apr 4.

Recent posted results - see arrl.org or CQ

Please send me your summary sheet so I will be able to list your claimed score. As this contest just ended I'll update this list when additional scores are available.

ARRL 2017 International DX Contest SSB

John, W2FDJ, 176 QSO's 58,608 points.

John, W2HUV, 262 QSO's 49,329 points** using Remote Ham Station in PR.

Upcoming contests - see arrl.org or wa7bnm.com for rules and more details.

Joe, KC2TN, recommended at the last meeting that members should check out an interesting series of Spring Sprints on VHF and above. These are short four hour contests spread over about five weeks. They are focused on one band at a time starting with two meters on April 17. See below for all the dates, get the full rules thru wa7bnm.com.

Every Tuesday only

Phone Fray 10:30PM-11PM (yes 30 min)
(ten weeks -4 times a year)

Every Wednesday only

CW ops Mini-CWT test 9 -10AM, 3-4PM, 9-10PM (three one hr sprints).

Every Thursday only

NCCC Sprint 10:30PM-11PM (yes 30 minutes)

CQ WW SSB WPX Contest

3/24-26, Fri 8PM EDT to Sun 8PM.

144 Mhz Spring Sprint

4/17, Mon 7PM EDT to 11PM.

222 Mhz Spring Sprint

4/22, Mon 7PM EDT to 11PM.

432 Mhz Spring Sprint

5/3, Mon 7PM EDT to 11PM.

Microwave Spring Sprint - 902 Mhz and above

5/6, Sat 8AM EDT to 2PM

50 Mhz Spring Sprint

5/13, Sat 7PM EDT to 11PM.

10-10 Int Spring Contest CW

5/5-6, Fri 8PM EDT to Sun 8PM.

CQ WW WPX Contest CW

5/26-27, Fri 8PM EDT to Sun 8PM

**SJRA Membership Renewal
Begins January 1st, 2016.**

This is just a brief reminder that DoozRdo on January 1, 2016. We've tried our best to make it convenient for you by going to the club's website and following the instructions on the renewal form.

<http://www.sjra.org/sites/default/files/2015%20Renewal.pdf>

More than 25 members have renewed so far... so beat the rush and renew your membership today.

Thanks, Happy New Year and 73,
Ray Golley - N3RG
Treasurer, SJRA
552 Newport Rd
Millville, NJ 08332-7821

The SJRA would like to congratulate the following on their recent Amateur Radio licensing achievements:

Test Session Report for February, 8 2017

Duane Ashcraft
35 Lady Diana Circle
Marlton, NJ 08053
Earned his Tech

Elliot Rosen
18 Brookshire Rd.
Erial, NJ 08081
Earned his Tech

Jarred Greene
128 Wyndmere Rd.
Marlton, NJ 08053
Earned his Tech

Test Session Report for March, 8 2017

Scott Metzcher Jr
44 Grant Lane
Berlin, NJ 08009
Earned his Tech

Cooper Satterfield
345 Covered Bridge Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Earned his Tech

Joseph Somers
18 Maryland Road
Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
Earned his Tech

Charles Barnes
39 Locust Lane
New Egypt, NJ 08533
Earned his Tech

Elliot Rosen, KD2MVU
18 Brookshire Road
Sicklerville, NJ 08081
Earned his General

	Tech	General	Extra	Total
To Date	120	54	26	200

(Meeting Minutes from page 3)

Membership: Motion to approve Ron, AA2RR's application by W2MC/WB2EOD, motion was passed.

Correspondence: AC2FO contacted "Repeater Book" about listing our 145.29 machine as a fusion repeater.

Repeater: No issues, KC2TN received a "dongle" to enable access to non-fusion networks.

Contest: ARRL DX Phone contest this weekend. K2AA will operate from K2WB's QTH.

History: Historian was absent.

Web Team: W2IRA discussed membership payment processing issues and possibilities.

Health and Welfare: WB2EOD sent April Birthdays to Harmonics.

Nominating Committee: Will announce nominees in the March and April Meetings.

Old Business: SJRA QSO party voted on and approved.

New Business: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 2105 hours.

Respectfully Submitted
Roy Herman, WB2EOD

For Sale

Ameritrom AL-811H Amplifier, this unit is like new with very little use. \$400.00

Contact: Ted, W2TAG:
ted.w2tag at gmail dot com
Home Phone: 609-268-8460

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Shirts are \$27 (S,M,L,XL), Hats are \$20 (*New Lower Price*, one size fits all)
Name and Call Sign embroidery included....Larger sizes slightly more!
Email Joe, KC2TN, with orders or additional info: *kc2tn at comcast dot net*

Amateur Radio FCC License Testing

The SJRA sponsors *FREE* Amateur Radio FCC License testing on the second Wednesday of each month. The location is: 443 Commerce Lane, Suite 5, West Berlin, NJ 08091. Registration is at 7:00 PM and testing begins at 7:30PM. Walk-ins are accepted.

VE team members can be reached at VE *at* SJRA *dot* org. A calendar and more information can be found on the SJRA web site.

March Meeting:

Is the **Fourth** Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The meeting commences promptly at 7:30PM in the first floor Meeting Room of the Gibson House on Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053. Guests are always welcome.

Program For March:

Virtual shack tours presented by Ray Golley, N3RG; John Doran, W2FDJ; Joe Shevlin, KC2PHM; and Mario Dianora, N2AK.

SJRA Member April Birthdays

Betty Fletcher, KB2WDG, and Jackson Snyder, AI2D.

Health and Welfare Co-chairpersons: Roy, WB2EOD and Dara, KC2THQ

April Meeting:

Is the **Fourth** Wednesday, April 26, 2017

First Class Mail

South Jersey Radio Association
PO Box 1026
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

