



Western Tidewater Radio Association

"HAMTOWN WAVE"

Volume 1, Issue 8

November 2006

PO Box 323 Smithfield, VA 23431-0323 <http://www.wt4ra.org>

Next Meeting – November 13, 2006

Presidents Corner:

Congratulations are in order to Jim, KD2FN, and Linda, KG4UKS for upgrading during the WTRA's first volunteer exam. Jim advanced to Extra and Linda mastered the code to get her Tech-Plus. Congratulations also are well deserved by Chris, N4KIT, and the rest of his team for a great job of organizing the session. Chris has set up several more sessions which have been posted on the WTRA web site.

Technician licensees will have a new incentive to upgrade when the FCC's new rules come into effect about a month from now. The new frequency allocations will give Tech-Plus licensees the same CW privileges as Generals. Other changes extend the phone segments down further in the band. A complete listing of the new regulations can be found on the ARRL website and were later in the newsletter.

Jarvis, W4VWH, is chairing the nominating committee this year. If you have an interest in serving as a club officer, he is the man to contact. Volunteers are always welcome.

Jim Wise, W4PRO

Western Tidewater Radio Association Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Jim Wise, W4PRO

Vice President: Chris Peters, N4KIT

2nd Vice President: Jarvis Hearn, W4VWH

Treasurer: Dick Harrell, W4RBH

Secretary: Tom Stanfield, N4WXS

Trustee: Ron Primer, N4TJI

Repeater Chair: Dick Harrell, W4RBH

Public Information Officer / Newsletter Editor: Ron Harvey, W4RRH

Ham Radio Events Calendar

Nov. 13th – WTRA membership meeting - This will be nominations night for 2007 officers.

We have scheduled 4 new VE sessions as follows (Chris – N4KIT):

Saturday November 25, 9 am to 12 pm at the Smithfield Library

Saturday January 27, 9 am to 12 pm at the Smithfield Library

Saturday April 28, 9 am to 12 pm at the Smithfield Library

And we are tentatively scheduled to hold a session at the Bronco Club picnic. I do not have date certain, but I believe it will be held June 9th this year. I expect the VE session will be given around 10 am. (Chris – N4KIT)

Officers and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report / Membership / Repeater Report (Dick Harrell):

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balance as of 10/20/2006 \$ 1011.84

Remaining budgeted expenses for 2006 \$ 120.00

Actual vs. estimated income for 2006 \$ 86.00

Recent expenses:

None

Membership Report:

Currently there are 42 members on roll.

Repeater Report:

The WT4RA repeater (147.195+) and remote base system continues to function normally. Output power from the repeater amplifier remains at 130 watts.

The repeater and remote base system performed perfectly during the recent Isle of Wight County fair, allowing for many successful demonstrations for the public.

Repeater operation reminder - When in a QSO with another station you should wait until you hear the courtesy tone plus about another second and a half before transmitting. This is to allow time for other stations to break in. The reason for the extra wait past the courtesy tone is that on this repeater there is a built in 250 mili-second delay in the audio being transmitted. This delay allows the repeater to mute the squelch tail at the end of each transmission, making for much more enjoyable monitoring; however, the courtesy tone is usually the first hint that a station wishing to break in would have that the current station had stopped transmitting, therefore the need for the additional wait. (This paragraph previously appeared in the April 2006 newsletter and is reprinted here at the request of members that recently have had trouble breaking into QSOs on the repeater.)

All WTRA members receive a copy of the repeater operating codes as their memberships are renewed each year. Members may also request a copy at any time by sending an e-mail to w4rbh@wt4ra.org . WTRA members who desire to use the remote base radio may also receive a copy its operating instructions by sending a request to the above e-mail address.

VA RACES Inc, District 10

Contact Information

Title	Name	Call	Email Address
District Emergency Radio Officer	Chris Hanslits	W4VX	w4vx@wt4ra.org
Emergency Radio Officer – Isle of Wight County, Town of Smithfield	Bruce Powell	KE4GFM	ke4gfm@wt4ra.org

Emergency Radio Officer – City of Franklin	Fred Weaver	KG4BKI	kg4bki@wt4ra.org
Emergency Radio Officer – Southampton County	Chris Hanslits	W4VX	w4vx@wt4ra.org

NETS

Name	Time/Date	Frequency (MHz)	Comments
WTRA/D10 Net	19:30L Thursdays	147.195 (100Hz PL)	Traffic Welcome
Franklin Repeater Users	21:00L Sunday	147.300 (131.8Hz PL)	Traffic Welcome
Mid Atlantic Emergency Net (MAEN)	20:00L First Wednesday of the Month	5.3305 USB Primary 5.3465 USB Secondary	60 Meter HF Net Regional
Old Dominion Emergency Net (ODEN)	18:30L First and Third Monday of the Month	3.947 LSB +/- the QRM	75 Meter statewide HF voice net
Virginia Digital Net (VDN)	Tuesday 19:15L Friday 19:150L	3.578 LSB, 1000 Hz AFSK. Starts with CHIP64	Traffic Net (NTS), Good place to experiment with new HF digital modes and traffic handling

Note the frequency change for the Virginia Digital Net. The frequency was changed due to the changes in band plan on 80 Meters.

DX and PROPAGATION

Although we are at the bottom of the eleven-year sunspot cycle, the bands were alive with activity last weekend during the CW Worldwide DX Contest on Single-Sideband. I was joined by KG4NUH for an hour or so Friday evening. About 25 countries were worked in a few hours of operating, a minimal effort, considering that the contest runs for 48 hours. My incentive to operate contests is to make contact with stations in one of the forty zones or in one the 337 countries I have not contacted before on some bands. After decades of running up the numbers at W4PRO, new ones are hard to come by. No luck this time.

The good news is that conditions are not going to get any worse. The bad news is that they won't be much better for a year or two. But, historically, when a new sunspot cycle begins, the improvement of propagation is rather dramatic. The ten meter band will come to life giving all of the Tech-Plus licensees their first shot at SSB Qso's on HF. That should be an incentive for Techs to bear down on the code.

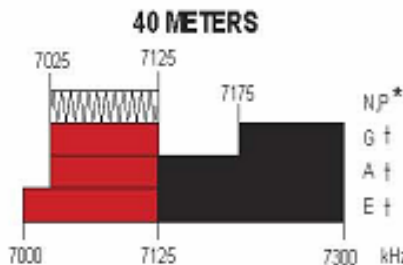
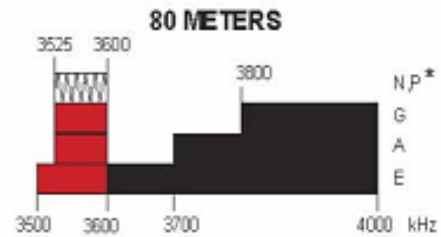
Hang in there.

Jim Wise, W4PRO

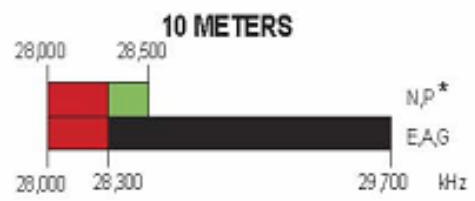
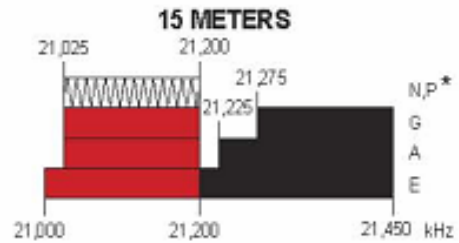
New Band Allocations Chart

(Thanks to Bob Zobot (WAVEFRONT), ARRL and Joe Roth)

Here is a brief view of the new band chart allocations that should take place sometime in late November or early December. There apparently are some errors in the docket as written and should be corrected prior to official publishing. To learn more about the ruling please come to the November meeting and also check the ARRL and FCC websites for the full docket.



- KEY**
- Red = CW, RTTY and data
 - Yellow = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
 - Black = CW, phone and image
 - Green = CW and SSB phone
 - Blue = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
 - Hatched pattern = CW only
 - Purple = USB Phone only
- E = AMATEUR EXTRA
 A = ADVANCED
 G = GENERAL
 P = TECHNICIAN PLUS
 T = TECHNICIAN
 N = NOVICE



† Phone and Image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.305(c) and 97.307(t)(11). Novice and Technician Plus licensees outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.

League Seeks FCC's WRC-07 Support for 150-kHz 60-Meter Amateur Allocation

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 31, 2006 -- The ARRL wants the FCC to throw its support behind a *Draft Proposal* seeking to have World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07) delegates consider a worldwide, secondary Amateur Radio allocation from 5260 kHz to 5410 kHz. The ARRL included the request in comments it filed October 27 in IB Docket 04-286, "Recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference." WRC-07 Agenda Item 1.13 will review allocations to all services between 4 and 10 MHz. The League told the FCC that a contiguous band of frequencies in the range of 5 MHz is an important goal of the amateur community -- domestically and internationally.

"The principal reason for this priority is as stated in the *Draft Proposal*: there are times when the propagation at 5 MHz bridges a significant gap between

the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) when the MUF is below 7 MHz, but the Lowest Usable Frequency (LUF) is above the next lower Amateur Radio allocation at around 3.8 MHz," the League pointed out. "For reliable communications, an Amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz is the solution."

Originating with ARRL, the *Draft Proposal* from Informal Working Group 4 (IWG-4) follows up on disaster relief-related changes to Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* made at WRC-03.

"The amateur services provide emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications, and in many cases provide the first information about disasters and serve as the only communications link when communications infrastructures are destroyed," the IWG-4 *Draft Proposal* background information notes.

Several countries -- including the US, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway and the UK -- already have permitted Amateur Radio operation on spectrum between 5250 and 5450 kHz, the ARRL said, citing the *Draft Proposal*. "It notes that there is a successful history of amateur secondary use of bands in which incumbent primary users are present," the ARRL said, mentioning 30 meters as one example. The ARRL said the five 60-meter channels have been in regular use by US radio amateurs since 2003 "without any instances of interference reported by primary users."

The League took issue with remarks contained in the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) draft report with respect to Agenda Item 1.13 that suggest otherwise. Among "disadvantages," the *Draft CPM Report* asserts, an allocation such as the League suggests "would increase congestion and potential interference to fixed and mobile services at 5 MHz." It argues that compatibility between amateur and fixed service systems in the vicinity of 5 MHz "has not been shown" and a decision to create an Amateur Service allocation there "could seriously affect reliable 24 hours [sic] communication capabilities of the fixed and mobile services." The *Draft CPM Report* also takes note of the advantages to the Amateur Service of such an allocation.

The proposed allocation is "well within the scope of existing resolutions from WRC-03," the League said. It reiterated that amateur use of the five current 60-meter channels "has not resulted in any apparent compromise in the use of the band" on the part of primary Fixed and Mobile services. "To the contrary, that use has demonstrated compatibility with primary users over a reasonable

period of time," the ARRL said.

The ARRL's request in its IB Docket 04-286 comments is unrelated to the League's October 11 *Petition for Rule Making (PRM)*, in which the ARRL asked the FCC to expand operating privileges on 60 meters and to swap one existing channel for a new one.

While the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has indicated it's okay with the ARRL's October 10 petition request, it also said it could not support a request for a 50 kHz-wide domestic secondary allocation. The NTIA oversees spectrum allocated to federal government users, which includes the present 60 meter allocation.

The FCC is but one of the federal agencies that provide input toward positions the US delegation will take on various WRC-07 issues. Should WRC-07 delegates eventually consider and agree to the international allocation at 5 MHz that ARRL proposes, it still would be up to the FCC -- in conjunction with the NTIA -- whether to authorize such a band for US radio amateurs.

[Photo Gallery \(Archive\)](#)

Mystery Man (answer at bottom)



Items for Sale - (Items don't have to be radio equipment. Anything electrical or electronic is fair game. A couple non – electrical items are OK, but we don't want to make the Newsletter a miscellaneous trading post.)

Jim Jackson KD2FN (365-0125)

1-Kenwood TS 430-S w/SSB&CW filters, FM board, PS 230 Power Supply, MC 50 Desk Mike and operating and service manuals. \$500.00. This unit has new finals installed by Burghart Radio.

2-Kenwood TS830-s w/SSB & CW filters, Shure 444d Desk Mike, operating and service manuals. Just back from service by Land Air Communications and under warranty \$400.00

3-Icom 725 w/ SSB & CW filters and MARS Mod. DC cable and Icom Hand Mike, operating manual. \$350.00

All the above units have full power from 160-60 meters and can be seen and/or tested at my home.

4-Kenwood Antenna Tuner AT-230 \$175.00

5- Kenwood Station Monitor SM 220. I have the manual but no cable \$225.00

I also have a Yaesu FT 1000 MP in excellent condition that I would trade toward a TS 2000 in like condition, or, sell for \$1150.00.

Links of Interest

WTRA HOME PAGE

www.wt4ra.org

www.wrrl.org

www.emcomm.org

www.varaces.org

www.w5yi.org

www.sera.org

www.hello-radio.org

NWS Wakefield

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq/>

Wakefield radar loop

http://weather.noaa.gov/radar/loop/D_S.p19r0/si.kakq.shtml

WVEC-TV loop

http://www.wvec.com/weather/image/ry/doppler/skymax_loop_large_reqi_on.gif

WTVR-TV loop

<http://files.wtvr.com/radarloop.gif>

NexStorm lightning real-time

<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/weather/nexstormlightning/StormVue.html>

National Hurricane Center

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Weather Matrix

<http://www.weathermatrix.net/>

Weather Underground

<http://www.weatherunderground.com/>

Intellicast

<http://intellicast.com/>



Emails Received

VE Session (excerpt)

The session went very well. Chris did a fantastic job. His organization and materials were first class.

Congratulations to the two new hams, Linda passing code, and Jim for becoming an Extra.

Joe (WC4R)

(excerpt)

I just wanted to thank everyone who came out for the session, whether taking or administering.

To all who passed exams, congratulations. To those who did not, don't get discouraged, keep at it and we'll be there for you any way we can help!

To the VEs, you all did a fantastic job and I much appreciate your assistance.

Will advise when I schedule our next session.

73,

Chris (N4KIT)

(excerpt)

Since I was on the outside looking in, so to speak, I can't comment in detail, but I think congratulations on a well run session are in order. And the site was excellent.

Thanks for urging Linda to try the General. I was afraid to mention that to her while she was working on the code, but you sparked an interest in her to upgrade. She will probably start studying next spring after she gets some other projects out of the way.

Jim (W4PRO)

**Just want to give a special nod to Jim KD2FN - who upgraded to Amateur Extra; reducing by one those grandfathered Advanced Class license holders. Gud job My Brother, enjoy.
bki>**

Please submit items you would like to be in the WTRA Newsletter to w4rrh@wt4ra.net no later than the 20th of the month.

Mystery Man – Stu (KA4JUO)