Are you new to the hobby of amateur radio, just received your license, and saying to yourself, "What can I do now?" Have you been away from the hobby for a while and want to fire up that rig that's been collecting dust in your shack? Maybe you've upgraded and need a little 'Elmering' to gain some confidence on the frequencies you've just earned. Maybe you know someone who's interested in being a ham operator, and just needs to get his hands on a mike to set the hook and reel him in. Well, we have two events coming up to take care of all of you. Memphis In May this year is striving to have more events that are family oriented, and has invited Delta Amateur Radio Club to set up a demonstration tent on May 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. We will be taking advantage of this opportunity to set up a Special Event station these two days, trying to make contact with hams all over the country and world. This is not a 'contest' situation where time is the critical parameter. This is an opportunity for those of you with limited frequency privileges to make some contacts at a control station with Extra privileges. Sign up for some time to operate on Saturday or Sunday, or both of those days by contacting Mike Richardson, KG4BVK, on the air, or contact any one of the board members. This qualifies you as a volunteer and will get you in without charge. Don't let your lack of experience stop you - this is what this Special Event is for. Veteran hams will be there to assist you and answer your questions. Please plan to, at the very least, visit with us on one of those days. Hopefully, we will have other modes of operation set up as well, such as APRS, 2 meter sideband, or QRP. Then on June 25 and 26, we will be conducting Field Day, a nation-wide 24 hour exercise in setting up radio stations and operating under emergency conditions. This is a yearly event in disaster preparedness sponsored by the ARRL, and to add a twist, they make a contest out of it. Points are given to contacts, weighted differently for phone or CW, how many transmitters are used, whether you are running on batteries, or gasoline, or solar panels, and other parameters as well. The emphasis is on setting up a station under emergency conditions, and we welcome all the help we can get. A lot of manpower is needed to hoist up antenna masts or crank up the tower on our trailer, and then to operate during the 24 hour period. We depend on the generosity of our hams to lend us their rigs, power supplies, tents, awnings, computers, generators, extension cords, lights, anything that is needed to operate a station. However, recognizing the competitive nature of hams, we also try to make as many contacts within the 24 hour period as possible. This is where you can get some free lessons in contesting, either by observing or by participating. We have a few experienced contesters in our club and it's amazing to watch and listen as they bring in those numbers. If you have a hankering to try your hand at it, this is the time. This is one event where planning is everything. We need operators to sign up for time slots throughout the 24 hour period, so if you are a night owl, or a morning person, there is a spot open for you. If you prefer Morse code to phone operation, there is a key waiting for you. If you would rather volunteer muscle power in setting up or taking down, than operating a radio, could we use you! Don Cook KJ4PO, is the Field Day Chairman this year and will be asking for help. Please keep this event in mind and plan to lend a hand in some manner. If ever there were two opportunities to look at what is available to you in the incredibly diverse hobby of amateur radio, the Memphis In May Special Event and Field Day are them. Plan to be there.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away."

time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

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clear and going QRT, good morning!"

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newsletter.

VE CORNER

73, Joan KN4PM

kn4pm@arrl.net

For now 73,

K4TTA

ARRL VE LIAISON

A CALL FOR ELMERS

use them to your advantage.

73, Terry, KB4KA

PACKET UPDATE

James Butler, KB4LJV

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

CONTEST CALENDAR

James Butler, KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

make use of old cases that would normally be thrown away.

Here are some of the contests coming up in the next few weeks...

overseas, write "VIA AIR MAIL" in prominent letters on the envelope.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM POSTS "SPECIAL TOPICS" FORUMS

If you need a nice antenna for base use check out the PULSAR line from MFJ.

I will have the QRP HELPER at the meeting to look at for those who wish to build up their own.

Japan International DX Contest, CW. High-band portion (20-10 meters). April 7-9. See January 2000 QST, p 100.

Six Meter Sprint, sponsored by Six Club, Hatfield, AR, 2300Z Apr 22 to 0400Z Apr 23. http://6mt.com/contest.htm.

366-9722, if special testing arrangements are required.

VE Liaison

737-5795

joant@mem.net

Joan Thorne, KN4PM

Mike Richardson.......Dir. of Meetings & Special Events......<u>kg4bvk@arrl.net</u>

Ken Gregg......Dir. of Publications.......<u>k4dit@arrl.net</u>

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, CW, sponsored by QRP ARC International, from 1200Z Apr 8 until 2400Z Apr 9. rfoltz@turbonet.com; http://www.grparci.org/

The TARA PSK31 Rumble, sponsored by the Troy ARA. 0000 through 2400Z, Apr 15, PSK31 only. http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/rumble.html

Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 15 until 0400Z April 16. http://www.qsl.net/mrrc/mqp.html.

Florida QSO Party, sponsored by the Florida Contest Group, 1600Z Apr 29 to 0159Z Apr 30 and 1200Z-2159Z Apr 30. http://www.qsl.net/fqp/.

Nebraska QSO Party, sponsored by the Nebraska QSO Party Group, from 1700Z Apr 29 until 1700Z Apr 30. http://www.qsl.net/hdxa/neqso/neqso.htm

For more information on these and other contests in February, please visit the ARRL contest page on the internet at: www.arrl.org/contests/months/apr.html

North American High Speed Meteor Scatter (HSMS) Contest, sponsored by the Western States Weak Signal Society. HSCW only, 0000Z April 29 to 2400Z May 7.

VHF/UHF Spring Sprints, sponsored by the East Tennessee DX Association, 144 MHz, 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Mon, Apr 10. East Tennessee DX Assn, 1620 Hidden Hills Dr, Clinton, TN 37716

FROM: THE ARRL LETTER, VOL. 19, No 13

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

Web Edition

SPARKS P.O. BOX 750482 MEMPHIS, TN 38175-0482 / VOL. 14 / APRIL 2000

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82, 147.36, 224.42, 443.2 & 145.03 Packet

73, Kathy, KE4UYU **APRIL MEETING: ANTENNAS** This month's meeting will be on antennas. Tom Richardson, K4TTA, will present our April meeting and help us with some of the essentials of the "science of antennas". Most of us have modern radios, tuners, analyzers, SWR meters and a whole shack of gadgets, which are all very useful in their own right. However, few have an antenna system that outshines their radio and accessory system. Our system can be only as strong as its weakest link and that in most of our cases is the antenna system. While we may know what we want, we need to learn to make the best of what we have. This program will be a great one and one that hopefully will expand to some "Saturday training seminars". 73, Freddy, KF4ZGJ A THOUSAND MARBLES Sometimes the Aether Yields Wisdom The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable. A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you

from time to time. Let me tell you about it. Walking into the shack, I flipped the switch on the Astron power supply. That fired up the dual-band mobile that is usually set on the local repeater frequency and it also brought my recently built Elecraft K2 to life. In a few seconds, I had the K2 tuned to 7.040mhz, the QRP calling frequency. Early morning on 40 meters can be interesting and like fishing, you just never know what you might snag. I turned the gain control up until the volume was comfortable, then I leaned back and scanned the local paper. Another shooting, another bombing, some terrorist group threatening retaliation, and the government debating a tax increase. Well, at least it's reassuring to see that the world hasn't changed since the evening news report the night before. In the background, I heard a station calling "CQ FISTS". I'd have answered him but I'm never sure what that means-does he only want to contact another FISTS member, or is he just proud of his membership? I don't have to consider returning his call for long, when a VE3 with a booming signal calls him and so begins another QSO on 40 meters. Before long, that QSO has ended and another was underway. After a quick coffee refill, I went back to the shack, put the headphones on, and begin tuning around. There was a strong signal on 7.035mhz calling CQ. I returned his call and made contact with a fellow in Kennebunk, Maine. We exchanged way all CW operators treat each other.

signal reports and proceeded to tell each other about our rigs, antennas, and the weather. A few minutes more and my new friend told me he must QRT because he is meeting several of the local hams for breakfast. We signed off, cordially, the I've listened to those who blast CW as an antiquated technology that has no use in this day and age of modern communications. Perhaps they're right, but you know, I've never met a rude CW operator. In my twenty-five years on the air I've never heard one bit of crude language on CW. That's in stark contrast with 75-meter phone where on any given night you can listen to an abundance of dirty jokes, profanity, music, intentional interference and even racial slurs. Sometimes I wish Riley Hollingsworth was licensed to kill. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind, he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was

telling whoever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles". I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital." He continued, "let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles." "You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years." "Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part." By this point, I was completely hooked on this QSO. Forget the swap net, I wasn't moving from this frequency until I heard what the old man had to say.

"Well Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to "It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy."

"So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round-up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club

MARCH. We must MARCH on forward through this year and elect a new leader soon for our country and local officials. That was the reason that Delta Club had to move the regularly scheduled meeting from Tuesday March 14th to Thursday March 16th. Well, we elected to keep the testing session, since we use the upstairs, on the regular Tuesday. The reason, in my thoughts, was because of the notice on the ARRL Web page and the number of e-mails that I had already received. I really wasn't sure how much impact the election was going to have on the "testing" community and I guess that I can honestly say NONE. We had one person ask if he could go vote and then come back and do the testing. Otherwise we had

Thank you to: Arlene AA5GX, Ben KF4GNC, Eliose KF4GNB, Francis WA4ZYN, John WV5J, Paul WM5Q, and Tom K4TTA. The help was greatly appreciated and needed. Another wonderful helper was Mike KG4BVK, who came on Monday evening to "snitch" some tables from downstairs just in case the elections would be using them all. From this wonderful testing session we have added TWO Technicians, TWO Technician Plus and ONE Extra Class to our ever

growing list of Memphis Area Hams. A long time ago Tom K4TTA, asked if I would have a Saturday session following the regular club meeting for those that almost but not quite passed on Tuesday. I had told him that I would but that anyone

wishing to test must pre register first. I listed the session with the ARRL with the pre-registration requisite. About 6 weeks ago I got a pre-registration from Missouri for the Saturday session. And so we held our first Saturday session for the millennium. I had three volunteers give up their time to come and help. Arlene AA5GX, Francis WA4ZYN, and Paul WM5Q. At this session we had ELEVEN people from as far as Missouri (it took him 2 and 1/2 hours to drive here for the session), Mississippi (Senatobia and Walls), Memphis and other parts of Tennessee. On Saturday we gave nineteen (19) elements with twelve (12) having been passes. At this session we added two Techs and one Extra to our midst. I have

I have heard that there is a slight confusion with when the new rules go into effect. The date is April 15, 2000 at 00:00:01. To those that are confused, that is at slightly after midnight, in the wee hours of the morning. Yes there is a testing

usual \$6.50 even if you are just doing paper passing. That is not my rule, but that of the FCC. And so to summarize the Month of April there will be TWO testing sessions. The one on April 11th - club meeting night - will be with the old

session, NOT mine, that is being held right at midnight so that someone can say that they were the first to get their license under the new regulations. I, however, would not be able to think straight at that hour to get all of the CSCE's correct and would probably give everyone an Extra class by default. No you cannot talk me into doing the session at that hour. There WILL BE A SESSION ON APRIL 15th AT 10:00 A.M. I intend to have both the new question pool for those that want to take written exams, and paper session to pass on the CSCE to the ARRL. REMEMBER if you are coming to the April 15th session, BRING A COPY OF YOUR LICENSE AND A COPY OF THE CSCE to the testing site. The fee will be the

question pool. The one on April 15th will be with the new question pool and for those just needing paperwork completed. Both question pools are available at the ARRL.ORG web site under the heading EXAMS. Anyone having more questions

Restructuring is imminently upon us and amateur radio as we know it is, in all likelihood, going to change considerably over the next few years. We can expect a great deal more HF activity with the relaxing of the CW requirements and not a major increase in difficulty for the appropriate theory exams. If our club is any indication, there already have been and will continue to be LOTS of upgrades. I really believe that if we are going to preserve the sort of HF operating procedures

Those of us that have been fortunate enough to have a good Elmer or have had one sometime in the past, almost invariably, have fond recollections of the learning and the association. It was probably equally enjoyable and meaningful for the

Elmer. We have a treasure of knowledge spread among our members and we have lots of folks who have recently upgraded and will be using new HF privileges really soon. We also have a good number of people just coming into the hobby - we

To those of us that have been in the hobby for a while, let's resolve to give something BACK to ham radio by making ourselves available to be an Elmer for some of our newcomers. More on this at the meeting. If you want to become involved

If you are interested, or think you ever will be, in Dxing, you should understand the art of QSLing! A QSL is considered the final act of courtesy following a DX contact. Having a confirming QSL is a basic requirement of the ARRL DXCC

Certificate program. DX stations, especially the rare ones, receive thousands of QSL cards. If you really want a return for your QSL, then it is important that you follow some simple suggestions for presenting your outgoing QSL card properly.

probably will be getting your card back from the DX or QSL Manager with a comment saying you are not in the log. If you do get the DX stations' QSL card despite an incorrect date/time, consider yourself fortunate ... the DX or QSL Manager

RULE #02: Always use a QSL card that has all pertinent information on one side! It is advantageous to have your callsign on the same side of your QSL card as the QSO information. This includes at least UTC date and time, Mode, Frequency

callsign wrong. Imagine getting back a QSL card from a rare DX station, just to find that it's not YOUR callsign on the card! Use the non-info side for general greetings and messages only. "Thanks for the new one!" is a prime example for the

RULE #03: Never place a callsign on the outside of the envelope! Unfortunately, in some countries, postal workers have earned a less than honest reputation. In these cases, any envelope that is identified as containing "ham radio contents" could be stolen. Apparently, these thieves have discovered that stealing green stamps (dollar bills) that are often included in the envelopes can be a profitable business. So, if your "To" envelope or SASE will travel through potentially "unsafe" postal

RULE #04: Send return postage with care! Some countries do not allow their citizens to own foreign currency. If you send a green stamp, your DX station could wind up in jail! Turkey and Pakistan are two countries that come to mind; there

International Reply Coupons (IRCs), available from your Post Office or other sources. Most of the time this is a problem only with the DX station; managers are usually in countries without this restriction. If you are able to obtain the correct postage stamps for the country of the card recipient, it is suggested that you affix the stamps to the SASE. There are two benefits to doing this: (1) You make the DX or QSL Manager's job easier, since he/she will not have the extra task of doing postage for your card (2) Your card will likely be sent out as soon as it is processed (it won't have wait in a queue for postage). NOTE: If you pre-stamp your SASE, be sure to affix enough postage. And, if you do not pre-stamp, as always you

RULE #05: Avoid Registered or Certified mail options. Avoid sending your card as "registered" or "certified" mail - When a card is sent as registered or certified, it is inconvenient for the QSL Manager to have to go down to the Post Office to retrieve it. And, since it takes a bit longer to receive the card (as it awaits the QSL Manager at the local Post Office), this process delays the return of your awaited QSL card. The only time that you should send registered or certified mail is if this

with many SASE's, it's unlikely he/she is going to put their own address as a "return address" on the envelope. It is suggested that the QSL Manager's address on the top-left corner of the SASE. This is cheap insurance to help

keep your QSL card out of the postal service's "dead letter" file. Self-sealing envelopes are now available at a nominal increase over standard "lick'um to seal" envelopes. These are very welcome to DX and QSL Managers that respond to many

RULE #07: Send to the correct address! Be careful when checking QSL routes! Some countries re-issue callsigns on an annual (or sooner) basis! Therefore, a callsign that went one route for one year's operation may NOT go the same route for operations the next year. Also, DX stations do change QSL Managers from time to time. Regrettably, you may not discover an incorrect route until a nice manager returns your QSL in your SASE with a note that says, "I am not the manager for

the QSL request resides in another country, include these stamps in your envelope. Chances are good that the QSL Manager collects stamps, and he/she will likely appreciate your contribution to the collection. These do not have to be new

stamps! Just make sure they are not torn, are lightly canceled and leave them on a scrap of the original envelope so the QSL Manager can remove them the way he/she prefers. If you are aware of any other likes or dislikes of the QSL Manager,

RULE #09: Pack your outbound QSL for success! In many cases, you are required to fold your SASE so that it will fit into your outgoing envelope. When you insert the folded SASE into the envelope, do so with the "fold" downwards. In other

green stamp or IRCs, so they cannot be seen from the outside of the envelope. Here is the makeup of a QSL card submittal: (1) YOUR CARD: correctly filled out with info on one side only, inserted into the fold of a; (2) RETURN ENVELOPE: folded, self-sealing SAE or SASE with "PAR AVION" & "VIA AIR MAIL" on the outside, that has; (3) RETURN POSTAGE: in the form of stamps, IRCs or a green stamp or two included in the folded envelope, fold to the bottom, all inside

words, don't allow the fold to be up at the top of the inside of the envelope. If the fold is at the top, then the SASE could possibly be sliced in half as the DX or QSL Manager uses his/her letter opener. The fold is the best place to insert your

RULE #10 Always follow any specific directions provided by the DX! Even if the directions you receive from the DX station are contrary to the rules mentioned above, do what the DX requests. If you do not want to follow his request, be prepared to not receive his QSL anytime soon! Example; in the case of 5A1A, the only way to ensure your QSL request will reach him is to send it via Registered mail. And this is the way he recommends you send it! Remember, there are

Nine "special topics" forums have been posted to supplement the general forum accepting membership comments on the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program. Interim Forum Moderator L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, invites members to contribute ideas, help answer challenging questions or help formulate aspects of the program in any or all of the forums. The Web-based forum site, http://www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/w-agora.php3, went "live" earlier this month to collect member input on how the new ARRL Certification and Continuing Education program should be designed and what it should include. The complementary special topics forums were provided to help focus member comments in areas where forum participants have expressed a particular interest. These forums now include: Emergency Communications; Teaching and Training in Amateur Radio; Web-Based Education; Testing, Measurement, and Troubleshooting; Integrating Elmers into Continuing Education; Morse--CW Proficiency; Advanced Communications Electronics Topics; Hands-On Experiments in Continuing Education; and Presentations and CEU Credits. "If these prove fruitful, we may add more special

"There have been many good contributions," he said. "Some are expressions of needs--and from some of those will emerge the list of advanced or special topics study units." Cebik said some contributors have offered definite ideas on content, while others have called attention to other sources of information and other programs that may serve of partial models. According to Cebik, the Emergency Communications forum has been the most active of among those in the special topics group. "Pat Lambert, WOIPL, has been absorbing the incoming ideas and revising a working outline for the group to use as a source for further input," he explained. Members are invited to suggest specific programs and areas of study or skills development they would like to see as part of the Certification Program. All comments posted are available for all participants to read. Return visits are encouraged. "All ideas are welcome and valuable in shaping the program to come," Cebik

ULS out-of-service hours: The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has announced that the Universal Licensing System no longer will be accessible between the hours of 12:15 and 2:15 AM Eastern Time. This is to facilitate system

For most packet work except station to station, the best antenna is a ground plane type. These receive and transmit in all directions. MFJ has come out with a line of base antennas for base / repeater use. The MFJ PULSAR line of antennas offer

high gain and bandwidth with strong construction at a good price. These units are available in VHF only, dual banders, and tri-band units. They are well made with stainless hardware and fiberglass domes to protect the antenna from the

Many times we like to experiment with QRP operation on HF. This is a growing part of the hobby. This month's project is QRP HELPER. It is a converted stereo case with parts to support QRP operation. The case contains a 12 volt power supply, shortwave receiver, a BFO generator, relay for RF switching, and various switches and connectors. This makes a great platform for building and checking out low power transmitters and receiver designs. This project also allows us to

APRIL 11

CLUB MEETING

7365 HWY. 70

BARTLETT, TN

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

The April program will about antennas

presented by

Tom Richardson, K4TTA

VE TESTING:

Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30p.m. and testing begins promptly at 6:00p.m. Please remember

to bring two forms of identification the original and copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's you might have. Please be on time for registration, as you

will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m., so our volunteer VE team can finish in time to attend the club meeting. Call Joan Thorne

W4BS REPEATER SYSTEM

146.82 net 8:00 PM

147.36 tone = 107.2(BACK ON THE AIR AT A TEMPORARY LOCATION)

224.42 1.25 m reptr

443.20 patch, 107.2

145.03 packet / bbs

Other Important Contacts

2000 Board of Directors

E-Mail Us...

Membership Chairpersons

Ben Barth, KF4GNC

Eloise Barth, KF4GNB

eloiseb@aol.com

maintenance. Users are advised to file applications at other times. The FCC Technical Support Hotline is 202-414-1250 (TTY: 202-414-1255); or send comments or questions to <u>ulscomm@fcc.gov</u>. For ULS licensing support and forms

generally a bunch of us wanting the DX card, but he probably has hundreds of cards from our area. It's supply and demand. THE DX HAS THE SUPPLY AND CAN DEMAND THINGS WORK THE WAY HE/SHE WANTS!

process is the only way of guaranteeing that the envelope is handled properly through your country's postal system. NOTE: Certified mail is available within the US only. Registered mail is available to select foreign locations, only.

probably are more. In this situation you are left with two options: (1) You can try to determine the correct amount of return postage and include stamps from the DX country with your QSL (There are folks that offer this service) (2) You can send

and your callsign. By doing so, the DX or QSL Manager doesn't have to flip back and forth from one side of your QSL to the other as he/she verifies QSO information. This decreases the chance that the DX or QSL Manager might get your

took the time to search the log for your QSO! One of the most common reasons why dates and times are incorrect is that the QSL'er has failed to use UTC date and time! Be sure your clock is synchronized with WWV.

that we now enjoy and not increase the (fortunately) small number of lids that already populate the HF bands, we hams are going to have to be ready to mentor (Elmer) a good bit more than we have in the past.

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

"I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

TWENTY-ONE, yes 21 persons test on that Tuesday evening. Those testing took 30 elements and passed 22. The only element that was not given that evening was a 13 wpm code exam.

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 73 Old Man, this is K9NZQ,

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

counted about 50 hams local that have taken elements and are just waiting for the time of upgrade.

or needing any clarification can call me at 901-737-5795 or email me at KN4PM@ARRL.NET.

in the upcoming training classes, either as a student or an instructor, please let me know.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF DX QSLing By: Terry Cox, KB4KA and the Hickory Withe DX Club

Thank you for the wonderful support of this VE Team. Welcome Paul WM5Q and John WV5J to the VE Team.

have nine folks in our current Novice/Tech class and several other people who have recently passed their Technician exam.

systems, your envelope will have a better chance at making it through if you avoid putting your callsign on it.

QSL requests. You might use the "lick'um" kind for the outside envelope and a self sealing type for the return envelope.

VK0HI"! Do your research, using Manager lists and call books, and make sure you are sending to the correct address.

said. The League expects to roll out the initial phase of the Certification and Continuing Education Program later this year.

RULE #01: Always use UTC Date and Time! It is important that the exact date and time are entered on your outgoing QSL card. If you make an error, you

must include appropriate compensation to cover all postage expense! Remember, US stamps are NOT GOOD for postage outside the US and its possessions!

RULE #06: Help the QSL Manager help you! Many SASE's received by QSL Managers do not have return addresses on them. Since the QSL Manager deals

RULE #08: Bribe the QSL Manager! If you have any domestic stamps that are less common in your country, and if the QSL Manager to whom you are sending

an; (4) OUTSIDE ENVELOPE: correctly addressed to the DX or QSL Manager. No callsigns on outside of envelope, but include your return address. If going

topics forums," Cebik said. Since the forum opened, more than 650 comments have been posted, and Cebik says the input has generally been extremely helpful.

information, call toll-free 888-CALLFCC (225-5322) or e-mail <u>ulshelp@fcc.gov</u>. To obtain forms, call toll-free 800-418-FORM (3676); via fax-on-demand, call 202-418-0177.