



The Feedline

How Do They Get Away With It?

John B. Johnston, W3BE

(Reprinted from *WorldRadio* magazine, May 2008)

Q. The rules say that we must give our call sign station identification exactly as it is shown on the ULS. How do these guys get away using words in place of the letters?

A. They're clean. Section 97.119(b) (2) actually encourages the use of a phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification when the call sign is transmitted by a phone emission.

Q. Can a trustee's license expire and the club license remains valid?

A. For a short period, apparently. Such anomalies appear on the ULS from time-to-time. Upon inquiring into this licensing disconnect several years ago, I was assured that the database was inspected regularly and such club station license grants so discovered were deleted.

Q. I have an Amateur Extra Class license. A lower class license holder is visiting my station. If I am sitting right next to him, is he allowed to operate as an Amateur Extra?

A. No. As the station licensee, you would have, under Section 97.103(b), designated a lower-than-your class operator licensee as the control operator of your station. Consult Section 97.301 for the privileges authorized to the class of operator license grant held by your station's visitor. There you will find the transmitting frequency bands available to an amateur station located within 50 km of the Earth's surface, within the specified ITU Region, and outside any area where the amateur service is regulated by any authority other

than the FCC. Where you happen to be sitting is of no consequence to any of this.

Q. Suppose that I have an Amateur Extra Class and visit a station with a lower class license and I want to operate. Who's the control operator?

A. That is for the station licensee to designate. See BE Informed No. 4 WHICH CALL SIGN. It explains your options and accountability when someone wants to use your station apparatus or vice-versa.

Q. Whose call sign is used?

A. Use the call sign assigned on the station license grant under which the station transmits. Section 97.119 requires that it must be transmitted in the station identification announcement.

Q. Whose privileges would have precedence?

A. The control operator's class of operator license determines the frequency bands available to the station. See Section 97.301. Section 97.103(a) says that the station licensee is responsible for the proper operation of the station in accordance with the FCC Rules.

Q. What I take from your article regarding Field Day is that a licensed person can only operate under his license privileges when alone, regardless of the club station license, and that he may only exceed his license privileges up to those of the control operator who is physically present at the operating position. Is this correct?

See "How do they", page 5

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Dates to Remember:

- May 12 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- May 16-18 – Dayton Hamvention
- June 9 – NKARC Membership Meeting
- Jun 28 – Paddlefest
- Jun 28,29 – Field Day

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Repeaters — K4CO

147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights
The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

Nets

NKARC Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

VE Testing

Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month at Turkeyfoot Middle School. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at ab8sh@arrl.net or tel. 513-315-4032

WEB Site

<http://www.k4co.org>

NKARC membership meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

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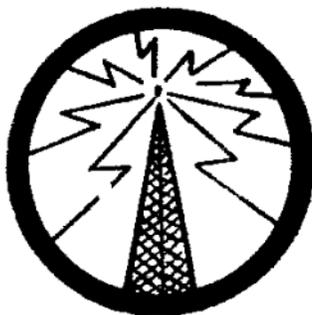
Mark Volstad, AI4BJ: 6098 Tosha Dr., Burlington, KY 41005 — Email: mvolstad@insightbb.com

Top of the Tower

I would like everyone to take a few moments to remember Lynn Benjamin, WA4VAP. Lynn passed away in late December of 2007. Lynn has been missed at the club meetings since the first of the year. Lynn did not have a telephone, so last month Tony White stopped by his house and discovered the bad news. Lynn was a regular at the club meetings and Field Day, and was well known for his ability to make satellite contacts. He was always eager to share his skills with other hams.

Paddlefest and Field Day are just around the corner, and your participation is needed. It will be a busy day for hams, with Paddlefest in the morning and Field Day Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Take some time to participate and join in the fun. For more information contact Lynn Ernst for Paddlefest, or Dann Fox for Field Day information.

I would like to address some problems with the free membership to new hams program. For the past several months we have offered a free membership for new people who passed their 1st time amateur radio exam. This is a new program that started last year.



Several people would stop by the meeting after taking their test to fill out an application. We noticed that more people were taking the test, than filling out applications. Due to the privacy rules the VEs cannot give the club personal information about people that take the test. We are taking measures to keep this from happening and improve the process. There may have been some people that wanted a membership but did not receive one after taking the test. I have not been contacted by any one that was overlooked to date, but I would like to get the free memberships out to the new hams that want one. If you took your test between July 2007 and April 2008 and did not receive your free membership please contact us by mail or e-mail for a 2008 membership. We will need your name, phone number, address, and date of testing. If you have received a call sign already, please include that as well.

Dann C. Fox
dfox03@fuse.net
KI4AVO

April Net Report

If you are interested in helping the club out and expanding your Amateur Radio skill set, please take a turn at running one of our weekly nets! This is a great way to hone your radio, net control, and message handling skills in a friendly environment. If you are interested, please contact Robert Kluck, N4IJS, at (859) 426-5588 or n4ijs@k4co.org

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
4/1/08	N4IJS (Robert)	7	20	0
4/8/08	KB4VKS (Mike)	10	31	0
4/15/08	N4IJS (Robert)	9	20	0
4/22/08	KG4SBG (Dennis)	5	12	0
4/29/08	N4IJS (Robert)	10	31	0
TOTALS		41	114	0

Mark's Mutterings

Learn Morse the Easy(est) way

A recent poll on the ARRL web site asked “Has CW activity on the bands increased or decreased since the FCC lifted the Morse code testing requirement?”. 84% of respondents felt that activity has remained the same or has actually increased. During VE test sessions, I often hear newly-minted Techs and Generals state that they intend to learn the code even though it is no longer required. Some of them are not sure how to begin. Herewith are my own opinions on the subject.

#1. Start young! There's no question that young minds can learn new tricks more easily than older minds, but I learned [Morse](#) at the age of 46, and I've heard of hams in their 80s learning it. It just might take a bit more perseverance at that age!

#2. Throw away the code chart! The single biggest obstacle students of the code face is caused by

memorizing the printed Morse alphabet (dots and dashes). When was the last time that you actually saw neat visual patterns of dots and dashes streaming out of your radio speaker? Far too many students get caught in the trap of having to

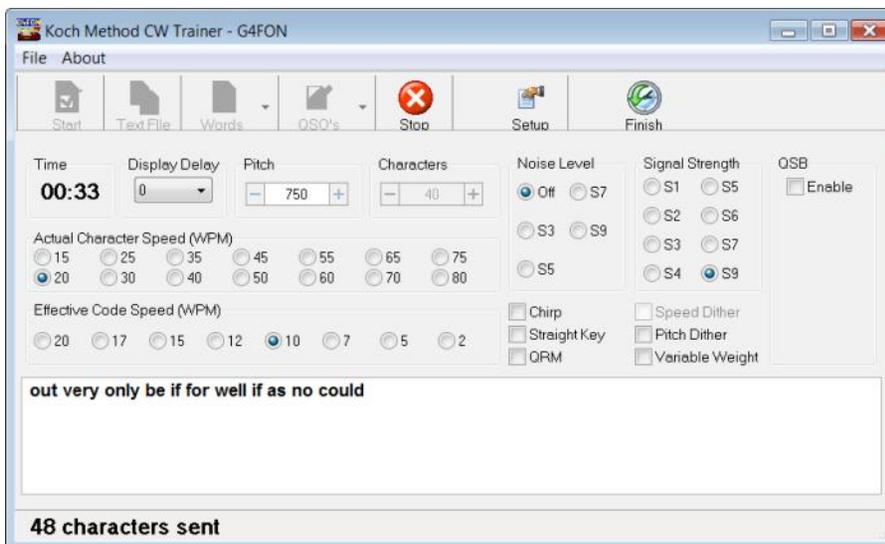
perform two translations instead of just one. First, they translate the sounds that they hear into mental “pictures” of the letter patterns they saw on their code chart. Then, they have to perform a second translation, this time from the dot/dash pattern to the actual letter. It's no wonder that students who follow this approach hit a brick wall at about 10 WPM. This leads to my third recommendation:

#3. Use the Farnsworth method. This method involves training with code that is sent fast enough (15 WPM or more) that the student is forced to learn what the letter sounds like *as a whole*, rather than decomposed into dits and dahs. The letters are then spaced as far apart as necessary for the student to be able to copy the code.

By far the best training software that I've found for learning code this way is G4FON's [Koch Method CW Trainer](#). It has the right price (it's free) and has every feature I could imagine anyone needing.

“But wait”, you say. “We were just talking about the Farnsworth method and now you're talking about a Koch method trainer!” Yeah, the Koch method is similar in that the student listens to characters sent at the full target speed, but differs in that normal character spacing is used. Training begins with just 2 characters. Once 90% accuracy is achieved, an additional character is added to the

mix. I actually used a combination of both methods when I was learning the code. The G4FON trainer allows the student to practice with lists of common words, typical QSOs, or any text file that you want to use. You can also create your own audio practice files to listen to in



the car, in bed, or wherever you happen to have a few spare minutes. I would suggest that somebody learning code for the first time start with a character speed of 20 WPM, and an effective code speed that they are comfortable copying, which will certainly be much slower than this. Practice 15 minutes every day and you'll be ready for your first on-air QSO in just a month or two!

73, Mark, AI4BJ

April Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2008, NKARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dann Fox at the Turkey Foot Middle School at 7:30 p.m.

Dann led the group in the pledge to the flag.

Self introductions followed with 23 present.

Lynn Ernst reported that one examinee upgraded to general and two upgraded to extra.

Brian Clark talked about SKYWARN, and informed the group that they will be using the Walton repeater as needed.

Lynn Ernst asked for five more volunteers for Paddle Fest. Check out www.ohioriverway.org/paddfest/volunteer for more information.

Lynn Ernst volunteered to help audit the club's books for 2007.

Robert Kluck and Tony White will head up the Repeater Committee. If you would like to help out this committee, contact either Robert or Tony.

Mark Volstad had a Mountain Dew commercial video featuring ham radio available for viewing on his laptop.

Tony White sadly announced the deaths of Charles Samuel, WA4AAI, and Lynn Benjamin, WA4VAP.

Robert Kluck announced that another VE session is scheduled for Dixie Heights High School for May 29, starting at approximately 1 p.m. Three or four volunteers are still needed. Dixie Heights club is now an ARRL affiliated club.

NKARC has a new provider for our web site. We can now have our call@K4CO.org for email if one so desires.

Robert is also taking orders for Field Day merchandise. If our order exceeds \$75, there is no shipping charge.

Tonight's program was "Discovering the Magic of H.F. presented by Robert Kluck.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Burns

"How do they", from Cover

A. No, that is not correct. No one is authorized to exceed his or her operator privileges on Field Day, Groundhog Day, Dill Pickle Festival Day or any other day.

Q. Doesn't the fact that I am sitting right next to this person mean I am the control operator?

A. No, it doesn't. The control operator of an amateur station can only be the person so designated by the licensee of the station under the authority of Section 97.103(b).

Q. That is basically unenforceable. If my station is operated with the Extra Class bands and modes, who would know who is pushing the PTT?

A. You would know, for one. The person pushing the PTT would also know. You are, presumably, both honorable dependable operators. The extensive privileges afforded to our amateur service are attributable to the reputation it has earned for self-enforcement. It is difficult to imagine why anyone would want to damage that.

Q: I can attest that thousands of Field Day stations are in violation

every year. This comes from attending many Field Day operations where this scenario takes place. HW?

A. Your observation confirms similar reports that have arrived here. If accurate, it means our amateur service is turning less legitimate.

Q. It seems to me that a Field Day GOTA station, set up and operated in full accordance with the Field Day rules, could not legally (in the U.S.) meet the objectives of having a GOTA station, since the "operators"

See "How do they", page 9

Weaver's Words

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org; Tel.: 513-459-0142

FCC must review BPL rules

In a decision released April 25, a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia directs the FCC to reconsider rules it made concerning technical rules for the operation of Broadband over Powerlines (BPL). This ruling came as a result of the lawsuit ARRL brought against the Commission. The case is identified as No. 06-1343. This decision is nearly as much as we could have wanted, and is a victory for ARRL and Amateur Radio.

What is the practical meaning of this decision? It means that the FCC must reconsider its technical rulings concerning BPL and the technical bases for these rulings, and the level of interference that should be allowed. It also means that the Commission must make data it says it uses in reaching conclusions to all interested parties to review. In essence, FCC cannot hide data as it had done in issuing BPL regulations.

We don't know the final cost of the suit, yet, but the Board had allocated \$300,000 for it. This should indicate the great importance my 14 fellow directors and I placed on the suit. The effort and expense the Board authorized was made possible by members who contributed to the relevant ARRL fund drives over the last few years. Without these contributions the League would not have had funds available to wage a suit, let alone to wage the quality of action that proved good enough to win most of the points we made in our argument.

Does this put a little different perspective on the "please donate" pleas Mary Hobart, N1MMH has been sending to each of us? Our money served a valued, precedent-setting purpose. Thanks to you who contributed.

Ohio amateur sounds the alarm!

On March 25, Geauga ARA President Eric Bartholomew, KF8YK sent me an e-mail warning that an Ohio university had submitted a request asking the FCC to assign five frequency pairs in the 420-430 MHz band to

it. He pointed out that the higher frequency of each pair was in the Amateur Band and not legally available for commercial assignment. The following is an abbreviated summary of how his warning very likely saved the university and the ARRL (i.e. you) a significant amount of money, effort and hassle.

After re-reading the relevant portion of Part 97 of the FCC regulations, I initially thought Eric's assessment was not correct. To be certain, I forwarded his memo to ARRL President Harrison, W5ZN, CEO Sumner, K1ZZ and Chief Counsel Imlay, W3KD to obtain expert review. K1ZZ and W3KD promptly confirmed Eric's assessment. My problem was that I did not read FCC's commercial radio rules — Part 30 in this instance — which apply in this situation.

Our unanimous view was that ARRL should voice a formal objection to the frequency assignment request to the FCC even though its denial should have been automatic. Even as the ink on this formal objection was drying, the FCC granted the university's request for the frequencies. The FCC in essence violated its own rules — again.

Counsel Imlay tossed our objection into the round file even before its final in-house review was completed. In its place, a formal request for review was sent to the Commission in its place.

Concurrent with submitting the petition for review to the FCC, General Counsel Imlay notified the university administration of the problem. Its spokesman immediately offered to withdraw the request and to modify it by re-submitting it to cover frequencies that are consistent with FCC rules. In turn, ARRL agreed to withdraw our petition for review as soon as the university's revised petition was submitted. The problem had been the result of an error by a consulting firm.

Arguments over frequency assignments typically cover long periods of time and eat many thousands of dollars. In this instance though, everyone acted promptly in good faith to avoid a potential, major and costly problem. All this was accomplished thanks to the watchfulness and action of KF8YK, and to the capability of ARRL that he called on to resolve the problem.



Thanks, again, Eric. Good eyes! Thanks, also, to General Counsel Imlay for knowing the appropriate prompt action to take with the right people.

Hamvention travel advisory

“Finally, after . . . 6 weeks, the construction info is now on the Hamvention(r) web page,” wrote Robert Lunsford, KB8UEY of the Hamvention Committee. The information has been posted at <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/media/trafficnews.html>. The information provides valuable tips on avoiding difficulties that could result from highway construction near the 2008 Hamvention. You will recall the Hamvention Committee is expecting a bumper crop of Ohio “orange barrel” State flowers to be in full-bloom at Hamvention time.

If you will be driving or riding shotgun to the Hamvention, you will want to review the information Bob has prepared. Navigating the final several miles to HARA will be much easier if you have studied his suggestions.

Bob added, “As always if anyone has any Talk-In related questions they can email me at talkin@hamvention.org.”

ARRL at the Hamvention

ARRL Expo

The 2008 offering of the Hamvention promises to be another fine example of one of the world's greatest Amateur Radio festivals. As part of the annual event, the ARRL will present another edition of the ARRL EXPO. The EXPO has been so successful its previous two years that many vendors ask to have their booths placed near it to benefit from the high level of traffic it receives from hams from throughout the US and overseas.

Read QST and watch ARRL web announcements to learn of the many features that will be available at the EXPO this year.

The ARRL EXPO is at the same location as in 2006 and 2007. It promises to be even better than before.

Great Lakes Division

As was true last year, the Great Lakes Division will have a booth for members and appointees to stop by, rest a few minutes if they wish and talk with Division and Section leaders who are likely to be there. Drop by to say hello, to ask questions, to make suggestions or simply to see the faces.

From the Great Lake Division Legislative Action Chairman

Since assuming the role of Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chairman I have been bringing myself up to speed on fulfilling the position. Now that I have a couple of months under my belt we are beginning to move, again.

First and foremost I am very happy to announce that Louis A. Gembolis, KG8NK of Ishpeming, MI has accepted appointment as Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) for Michigan. In this position, he will coordinate the activities of Legislative Action Assistants (LAA) in the Legislative Action Program (LAP) in Michigan. Lou is president of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, AEC of Marquette County, Official Observer and MARS operator AAR5AD. He also directs over 100 amateurs in communicating for a major, annual dogsled race in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program (LAP), you ask? It is a grass roots program that makes it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level. Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them.

Members who would like to learn more about the LAP are invited to contact me at nb4k@arrl.org or Director Weaver at k8je@arrl.org.

73,

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Great Lake Division Legislative Action Chairman

Michigan QSO Party

The annual Michigan QSO Party is April 19, 1200 to 2400 EDT (1600Z Saturday April 19 until 0400Z Sun-



day April 20) The major objective is to work as many stations possible in as many Michigan counties as possible. Details are at <http://www.miqp.org>.

Current information on who will be/is operating and other information about participating stations is available through the Michigan QSO Party reflector — <http://www.miqp.org/Reflector.htm>.

Ohio State Parks contest

Here is an interesting, new contest. The Portage County (OH) ARS is sponsoring the very first Ohio State Park on the Air Contest. The contest will be Saturday, September 6, 2008 from noon to 8 p.m. EDT (1600Z to 2400Z). The contest is open to all amateurs from their base, portable or mobile stations and from inside or outside an Ohio State Park.

This contest presents an opportunity to visit and enjoy Ohio's parks. Information on them and their features is available at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/default/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.

Full information on the contest is available at <http://parks.portcars.org> or from the contest chairman, Chuck, K8CMP, at k8cmp@portcars.org.

What's your opinion?

This is the sixth year I've stressed that I would like to know what about ARRL or Amateur Radio bothers or confuses you, or what you think could be done better. Over the months, asked a number of questions that were answered by many of you. Your answers provided guidance to me in reaching positions I have taken on issues studied by my 14 best friends and me on the ARRL Board of Directors. I would like to have your help again.

What I would like you to do is to tell me which single issue regarding ARRL and its activities you feel has not been explained to your satisfaction or that in some other manner concern you. This doesn't need to be a complaint, but is the single point that confuses you the most, makes the least sense to you, bothers you the most or however you view it.

Please send your top-choice issue to me by e-mail. Please also be brief in doing this. As much as I may like to receive full discussions from you, there simply aren't enough of me to deal with anything that approaches the size of a Funk & Wagnall's Dictionary. If I need more information on your top-choice issue, I'll ask.

Be certain to include your name and call. Send your single, top-choice issue to k8je@arrl.org. In addition to getting an answer from me, you just may plant a seed that may grow into action at HQ.

Radios On-Line, offline

Effective April 30, the ARRL Radios On-Line person-to-person want-ad site will go the way of the telegram. Declining use as well as abuse by a few hams caused the demise of this ARRL program intended to assist hams sell equipment.

Passing commercial traffic

“Is it legal, and if so when, to handle business traffic during emergencies?”

This is a frequent question by amateurs. The question partly comes about as a result of changes made by FCC in Part 97 in December 2006. The changes dropped reference to Emergency Communications Declarations (ECD) by the FCC. The result of this change is that the FCC no longer declares when an emergency exists and, therefore, when amateurs may deviate from FCC Amateur Radio rules to protect the public.

The bottom line is that other clauses in Part 97 allow amateurs to deviate from standard Amateur Radio practices when legitimate emergencies warrant such actions. Provided the purpose of businesslike communication is to protect life and property during an emergency, hams should have no fear of being threatened with enforcement action.

Hamvention forums announced

The list of forums at the Dayton Hamvention has been released by the Hamvention Committee. To see the list, go to <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/forums/index.html>.

Do you want to be GLD Director or Vice Director?

If you think you would like to become the Director or Vice Director for the Great Lakes Division, you probably already know that Gary's and my seats will be up for election this summer (see Tentative Schedule, below). The July QST will contain details of the requirements for these positions as well as instructions for obtaining, completing and submitting nomination forms to become a candidate.

These (non-paying) jobs are steady, involve a significant amount of travel and require one to be attached to a computer by a strong umbilical cord. I personally find that meeting many fellow amateurs is more than ample reward for the time and effort.

Tentative Schedule

30 Apr: Meet on Ohio antenna bill (Columbus) - Jim (I am a volunteer in the Ohio Section organization in this action.)
7 May: Mound ARA - present Certificate of Affiliation - SM Phillips, Jim
15 May: ARRL Donor Reception, Dayton - Jim
16 May: Hamvention, Dayton - Jim, Gary
17 May: Hamvention, Dayton - Jim, Gary
Meet with Legislative Action staff, Dayton - Jim
18 May: Hamvention, Dayton - Jim, Gary

Hamvention Awards Dinner, Dayton - Jim, Gary
30 May: Dixie Heights HS ARC (KY), Present Certificate of Affiliation- SM Brooks, Gary, Jim
21 Jun: Milford (OH) Hamfest - Jim
28-29 Jun: Field Day - Jim
Jul QST-noon 8 Aug: Nominations open for Director/Vice Director
10 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown - Jim
17 Jul: A&F Meeting, Newington - Jim
18-19 Jul: Board Meeting, Newington - Jim, Gary
22 Jul: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
1 Aug: Massillon (OH) RC - Jim
10 Aug: Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg - Jim
15 Aug: Genesee County RC, 75th Anniv., Flint, MI - Jim
13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim
21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim
23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed.
7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim
12 Oct: Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo - Jim
28 Oct: Quarterly GLD Teleconference
21 Nov: (Noon) Deadline for return of ballots. Ballots counted
22 Nov: (by end of day) Candidates notified of election results
.

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as defined by the contest rules are not legal operators by your interpretation of the rules. Have I misunderstood your position?

A. Obviously, yes, you have misunderstood. My "position" is that Section 97.7 means just what it says: "When transmitting, each amateur station must have a control operator. The control operator must be a person:

- (a) For whom an amateur operator/primary station license grant appears on the ULS consolidated licensee database, or
- (b) Who is authorized for alien reciprocal operation by Section 97.107 of this part."

W3BE-O-GRAM: Read and heed the FCC rules for our amateur service as stated in the United States Code of Federal Regulations. No contest rules can legitimately override them.

Q. What is the proper procedure to allow a visiting General Class amateur to operate my station in the Extra Class band?

A. Your General Class operator visitor would have to upgrade his or her operator license grant to Amateur Extra Class, as required by Section 97.301(b). Next you would designate your visitor as the control operator of your station as required by Section 97.103(b).

QSL Card of the Month

Submitted by:

Bob Burns, AB4BK

Comments:

After being off the air for 12 years, I strung up a 20 meter dipole, about 15 feet off the ground, between my storage shed and a tree.

This was my 7th contact with this antenna. The neat thing about this contact is that he answered my CQ. We chatted for about 10 minutes. Then, after I signed off, a huge pileup began. (For him, not me!)

If you have a special QSL card you would like to share, submit it to the Feedline editor, along with any comments you would like included.



VP5/K7LAY **BOB**
VP5/K7LAZ **HARRY**
Providenciales
Turks and Caicos Islands
NA-002 Grid FL31
B.W.I.

Members WWDXC

A dream come true, a Father and Son DxPedition to VP5.5000+ QSO's were made on a DX holiday to the Turks and Caicos. Over 100 countries and WAS were accomplished with contacts on 6-160 meters. A great way to spend Fathers Day. Many thanks to our Beautiful and Gracious Host Jody VP5JM at the HamLet, Cherokee Road, Providenciales, TCI, BWI
www.VP5JM.com

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
AB4BK	14	06	05	1318	14.239	59	SSB

PSE QSL TNX QSL
Via Home Call

73! *Bob*

LZ1JZ PRINT
www.LZ1JZ.com

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Northern Ky. Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1062
Covington, Ky. 41012

**FIRST
CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**



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