



# Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

January 2004

## C.C.A.R.E.S. Newsletter



Emergency Coordinator: Steve Hammond K4SAH email: [k4sah@cherokee-ares.org](mailto:k4sah@cherokee-ares.org)

**Weekly Net:** Monday Nights 8:00pm – **443.075** (+ offset, 107.2 enc/dec) WA4EOC Repeater  
**Third Monday** of Month is a **Simplex Net on 147.585 (Note New Frequency)**.

Website: <http://www.cherokee-ares.org> ([visit our NEW Webpage](#))

**Monthly Meetings:** First Saturday of each month 10:00AM - Cherokee County EOC

### WELCOME

to the Cherokee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CCARES) Newsletter! This Newsletter is provided to enhance the services of CCARES to Cherokee County, utilizing Amateur Radio, and it's membership.

### **\* Georgia Section ARES Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> \***

The Georgia Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service will be conducting our annual meeting on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-4pm at the Georgia Public Service Training Center – (GPSTC), in Forsyth, Ga. Take I-75 south to Exit 188, turn right at stop, go 0.5 mile turn left.

### **Next Meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> at Cherokee County EOC, Canton, Ga.**

The next Cherokee County ARES meeting is 10am, February 7, 2004 and CARS meeting at 12noon.

#### Leadership Team

Emergency Coordinator: Darragh McClure – WA6IKS

#### Assistant Emergency Coordinators

Early Warning Station: Jodi Powell - AG4BK

Training Officer: Mark Hopkins – NA4O

Early Warning Station: Markus Powell - AF4VS

Net Manager: Chris Jackson-KG4DCO

Official Emergency Station: Jim Millsap – WB4NWS

Chaplain: Mike Hill - K4JKM

Member Recruiting/Retention: Kenny Cannon – AI4BE

Digital Communications: Tom Olley – KG4VUB

Zone 1 Leader, Dennis Hicks – KG4IY

Zone 2 Leader, Jim Millsap – WB4NWS

Zone 3 Leader: Ken Dean – K4RWG

**NEEDED: Monday night net control operators. Please help, contact Chris @ 678-230-2902**

**Cherokee County ARES** January 3, 2004 meeting began the new year with the appointment of **Darragh McClure, WA6IKS**, as the new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Cherokee County ARES. After two (2) outstanding years of leadership, **Steve Hammond-K4SAH**, stepped down as EC, to pursue other business adventures. Steve will continue to be an active member in Cherokee ARES. Many accomplishments were made under Steve's tenure as EC. Just a few are: Cherokee County ARES grew to >75 members, established a professional relationship with a highly trained ARES group supporting emergency communications with the Cherokee County Fire/EMA and 911 EOC. Successful move and installation of a top notch ham station at the Cherokee EOC and a 440 repeater for the ARES group (equipment purchased by Cherokee County, and special thanks to Director J. Robby Westbrook). Steve encouraged members to attend training and support the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief group and Steve served on two separate occasions with the tornado in South Georgia and hurricane in Virginia.

With the addition of monthly training that included radio "Traffic" handling and weekly nets, Steve ordered coordinated hats, shirts and jackets, and the Cherokee ARES group not only provided trained emergency communicators, but were highly visible at many hamfests, SKYWARN Storm Spotter classes, Simulated Emergency Tests (SET), Field Day, Parades, One Day Technician Classes, JOTA and Special Olympic events. The number of events covered over the two year period were too many to be listed here, however, a look at the past newsletters at the Cherokee ARES website, <http://www.cherokee-ares.org/>, serves as a "trip down memory lane", and gives evidence to the outstanding job Steve did, as well as the devotion of all the Cherokee ARES members. Steve always "raised the bar" through his motivation and with his "lead by example" attitude, put Cherokee ARES on the map. On July 12, 2003, our group had the pleasure of seeing the presentation of "Amateur of the Year" for 2002, to **Steve Hammond**, and presented by **Mike Boatright-KO4WX, Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator**. For this month's newsletter, we dedicate it to Steve Hammond. "Thanks" does not cover the benefits of what the membership and Cherokee County has, and will continue to reap, from your hard work and devotion, so we collectively "Tip our hats" for a job well done!

**NOTICE: 2003 Amateur of the Year nominations are due in by January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please send your nominations to Mike Boatright, at [ko4wx@arri-ga.org](mailto:ko4wx@arri-ga.org)**



Jim Millsap, WB4NWS Articles for the newsletter may be submitted via email to: [WB4NWS@bellsouth.net](mailto:WB4NWS@bellsouth.net)

# Skywarn Storm Spotter Class Held January 12, '04

Cherokee County Emergency Operation Center hosted a SKYWARN Storm Spotter class on January 12, 2004. A tremendous turnout of approximately 45 folks from the Cherokee 911 Dispatch Center, Cherokee Fire/EMA, Hickory Flat Volunteer Fire Department, CERT Team, and Ham Radio Operators, attended the excellent training from Mr. Barry Gooden, Warnings Coordinator-National Weather Service, Peachtree City, GA. The class was instructed on proper storm spotting, definitions/terms, and the proper reporting procedures. Storm Spotters enhance the ability to provide actual conditions and relay the weather events to the NWS. We learned of instability, Capes, Dry Lines, Funnel Cloud vs. Tornado, wall clouds, downbursts, and many other important information that aids in the issuance of watches and warnings. As we approach March and April, historically our most severe weather months, the timing of these classes are always a tremendous value to the volunteers who assist to help protect our communities. A special thanks to EMA Director Robby Westbrook and Robby Kennedy with the Cherokee County Fire/EMA for arranging and hosting this training. Thanks also to the 45 folks who took the time to take this training.

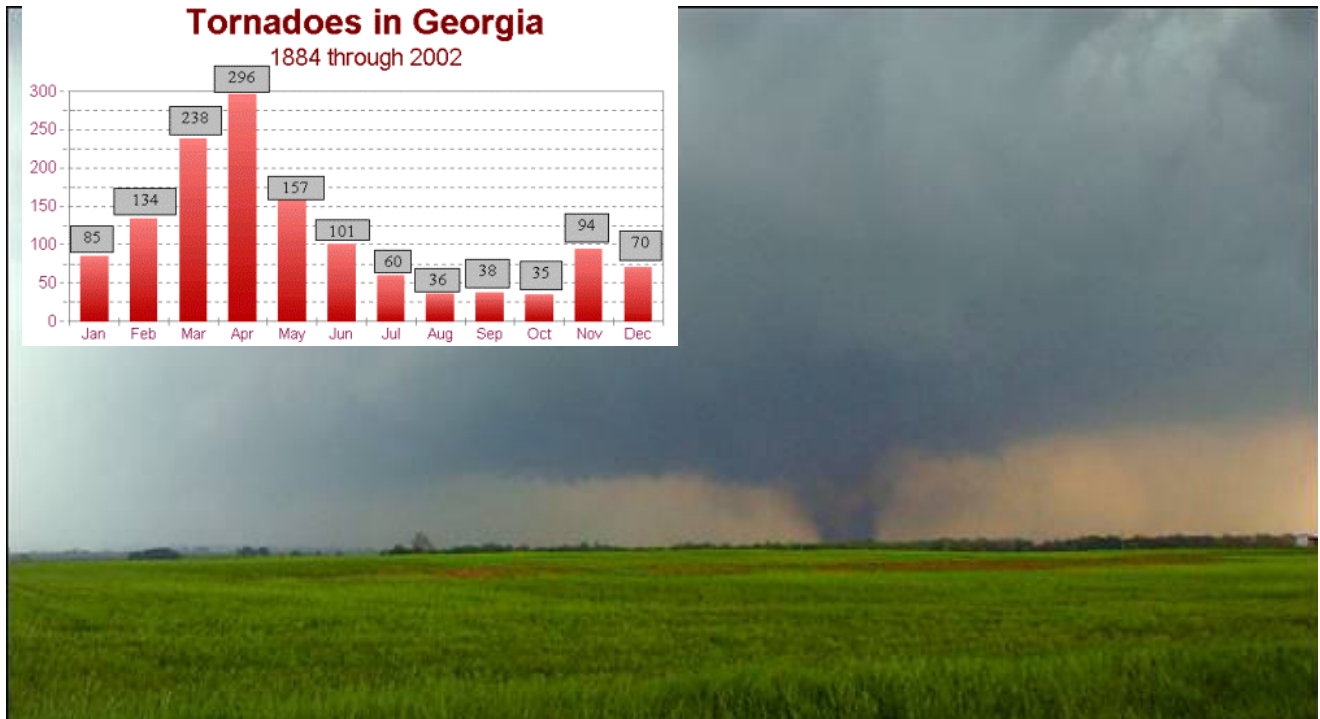
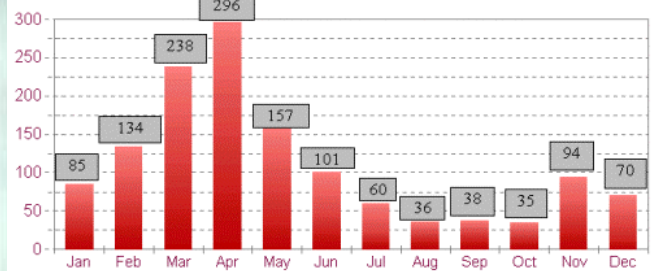


*Cherokee County*



## Tornadoes in Georgia

1884 through 2002



## **ARRL to Propose New Entry Level License, Code Free HF Access**

### **ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access**

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2004--The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more

than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring *Report and Order* ([WT 98-143](#)) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

### **The "New" Novice**

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

### **Technicians and Generals**

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, [RM-10413](#), but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

### **Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra**

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it."

Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license."

"On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location."

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

### **Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan**

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-10413](#)). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class

licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.