

Quite a few things have happened since I wrote my last column. First, I did pass the Amateur Extra license exam. It wasn't easy, and I'm sure I missed several questions, But I passed. I took my own advice. I had been telling those studying for the Tech and General licenses to take all of the practice exams they could. And in the vast majority of cases it worked. Well, for the week before the Extra exam I took practice exams from around 8am to 5pm (with time out for lunch). Little by little my scores got better, and I passed the exam. If I can do it, folks, there is a very good chance you can too.

I'm toying with the idea that, as old as I am, I might still be able to learn Morse code. I tried a couple of times in my younger years, but didn't have the patience. Still not sure how I might approach this challenge. But I'm thinking about it. If you haven't learned the code wouldn't you like to try? Those who know the code sure seem to have a lot of fun. Maybe one of these days....

Still working on getting that HF station set up at home. I have a radio. I have a power supply. I have a headset and microphone. Still working on an antenna with a lot of help from my friends.

If you attended one of the last two membership meetings, you know that I am now your humble president. I have been blessed with very knowledgeable and capable fellow officers: Tom Grosvenor NV1U, Vice-President; Larry Russo K3TFU, Secretary; and Bruce Cusanelli WA1UTQ, Treasurer. Of course it takes more than the four of us to keep The Villages Amateur Radio Club running. Rich ND4G continues as our web-master. Pete K2PS keeps track of our testers. John NP2B keeps track of our equipment. Marty WB2VYK, Don W1EJM, Karen K4ZDM, George K2DM, Bob WA3EWK, Jeanette NP2C, Earle KM4ISN, Len K4LFK, George W4GOR, Cal WA3CTZ, and so many others (I apologize to those I have omitted) make the club fun for the rest of us.

Just a reminder: Radio Rodeo is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at the square at Brownwood. The activity will take place between 9am and 2pm. Set-up will start at 7:30am. Don't know how many folks will stop in and visit with us, but there are likely to be quite a few people there for the weekly farmer's market. Don't think we passed around a clipboard at the last meeting, but we will need some volunteers to help with set-up and take-down. Would appreciate it if you could come and give us a hand. Wear your club shirts, hats and badges if you have them. We want people know about the club and that we have fun with amateur radio.

Don't forget the next meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

73

Ron K4YCW