

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FORUM



AN IDEA EXCHANGE FOR AMATEUR RADIO INSTRUCTORS

SEPTEMBER 2000

KC7O Wins Brier Award

Allen Wolff, KC7O, recently won the 1999 ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award. He's from Sierra Madre, California, and enjoys Field Day, mobile VHF, UHF and HF. He has taught ham radio classes for 14 years. A fellow club member and former student says, "Allen has brought about 450 members into the club since 1986, and some of these are now club officers." Allen got started teaching because his two sons wanted to earn their tickets, and no classes were available. His fans say he teaches with enthusiasm, and uses encouragement and humor to keep students' attention. Allen is resourceful, and is continually looking for new and exciting ways to inspire both young and old to help them remember answers as

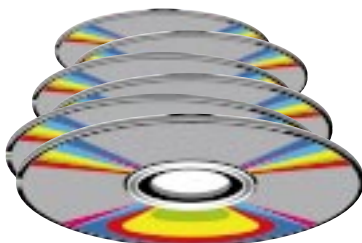


well as the explanations. He obtains free membership in the Pasadena Radio Club for each of his students.

It is an honor to be nominated by your peers for the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award. The nominees truly accomplished great deeds, and here is the list of these 13(!) folks: Marv Fagenson, K6HJC; Julius Gottlieb, KE6GMF; Milo McNall, W0NSW; Walter Wenzel, KA2RGI; The Educational Group of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society; Phil Lewis, N2MUN; John Allyn, KA9SYE; Gregory Lanham, WA4VE; Randall Dunning, KC5QHH; Dan Miller, K3UFG; Win Jackson, N1TWX; Arthur Blank, N2NB; Nick Lance, KC5KBO; and John Hauner, WA0YPY. —WB3IOS

Graphics on CD-ROM?

We received a question from one volunteer instructor about taking the graphics pages from *The ARRL Instructor's Manual* and putting them on a companion CD-ROM for instructors to use in the classroom. Our Publications Manager replied: "It wouldn't be too difficult to produce a CD-ROM of images if there's really a strong demand for this. It would take some work however, and we would need to ensure that it's really needed and wanted. We could produce an electronic version of *The ARRL Instructor's Manual* for the same price as the printed version. If we had to spend a lot of time making better graphics or adding color to them, the price of the CD-ROM might have to be a little more. The CD-ROM would include the whole book, probably in PDF format — instructors could print the book on paper if they wanted, and they wouldn't have to buy both the book and the CD. We could also give away the CD-ROM version of *The ARRL Instructor's Manual* to quantity purchasers, under the same terms as we currently give away the printed version of this book. If you're interested in such a CD-ROM, please send an e-mail message to Margie, KB1DCO, at kb1dco@arrl.org, and tell her you would be interested.



Demonstrations for You

If you're interested in some new ideas for demonstrations on basic electricity and electronics, take a look at Rochester Amateur Radio Association's (RARA) Web site at http://www.ggw.org/rara/R_Coach/spring2000.htm. The New York club has put on several successful Radio Coaches programs for schools, suggested by ARRL. Their Radio Coaches program has club members visiting a school on 10 occasions, teaching the youth about Amateur Radio, and basic electricity, and taking them on field trips to such places as TV stations and other electronics-related area businesses. Members have students make thin film resistors and measure resistance, help them perform electrostatic voltage demonstrations, voltage and battery demonstrations, current flow and circuit demonstrations, 555 oscillator demonstrations, and build a siren/oscillator, among other things. Check out the RARA Web site for information on how they do these.

"Webbytes"

Here are useful sites for our ARRL instructors:

What will my new call sign be? <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/stats.html>

Learn what CW is doing for persons with disabilities: <http://www.uwec.edu/academic/hss-or/Morse2000/>

Latest specials from ARRL Publication Sales: <http://www.arrl.org/ead/discount/>

About Adobe Acrobat Reader and ARRL .pdf files: <http://www.arrl.org/acrorget.html>

Highlighting *You*, the Volunteer Instructor

We want to highlight you, the ARRL volunteer instructor, more than we have in the past for your diligence and altruism. You give back some of what you get from our wonderful hobby/service. You share your love of it with new people who seem just as excited to have that same pleasure and enjoyment. We want to thank you by spotlighting you, and we're always looking for ways to provide you with more useful assistance. For instance, note the four previous newsletter items – honoring ARRL instructors, offering you demonstration ideas, asking if you'd use a CD-ROM and sharing useful web site addresses. Later in the newsletter, we ask if you'd like an interactive newsletter, and you'll see details about our new *Proceedings* book, and a sample evaluation. Don't forget the discounts you can get on our educational publications, either. Finally, in years past, we asked if you were interested in an instructor's badge – currently, those instructors who've become certified with us to award CEUs can be signed off to get a badge. Would other instructors who haven't been certified to award CEUs wish to be able to get a badge, also? How are we doing? What else that we could provide would you want that is not available?

We also want to make it easier for non-hams to find you to sign up for your classes. On our annual questionnaires, you've told us that your class average sizes have gotten smaller in the past three years. So what better way to highlight the ARRL volunteer instructors and help prospective hams find you than to have your names and contact information on our Web site? Having your information, especially your e-mail address, would allow prospective hams to quickly contact you to find out when your next class starts – and you'd know when there were enough people to start another class.

Here is what we'll do. The contact information that we currently have from ARRL-registered volunteer instructors — those we've heard from in the past two years — will soon be up on our Web site. We will allow you, the instructor, to choose whether to display your phone numbers and e-mail address. Initially, your phone numbers and email address will not be displayed; you have to explicitly elect to have them shown. Also, you who are ARRL members will be able to access your own records to make updates easily whenever something changes. To do so, you will access your instructor data by going to the ARRL Members Only Web Site at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/> where you will find a link to "Your Instructor Data." Eventually, we'll have a system where non-ARRL members who are registered instructors, can contact us to update their contact information. If you wish to not be listed at all because you aren't currently teaching, we will accommodate that request.

We have a variety of people listed as instructors. Some of you coordinate the classes in your locale or recruit folks to the class, and others of you teach theory, teach code, or both, and some of you are specialists at teaching kids, persons with disabilities, or any age. The Web page would allow you to designate your specialty and better match you up to area students. A student will be able to choose to access a list of ARRL-registered instructors within 20, 50 or 100 miles of his or her location.

The database of ARRL instructors' contact information will be linked to our Web pages for non-hams, and to our Web pages about volunteer instructors. We would particularly enjoy posting photos on a linked Web page of you, the instructor, with one or more of your students that you've helped earn a license. We could run photos of the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year winners. We might even develop a simple feedback system on the referral page for students to report the best thing about their instructors. We'll publicize the news in various ARRL media outlets, that we're highlighting you, the ARRL volunteer instructor, and we hope you'll enjoy this new publicity. We aim to please! —

K1STO and KB1DCO

Extra Class Instructor's Guide

On our annual questionnaire we asked if you would be interested in purchasing an Extra Class Instructor's Guide if ARRL created one. Just a few more of you said "yes" versus the combined total of those answering "undecided" or "no." We will probably create one, but are looking for your help. If you currently teach an Extra class, would you share your outline or notes with us?

Morse Code Standards

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has voted to set up revised standards for the administration of Morse code exams in the US. Under the revised standards, examinees will have to show 25 character-count solid copy on test sheets or successfully answer seven out of ten questions of a fill-in-the-blank quiz on the sent text. The plan will bar multiple choice tests, and will specify use of a Farnsworth "character speed" in the range of 13 -15 WPM. Morse code audio pitch will be between 700 - 1000 Hz. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed will be administered only as a special accommodation. The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1, but VECs may implement them sooner.



ARRL Training Materials

As always, here's the list you request of the current editions of ARRL training material. The edition number and printing number are listed in the first pages of each book in the copyright box. If the book is a new printing, it has updates. If the book is a new edition, it has gone through major revisions. Abbreviations are as follows: *Now You're Talking!* (NYT), *ARRL's Tech Q & A* (ATQA), *General Class License Manual* (GCLM), *Extra Class License Manual* (ECLM), *FCC Rule Book* (FRB), *ARRL Instructor's Manual* (IM) and *ARRL General Class Instructor's Guide* (GIG).

- NYT 4th edition:
All printings
- ATQA 2nd edition:
All printings
- GCLM 4th edition:
All printings
- ECLM 7th edition:
All printings
- FRB 12th edition:
All printings
- IM 4th edition:
All printings— use with 4th edition of NYT

Hot off the Press!

The 2000 *Ham Radio... Planning for the Future* is filled with new and interesting ideas that can jump-start your class, on working with kids, or help your club run smoothly.

This book will not be reprinted. The cost is only \$15.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. You (or your club) can order a copy of *Ham Radio...*

Planning for the Future (# 7563) today by sending a check to ARRL (attn: Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS), or call her at 860-594-0219 with a credit card number.

Looking for an Evaluation?

If you're looking for a class evaluation to use when your classes are completed, here's a simple one that Dan, K3UFG, uses.



Heard about the class through:

Newspaper _____ Friend/Relative _____

Electronics store _____ Other _____

Want to learn Morse Code? _____

Plan on upgrading? _____

My primary concern is VHF/UHF _____ HF _____

Would you attend a Saturday AM General Class? _____

How much (%) did this class help you toward passing the exam? _____

Which materials did you find LEAST helpful? MOST helpful? _____

What did you like BEST about this class? LEAST? _____

What would you change about this class? _____

Other comments: _____

Recruit young prospective hams at 12:01 AM?

No, you don't have to get scouts out of bed to join you at the radio. But Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2000 officially begins October 21 at 12:01 AM, and will continue for 48 hours! There will be plenty of time for the Girl and Boy Scouts to try their hands at Morse code, logging some contacts or talking on the mike.

Ask your club members to consider calling a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout leader and offer to help them join with thousands of other scouts. Scouts will earn credit toward badges by participating. JOTA only lasts 48 hours, but you can make it a memory that lasts a lifetime! For more information visit <http://www.arrl.org/ead/#scout>—WB3IOS



Troop 1165 at the Carl Hayden High School (AZ), snapped by Erin Dow.

Your Questionnaire Comments

It's always good to hear from you, and we appreciate the time you took to write comments on your responses to our annual questionnaire. Here are some interesting ones:

Paul Dean, WB9HGZ: My best classroom technique is actual equipment demonstrations. Students get involved right away!

S. Goldman, N7JAZ: I ask hams to bring in new radios to show off. We review technical specs of hardware, proper usage, power levels, antennas, etc. I let every student talk on as many radios as there is time, while the hams act as control operators. I present the First Contact award to everyone who used a radio.

Charlene Neitzel, KQ6HG: My students talk on the air to club members, and get on the club net.

Richard Christopher, N1LT: I do lots of demos, hands-on activities, have 3-4 guest instructors, and pass around a lot of ham radio items.

Gary Casto, AG8RY: I tell my students the mistakes I made so they won't do the same.

Caroline Swann, W5NYL: Although Bob (shown below holding SWR meter), W5NYM, has

been ill, he and I have helped folks learn SWR aspects while installing mobile antennas.

Ken Kyle, KC6PFQ: Keep focused on the students; how much *you* know isn't important.

Bill Vokac, K9BV: My best demo is a bike pedal in motion to show sine wave and wavelength.

Raleigh Wert, W8QOI: My best technique is having patience with students.

Murray Merner, K4MHM: It would be nice if ARRL developed lesson plans with demos and graphics. [Murray, that's just what you'll find in the new *The ARRL Instructor's Manual*.]

Charlotte Horwitz, KB7TKQ: I use a Slinky to demonstrate frequency and wavelength.

Donald VanSickle, K8GOU: Point out exactly what test day will be like.

Clifton Jenkins, N7ZTY: I created a chart with SWR/antenna length, and one with metric conversions. I spend a lot of time on vocabulary.

John Thomason, WB5SYT: Club members present hands-on topics they enjoy: QRP, QSLs, etc.

Charles Bartholomew Sr, WA9SPT: I do demos on ATV, SSB, FM, packet, RTTY, and PSK31.

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ: I quiz students on their retention of material by reviewing the *Now You're Talking* Question Pool but with answers listed next to

questions, it's difficult. [Mike, I've used a narrow plastic sleeve of paper that slips over the page to cover answers.]

James Mozley, W2BCH: Stress the positive and encourage students.

John Allyn, KA9SYE: Give students time to ask questions.

Warren Croke, NW4C: Give short evaluations after classes to ensure students got what's important.

Bill Edgar, N3LLR: Keep classes fun; involve students. Ask hams to share experiences they've enjoyed.

Jud Ahern, W5JA: I use *Now You're Talking*, videos and demos in each class; keep them motivated!

George Tranos, N2GA: Demonstration or simulation is the key. Show the students what they are learning. Allow a love of the material to come across; there's no substitute for enthusiasm.



An Interactive Newsletter?

Some of our readers receive *Educational Activities Forum (EAF)* via email – you also occasionally get a quick e-mail message about something that is only current for a few days. At ARRL, we're continuing our mission to deliver news and information faster. We're also working on ways to help ARRL members share information among other members with similar interests. We'd like to develop a Web-based edition of *EAF* where instructors from all over can contribute write-ups, tips or a "how-to" to help all of us serve our students better. Send your comments about this idea and help us plan a readable new tool! We're waiting to hear from you at: n7ial@arrl.org

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225 Main Street
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telephone: (860) 594-0301

Jim Haynie, W5JBP
President

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Executive Vice President

Rosalie White, WA1STO
Editor

Mary Lau, N7IAL
Assistant Editor



Educational Activities Forum is an idea exchange and information newsletter for Amateur Radio instructors. Please contribute photos, stories and instructional ideas by sending them to Field and Educational Services in care of the address above.