



The **GEARVAKf**

"The 'f' is silent" **Bulletin**

Volume 34 Number 1

Newsletter of GEARVAKf ©1998

May 1998

Welcome to GEARVAKf '98!

In an executive meeting held on May 14, 1998, the GEARVAKf Trusteeship Council voted 15 to 13 to issue the following statement: "Welcome to GEARVAKf '98."

What is GEARVAKf and Why Is It So Exclusive?

GEARVAKf (the "f" is silent), also known as the Greater Enon Amateur Radio Vention and Kite is the most prestigious, semi-imaginary ham radio and kite flying organization in the world. We are not an equal opportunity organization. We despise political rectitude, we intend to offend, and we discriminate indiscriminately. Memberships are rarely awarded and, even then, *only* at the whim of the GEARVAKf Trusteeship Council. Memberships are *never* awarded for meritorious activities and are not granted to highly-qualified individuals. We proudly proclaim that our bureaucracy rivals that of the US Government and makes about as much sense. Every year at this time, we ask you to join us in listening to GEARVAKf's guest lecturers as they babble incoherently. At the GEARVAKf '98 Amateur Radio Vention, fly-by-night exhibitors will bring lots of useless equipment to our semi-imaginary flea market. If you don't find it there, remember, we told you it was semi-imaginary! For further information on GEARVAKf, we invite you visit us at our Internet web sites: <http://w3.gwis.com/~joelr/vent.htm> and <http://w3.gwis.com/~joelr/gear.htm>. Good luck!

FCC Imposes Internet Morse Code Requirement

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet after restrictions imposed by the Communications Decency Act were nullified as being unconstitutional, has decided to require Morse code proficiency for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service's requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam as a means of keeping the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal. Persons wishing to develop a web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language. Persons wishing to develop web sites that have actual content, as compared to just links to other web sites, must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test, demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English. The FCC, which lacks budgetary authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants.

--K8WQE, et al.

