



The QUARAE



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Prez Says

Spring is finally here and hopefully the weather will be getting better, but in Erie, PA, who knows!! It is defiantly getting to HOT here in Florida. I am looking forward to getting back to Lawrence Park and cooler weather.

The April meeting will be the last one at the Red Cross until next Fall. We will start meeting at the clubhouse for the May meeting. I will put hotdogs on the barby at 6:30 as usual and start the meeting at 7PM. We have scheduled April 29th as a Spring Cleanup Day at the clubhouse. I would also like to come up with a list of items that may need to be completed, updated, painted or replaced. We need to finish the handicap ramp access to the driveway as well as expanding the deck at the back door to meet the requirements dimensions required for handicap access.

The Radio Association of Erie-RAE has a facebook page that Mike W3MJS has been taking care of. Mike KC3FCF has volunteered to help MJA Mike update and add items to the page. If anyone would like to see things added to the page please get in touch with the Mikes. I would like to THANK them for maintaining the page. Maybe it will help get the word out about Amateur Radio get folks interested.

I received two tickets to the Breezeshooters Hamfest coming up on June 4th. We will have a drawing for the tickets at the May meeting. I haven't heard what the date is yet for the Wattsburg

Hamfest, it is usually in July. The Dayton Hamfest will take place on May 19-21 at a new venue this year. Folks in Meadville have been trying to get a bus trip for Saturday the 20th. The Conneaut Hamfest is scheduled for the third weekend in October. I will be leaving Lawrence Park on the 11th of April heading for Raleigh, NC to help setup the RARSfest on April 15th I am a member of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society since I got my license in 1990 and have been doing the fest setup just about every year since. I enjoy getting back to the fest and visiting with friends and fellow hams. I will be back home on Easter Sunday.

As usual we have a busy Public Service schedule this summer. So please check out the events that are listed at the w3gv.org website and let me know if you can help. The first event of the season will be the March of Dimes Walk at the Berhand Campus.

Please take advantage of the various nets that are listed on our website.

Spring Antenna Work

To help serve the ham community, we have decided to start a work crew to help less fortunate hams improve/repair their antenna systems. I have received a number of hams that wish to participate. They are: Ron Seyboldt WB3DOM Ground Person. Ron Rycek KB3QBB Ground Person. Rick Cutter WA3MKT Tower Climber. Joe Ponchak KA3CPV Ground Person. Nick Devine KC3GFA Tower Climber. Nick says he can bring some more people to help out. Even with this response, we still need more people.

I have received a number of requests for antenna work. They are: Dick Come W3WVG needs some antenna work. Rick Cutter WA3MKT hooked up his coax back to his tri-beam. Dick is going to buy some new coax and a balun. When it comes in, we will install the new parts. Trish Catalano KC3DCU needs a two meter antenna installed. We are rebuilding an antenna at the club house for this job. Joe Ponchak KA3CPV needs his tower replaced. **If there is anyone else that needs help, we will put you on the list. Remember, we will supply the labor and you will supply the material.** We have a limited number of antennas that we can provide. You can contact me at 814-455-1061 (h) or 814-490-0253 (c) or send me an email which I would prefer. jlindvay@msn.com

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

Warren PA Hamfest

Yesterday I went to Warren's first hamfest. I went with my wife, Debbie KB3RUD. She doesn't usually go to hamfests, but we have relatives in Warren and we made arrangements to see them after the hamfest. The hamfest was scheduled from 9 AM to 4 PM, which is quite different from most hamfests. We arrived at the event at 10 AM in the thick of things. I saw Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Gene Brinig K3ZJL, Rick Cutter WA3CPV, Butch Peelman KB3MI, Ron Rycek KB3QBB, and Fred Krause N2LXD. There may have been more Erie hams there. If I left anybody out, I am sorry. I had many an interesting conversation with people selling stuff, and the



ARRL personnel. There was the usual ham gear that some ham didn't need anymore and thought was so valuable, that he could retire on the proceeds. I did find some bargains and spare parts that you can only get at hamfests. One table, a dealer, had renewable tie-wraps or as they call them, teststrips that went on and came off easily, which makes them reusable. The name of the company is QuickStrip and they are based out of Warren. They are just a startup company, and maybe that is why the web address didn't work. The tie wraps were more flexible and came in many colors. You could also cut off the tail and use what's left over for some other project. They were also made UV resistant. I thought the price was quite reasonable. I bought a package of dark green ones. The cost is \$4 for twenty 12" teststrips. The people at the hamfest came from counties and towns around Warren. They had plenty of food (pulled pork sandwiches and cheese cake) and places to sit. It was maybe a little bigger than the Ripley hamfest. I met Bruce Manning NJ3K the official QSL checker for this area. He was there to check QSL cards for DXCC. I talked with him quite a while. He said he would attend any hamfest or club meeting to check QSL cards if he was invited and he wasn't supposed to be somewhere else. The cost is \$15 dollars if you let him do the whole business of checking cards. He suggested that people go on the website and fill out the form and then bring the form to him. That is cheaper; only \$8. The website is really convoluted. I went to it and I was confused and got nowhere. I congratulated [Joe Shupienis](#) W3BC, the new section manager, that replaced Tim Duffy K3LR. I also spoke to Russ Bush, one of the organizers of the hamfest. He said the reason for the 9 AM to 4 PM time was because people around there went to church in the morning and could not be there until noon. We left at 11:30 and most of the people had already left. Maybe a whole new group came in at noon and ran another hamfest.

March 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:00 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: Doug Sweet AD4UL (via Skype), John LindvayWB3IFD. Gene Brinig K3JZL, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, Frank Etzler N8WXQ,

Members Present: Trish Catalano KC3DCU, Mike Cidor KC3FCF, Charles Kauffman KB3RIT, Joe Ponchak KB3CPV, Ron Seyboldt WB3DOM, Bob Sorento KC3GBD, Brian Loomis KC3CWB, John Szymecki

Program: None

New hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: George Younkin N3SRF, Charles Kauffman

Treasurer's report: \$1,341.71

Membership report: 16 Life, 25 paid, 3 Free for a Total of 44 members

Facilities Report: Club house cleanup will be April 29th. 12" x 12" Stone needed for walkway. Need a list of projects.

Repeater Report: None

Public Service: First Event will be a walk, March of Dimes. Afternoon of April 30.

Contesting Report: Received a certificate for PA QSO Party.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting end at: 7:33 PM

50/50 was won by John Szymecki.

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

WATTSBURG WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Wattsburg Wireless Association was called to order at 1900 on February 14, 2017 in Room 114 at 9333 Tate Road, Erie, PA, by Neal Proper WB3EQC, President, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Officers: President: Neal Proper WB3EQC, VP: Sue Seyboldt N3LPO, Secretary: Excused, Treasurer: Barbara Schlosser KB3SXL.

Members: Robert Craig KB3ZLK, Frank Etzler N8WXQ, Craig Hill K3PLV, Donald Melpolder W3ZEF, Michael Morrison KC3GOC, Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, Norman Schlosser KB3SXX, Robert Sorento KC3GBD.

Guests: None.

A. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the January meeting was unanimously approved as read.

B. Officers Report.

President: None.

Vice President: None.

Secretary: Excused.

Treasurer: None

C. Treasurers Report.

Checking Account:	\$	1,147.04
Cash on Hand:	\$	30.28
Total:	\$	<u>1,177.32</u>

D. Old Business: None.

E. New Business: An audit of the treasurers account was conducted and no discrepancies noted.

F. Good of the Order.

Michael Hall is organizing a bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention. Bus would leave Meadville at 3 AM and return after show closes for the day. For more information contact Michael at (814) 724-8170.

The next VE exams will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 0900.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:15 by Neal Proper WB3EQC. The next business meeting will be held here on March 14, 2017.

Minutes submitted by: Ronald J. Rycek
Secretary
KB3QBB

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

International Crystal to Close

By [Emily M. Reigart](#)

[International Crystal Manufacturing Co.](#) has announced plans to close its business in the next few months. According to its website, ICM plans to



go out of business at the end of May, although the date depends on the availability of raw materials and the

facilities it has sold.

Founded in 1951, the family-owned business manufactures “quartz crystals, oscillators, filters and TCXOs and VCTCXOs used in military applications, communications, microwave transmission, data acquisition and transmission” and it also participates in research.

The company says it will honor all existing orders and will likely “be able to fill a limited amount of new orders dependent upon raw materials available,” according to its website. Customers can call (800) 725-1426 or email the company for more information.

“The closing of ICM is a game-changer for the broadcast industry,” radio technical consultant and Radio World contributor [Mark Persons](#) told Radio magazine. “I understand they are the last manufacturer in the U.S. that makes crystals to order in quantities as little as one. Crystals typically cost \$35 each.” Radio magazine was not able to independently confirm whether ICM was the only manufacturer that provides crystals in such small quantities. Ham operator Keith Hibbert (WB2VUO) [compiled a list](#) of crystal manufacturers in 2000, which may be useful.

Persons wrote in an email, “Maintenance of RPU (remote pickup) and STL units, and AM transmitters that are more than 10 years old will be a real problem, if not impossible. That equipment uses cut-to-frequency oscillator crystals to put it on a specific frequency. Changing frequency on this equipment will have to rely on the few used crystals on hand in repair facilities. Don’t count on finding the right one for your equipment. The other problem is that crystals do not last forever. They often drift in frequency or quit working after 10 or more years of use and need to be replaced.”

He continued, “The repair industry has been doing fine up until now with ICM. I typically repair and retune equipment that is 30 or more years old. It still works fine and makes original manufacturer’s specifications. Without ICM as a source, that equipment will have to be thrown out and replaced by units that are far more expensive than a simple repair job.

“For perspective, newer equipment uses synthesizers that employ a reference crystal whose

frequency can be divided down. Those crystals are standard values that are made by the thousands at a time. They usually come in a module that includes the electronics to output a signal at one frequency, typically 10 MHz. Trying to retrofit an older transmitter or receiver design to work with a reference oscillator and divider is a bad choice. It could even degrade the equipment performance, which may then no longer make specifications.”

Blessed are those who are multi-lingual, for they shall be misunderstood in many languages.

Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Requirements



The Radio Merit Badge requirements have been updated for 2017. You can learn more about the new requirements, including frequently asked questions, at [Radio Merit Badge Requirements](#). That document also has links to slide decks you can use in your Radio Merit Badge program.

Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

* It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.

* Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.

* Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.

* Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.

* Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.

* Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and

microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- * The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- * A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- * Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- * The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- * A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are

even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>)

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. Doug Larson

Ham Items for Sale or Wanted

List your equipment here. Or place a wanted ad. It's all for free.

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

Amateur Calendar

April 1 - Mississippi QSO Party. See www.arrlmiss.org

April 1 - Missouri QSO Party. See www.w0ma.org

April 1 - All Texas State Parks on the Air. See www.tspota.org

April 2 - North American SSB Sprint Contest. See ssbsprint.com/rules

April 4 – Corry Club Meeting

April 6 – RAE Club Meeting

April 8 - SKCC Weekend Sprintathon. See www.skccgroup.com

April 8 - New Mexico QSO Party. See www.newmexicoqsoparty.org

April 8 - Georgia QSO Party. See www.georgiaqsoparty.org

April 8 – Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show. See <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest-reserve.php>

April 11 – Wattsburg Club Meeting

April 12 - NAQCC CW Sprint. See naqcc.info

April 13 – Union City Club Meeting

April 15 - Worked All Provinces of China. See www.mulandxc.org/438

April 15 - Ontario QSO Party. See www.va3cco.com/oqp

April 15 - Michigan QSO Party. See www.miqp.org/Rules.htm

April 15 - North Dakota QSO Party. See w0nd.com

April 15 – VE Testing at Greene Township Bldg.

April 16 – Easter

April 16 - Rookie Roundup: , 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC

April 17 – Last day to file your taxes.

April 18 – World Amateur Radio Day

April 22 - Nebraska QSO Party. See qcwa.org/chapter025.htm

April 22 - International Marconi Day. KM1CC, Wellfleet, MA. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club. 18.080 14.260 14.035 7.035 . QSL. KM1CC, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd., Wellfleet, MA 02667. See www.facebook.com/KM1CC

April 24 - Two Rivers ARC Hamfest. See <http://www.trarc.net>

April 26 - SKCC Sprint. See www.skccgroup.com

April 29 - Samuel F. B. Morse Day. W2M, Poughkeepsie, NY. QSY SOCIETY. 28.035 14.035 7.035. QSL. Scott Dunlavey, PO Box 146, Verbank, NY 12585. W2NTV@ARRL.NET or www.qrz.com/db/w2m

April 29 Florida QSO Party. See www.floridaqsoparty.org

April 29 - Samuel F. B. Morse Exhibition. N4M, Winston Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. 7.044 7.244 14.044 14.244. QSL. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 11361, Winston Salem, NC 27116. The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club of Winston-Salem, NC, will sponsor Special Event Station, N4M, in celebration of the Reynolds House Museum of American Art's Exhibition - Samuel F.B. Morse's "Gallery of the Louvre" and the Art of Invention. www.reynoldahouse.org/exhibitions/detail/samuel-fb-morses-gallery-of-the-louvre-and-the-art-of-invention or www.w4nc.com