



The QUARAE



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December 2015

Prez Says



From the sunny land of central Florida, I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May you work the rare DX. Get that new rig or antenna or just have fun with Amateur Radio!

73 Doug

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

WWA Christmas Party

All Ham Operators and anyone interested in Ham Radio are invited.

Location: Summit Township Senior Citizens, 1450 Townhall Road, Erie, PA 16509

When: Saturday, December 12, 2015, Time 3 PM til 7 PM.

Cost:\$15.00 per person. Cash or check.

Make checks payable to: Shirley Ploss. (Non-refundable once reservations are made)

Menu: Glazed Ham, Baked Chicken, Pork and Kraut, Rolls and Butter, Coffee and Tea, Cake.

RSVP by November 30th to: Suzanne Seyboldt N3LPO Phone: C (814) 969-8542 or H (814) 456-0500 Email: n3lpo@aol.com. If you RSVP and do not attend you are still responsible to pay for your order.

So don't forget to mark your calendar for this event. See you there.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

JERSEY 2015

My Dxpediton to Jersey is now history. This was my 15th trip to the small island country of Jersey which is about 14 miles off the coast of France. Usually we (K8PT and myself) go in late March, but this year that would not work. We really did not think we would be going this year, but things lined up and we made our arrangements. My wife drove me to Buffalo and I flew to Boston and then to Heathrow airport in London. It took about 45 minutes to get off the plane and customs took



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at the Club
House on Wagner Road
Thursday December 3
7 PM Meeting**

Program: Elections

another hour. I got my bag and from there I found the bus terminal and bought a round trip pass to the next airport - London Gatwick. Fortunately when I went outside and found the bus stop the bus was just ready to leave. From there it's at least a 45 minute drive to London Gatwick depending on traffic. Then I found the British Air terminal and checked in my bag. Then it was through security and I made my flight by 10 minutes. We arrived on Jersey and got our rental car. This year I had my friend drive. This was his first time he had ever driven on the left. But I do not see all that well at night, so I told him it was his turn. We arrived at our guest house, checked in and tried to take a nap. I can not sleep on a plane and got about four, 2 minute naps on the trip over. We drove up to the club station, set up our equipment, and did a little operating. Then we went out to eat and back to the guest house to sleep. The next morning we had our "cooked English" breakfast. It consists of cereal, fresh fruit and juice, an egg, bacon, sausage, grilled tomato, mushrooms, baked beans, potato cake, toast, and coffee or tea. At the station we unpacked our amp we had shipped from home and tried it out. We heard arcing and took it apart. I found that the filament choke had broken off and soldered it back on. My friend put it back together and again tried it out and said it didn't work. I called Fred, N2LXD, for advice. It turned out that my friend had not keyed it, but we were too tired to notice. It came to me after a night's sleep. After that everything worked fine, although band conditions were not good with an "A" index over 40. But I still made almost 3000 QSOs and gave many "new ones" out to people. I also visited with many of the club members and

visited my friends at their home. It was nice to see them again. The trip back had its problems. The flight to Gatwick and the bus to Heathrow went fine. My friend was flying to Philadelphia and his flight went out without a hitch. I was supposed to fly to Charlotte and then Buffalo. But the board showed a one hour delay. After that delay they made an announcement to go to a gate. The line was very long and did not move. Finally after an hour a woman for American Airlines came up the line and said the flight was cancelled and to go back through customs (took an hour), get your checked in bags, and go to check-in and see what arrangement could be made. I waited in line and finally a guy with a French accent waited on me. He said I could fly to Chicago and then Buffalo. I thought he said my flight into Buffalo would get in at 10:05 pm, but what he really said was the Buffalo flight would leave Chicago at 10:05 Chicago time. Fortunately I called my friend who was picking me up in Buffalo and gave him my flight number. He looked it up and showed up at 12:30 am. One more minor thing happened. My bag did not show up on the belt. I finally found the American Airlines booth and no one was there. But just then I saw my bag laying there. It must have come on a different flight as I had to pick it up in Chicago. I got to bed at 3 am. I had been up 35 hours. I slept three hours (wrong time zone) and stayed up until ten that night. The good thing is I missed the Paris bombing by one day and did not get stuck in London for a day or two. But that's part of going on a DXpedition. Would I do it again? - CERTAINLY.

A new Heathkit! So, why am I not excited?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago I got an e-mail from Heathkit. Yes, the NEW Heathkit. you might remember that a couple of years ago, there was all this hype about a “new” Heathkit and how they were going to start designing new kits as well as revive popular old designs. Then, nothing. They went completely quiet—until a couple of weeks ago. In an e-mail sent to their “insiders,” they say: "Dear Heathkit Insider, 'What I really hope Heathkit will produce,' a Silicon Valley colleague recently told me, 'is a new radio kit with a beautiful finish, maybe in rosewood.' "“Something great to enjoy building and learn from, and also visually stunning, so he could put it in his living room and keep it forever." Today, my friend gets his wish. They then go on to explain all of the work they’ve been doing in relocating Heathkit to Santa Cruz, CA, acquiring a second company, and securing all the intellectual property rights to the old Heathkit manuals and logos (meaning no more bootleg copies on the Internet). The e-mail continues:

That’s a lot, but there’s more. We’ve designed and developed a wide range of entirely new kit products. We authored the manuals for these kits, complete with the beautiful line art you rely on, preserving and respecting our iconic historic Heathkit style. We developed many new inventions and filed patents on them. We built the back office infrastructure, vendor and supply chain relationships, systems, procedures, operations methods, and well-thought-out corporate structure that a manufacturing company needs to support its customers, to allow us to scale instantly the day we resume major kit sales. All this effort enables us to introduce a fleet of new kits and helps ensure Heathkit can grow, prosper, and continue to bring you great new products for a very long time."

So, what’s the exciting news? A new QRP transceiver? Maybe a shortwave radio? A new 100-in-1 experimenter kit for Makers?

Uh-uh. Sorry. The "exciting" news is a tuned radio frequency (TRF) AM band (yes, I said AM band) radio kit that costs \$150

(<https://shop.heathkit.com/shop/product/explore-r-jr-trf-am-radio-receiver-kit-black-case-gr-150-bk-16>). Not only is that crazy expensive for an AM radio, it doesn’t even come with a speaker. On top of that, there’s no soldering. You screw all of the components to the board. I’m speechless (well, figuratively, not literally).

I’m not sure what the target



market is for this product. It’s certainly not amateur radio operators, who expect a lot more (in terms of both functionality and “fun”) for their money. Nor is it the "Maker" folks, who want something more challenging than an AM radio. I think that if I took this to show off at the local Ann Arbor Maker group, they’d laugh me out of the place.

I really hope that they have something better up their sleeves. A strong Heathkit would be good for the Maker movement and for ham radio.

When not thinking about what kit to build next, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m). His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Ham Calendar

December 1 –Corry Radio Club Meeting

December 3 – RAE Club meeting

December 4 - ARRL 160 Meter Contest . See www.arrl.org/160-meter

December 8 – Wattsburg Club meeting

December 10 – Union City Wireless Club meeting

December 12 – Christmas Party. See article above.

December 12 – Pennsylvania Admission Day.
Pennsylvania entered the Union December 12, 1787 as the second of the thirteen original states.

December 12 - ARRL 10 Meter Contest. See www.arrl.org/10-meter

December 19 – VE Exams

December 20 - ARRL Rookie CW Roundup. See www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

December 25 – Christmas

December 31 – New Year’s Eve