



# The QUARAE



Volume 16 Issue 2

February 2015

## Prez Says.....

Looks like the “Storm of the Century” stayed well east of Erie. New England was not the place to be living with all the snow that showed up. Lots of shoveling!! As it turns out Spring has sprung here in Melbourne. The “Whirly Birds” are coming off the maple trees in my back yard so the new leaves aren’t far behind. Hopefully Punxy Phil won’t see his shadow this year so we can get an early Spring in Erie with no icebergs on the lake.

A couple of weeks ago I was scanning the local repeaters in Melbourne and it stopped on W4MLB which belongs to the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS). They were having an ARES Net so I decided to check in. At the end of the net one of the guys said anyone wants to stick around for some N Beams practice is welcome. Not knowing what he was talking about I stayed and found out they were talking about NBEMS. Of course I joined in and was able to give them some tips on configuration settings. They are just getting in to NBEMS here so I volunteered to help out. I was invited to the PCARS meeting and met a nice bunch of hams. They also have a Friday luncheon at the Golden Corral. They have a trailer with a couple of beams as their club station that is available to members. I’m looking forward to checking it out. After 16 years of wintering in Florida I finally joined PCARS.

I understand that the RAE Clubhouse now has a pellet stove to keep things nice and warm. Also the “shack” next to the garage is also heated and now

has a Kenwood 440 available for operation. I hope our members will take advantage of our facilities.

The Orlando Hamcation hamfest is coming up on Feb. 13,14 & 15. I have my ticket and am looking forward to getting together with those of you who can make the trip to Orlando. I will try and have nice warm and sunny weather for that weekend.

I would like to remind everyone to check into the various HF/UHF/VHF nets that are listed on the w3gv.org website.

73, Doug AD4UL

## Editor’s comments

It is getting harder and harder to find someone to do something for the club. The meetings have dwindled down to just a few people. It might be the weather that keeps people away but I doubt it. Maybe we should do something to spice up our meetings. One suggestion is to have a presentation at every meeting. Again where is the person to step up and do it? Maybe we should have classes again to get new and younger members in the club. Maybe we should have an open house to show off our new equipment. Again we need bodies to do



**Radio Association of Erie  
Club Meeting at the Red  
Cross  
Thursday February 5  
7 PM- General Meeting**

**Program: TBA**

this stuff. Where have all the members gone? I would be interested to hear from local hams what we can do to improve interest and participation in the RAE. Constructive comments only. We need an activity chairman, an education chairman, and a publicity chairman. Any takers?

---

**Always drink upstream from the herd**

---

## January General Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie was held on January 8, 2015 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. AD4UL present via Skype, the secretary present, a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by chair AD4UL.

Guest- KC3CWB

SK- Don Fargo

Secretary's report- motion by KB3THU to accept the minutes as publish. It was seconded, and approved, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Given by N8WXQ

Chair of the board- no meeting, but phone calls were made about insulation

Membership-32 members.

Repeaters-callsign of the 440 repeater was changed. Location was still in works for the 440 move.

Website- Domain space is up for renewal. Motion by WB3IFD to pay for the renewal of \$190.80 for two years. It was seconded and approved, motion carried.

Newsletters- John is seeking your news letter articles [jlindvay@msn.com](mailto:jlindvay@msn.com)

Clubhouse- 3 contests upcoming, CW North American QSO, a SSB and a VHF contest.

New business- WA3MKT resigned and we are seeking a new board member. Board meeting March

26<sup>th</sup> 2015. Budget needs passed for 2015. WB3DEL was appointed to the board.

Good of the Order- A motion was made by WB3IFD to give \$100 to Voices of Independence in memoriam to David Raydo KA3AUH.

Adjourned at 1948

---

**Never miss a good chance to shut up**

---

## Ham Column from KB6NU

Are we amateurs or what?

january 21, 2015 by [dan kb6nu](#)

On the ARRL PR mailing list, the topic of whether or not we're "amateurs" came up again, and that morphed into a discussion of the term "amateur radio." The impetus for this discussion was [an article in the \*The Daily Progress\*](#) of Charlottesville, VA that quotes Harry Dannals, W2HD, who was president of the ARRL from 1972 to 1982. He says,

*The only thing I think is wrong about all this is the word amateur. That makes us sound like raw beginners. Not true. It only means we're not being compensated financially for what we're doing. Some radio amateurs are among the most professional and capable people I know.*

My complaint with the term "amateur radio," is not that we're amateurs, but that we're about much more than radio. Not only that, many people tend to confuse the word "radio" with "radio broadcasting."

Compare the term "amateur radio operator" with the term "maker" or even "hacker." If you were a kid or young adult, which would you rather be? Maker or hacker has more swagger to it, while amateur radio operator is something quaint, something one's uncle or grandfather used to do.

Paul, N5IUT, said, "A name like Amateur is what you make it." I disagree. As the saying goes, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

“Amateur radio” is not quite a sow’s ear, but it sure ain’t a silk purse, either.

Perhaps we’re all making too big a deal out of this, though. John, N3SPW, notes, “Don’t worry so much about the words. It’s more about what you actually do.” There’s a lot of truth in that.

What do you think? How do people react when you say that you’re an amateur radio operator? Would you like our hobby to have a more modern name or are you fine with what we have now?

---

**Yesterday I accidentally swallowed food coloring. The doctor says I'm OK, but I feel like I've dyed a little inside.**

---

## From Tim Duffy K3LR

Happy New Year and greetings to ARRL members in Western Pennsylvania! I appreciate and respect the trust you have shown to elect me as your ARRL Section Manager. I want to have as many communication methods available as possible to



hear what you have to say. This email list is one of many ways for me to interact with you. I welcome any suggestions for communications to our clubs and members. With the help of the WPA

section leadership we will be highly visible at WPA hamfests and affiliated club events. I look forward to working alongside all ARRL members in WPA. I am making plans to visit the affiliated clubs in the WPA section over the next several months. I also hope to be able to participate in some of your activities. Thanks to John Rodgers, N3MSE for his years of service to ARRL and WPA. John set the

bar very high and we will continue in his tradition of excellent service.

I want to emphasize the positive things that are going on in WPA. There are many challenges, but sharing the positive stories is a great way to overcome many of those challenges. Please share your positive stories with me. I will make sure that they are shared around the section.

Please note that all current section appointments are still valid. I will be talking to each appointee as soon as possible to figure out our path forward. There will also be new appointments as well!

Thanks again and let’s make Western PA the best ARRL section! I hope to hear you on the air!

Very 73, Tim K3LR

Western Pennsylvania ARRL Section Manager

[Tim’s Email is [k3lr@arrl.org](mailto:k3lr@arrl.org) Ed.]

---

**The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket**

---

## Announcing the WPA Section D-STAR Contest

The D-STAR Repeater Operators of Western Pennsylvania are giving giving you the chance to win a new Icom ID-880H mobile dual band D-STAR capable rig. The contest runs from March 2 through August 24 2015. To enter the contest all you need to do is 1) reside within the ARRL's Western Pennsylvania Section, and 2) check into the Monday night WPA Section ARES D-STAR Net. Each week you check into the net counts as an additional entry into the contest.

The WPA Section D-STAR Net is held each Monday night at 9 PM on the WPA Section D-STAR reflector REF063 module C. Most D-STAR

repeaters in Western Pennsylvania are normally linked to the reflector so participating in the net is as simple as using your local D-STAR repeater.

This contest has been made possible by generous gifts from The Repeater Association (sponsor of the W3EXW D-STAR System in Allegheny County and sponsor of the WPA Section's REF063 reflector), the K3LR Operators (supporters of the K3AWS D-STAR System in Crawford County), The Westmoreland Emergency Amateur Radio Service (sponsor of the WC3PS D-STAR System in Westmoreland County) and the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association (sponsors of the W3PHB D-STAR System in Clearfield County.)

So check into the WPA Section ARES D-STAR Net between March 2 and August 24th for your chance to win a new Icom ID-880H mobile rig. you can improve your odds by checking in each week. The winner will be announced at the WPA Section Convention on Sunday August 30th 2015. Complete details and rules can be found on the WPA ARES web site at [www.wpaares.org](http://www.wpaares.org) in the D-STAR section of the site.

---

**Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back**

---

## The KOP Story

By Frank Etzler

The history of early radio can be exciting to explore. Many challenges both technical and social were overcome in the early days of radio. The pace of progress was very fast in those early days.

At a recent hamfest I had the opportunity to purchase a rather thin book by modern standards that stimulated my interest in KOP. The title of the book is "Radio Listeners' Guide". It was published in 1925. The book contains a number of interesting chapters. There is for example a discussion of early receiver types and a chart comparing times in different cities across the world. Did you know that

Europe didn't use standard time in 1925? The book contains a list of the broadcasting stations throughout the world and a callbook of US Amateurs. Yes, you will find HPM, T.O.M., in Hartford, CT.

In the listings of the broadcast stations located in Detroit, Michigan, my home town, I found KOP which was owned by the Detroit Police Department. I decided to learn a little more about this station. The opening of the station is mentioned in the Strays column in the July 1922 issue of QST.

Before discussing the station it may be instructive to understand a little more about radio in the 1920's. In the '20's radio was high tech and of interest to many. Radios could be very expensive. I have a Atwater Kent Radio manufactured in 1929 it cost \$400 when new (or about \$8000 in current dollars). Radio was hot in the '20s and many innovations and discoveries are chronicled in the 1920's issues of QST.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Detroit was a center for innovation and technical advance. Radio broadcasting had its beginnings in 1919 and 1920 in the form of experimental and amateur stations. The Detroit News began broadcasting with the amateur call 8MK in August 1920 on 200 meters. The reception range was about 100 miles and 300 stations could receive the signal. The station provided election coverage for the 1920 elections. In October 1921 the station became a limited commercial station using 360 meters and the call WBL. Within a few months the station's call was changed to WWJ which is still on the air on 950 kHz. WWJ along with KDKA in Pittsburg are America's oldest radio stations. The Broadcasting Service was formally organized in December 1921. On March 10, 1922 there were 67 broadcast stations in the United States all operating on 833 kHz (360 meters).

The Detroit police department first organized in 1865 also had an innovative spirit. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century police work was conducted on foot. The residents enjoyed the security of the comings and goings of the neighborhood officer. In 1897, the department began using bicycles to apprehend criminals speeding away on their bicycles. HPM mentions in his book, “Horseless Carriage Days” that bicycles were the fastest form of transportation of the day. In 1908 motorcycles were first used and experiments using automobiles ( a Packard was chosen) began in 1909. In the early years police cars were parked outside the station and the officers were dispatched from the station. They could also be dispatched from other locations by telephone but the officers had to wait for the incoming calls .

In 1921, Detroit Police Commissioner William P. Rutledge began experimenting with patrol vehicles equipped with radios. Rutledge had a radio transmitter installed at police headquarters and in 1922 the Federal Radio Commission, the forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission, issued Detroit the first provisional commercial radio license, KOP on March 18. Broadcasts began on 833kHz and soon moved to 1050 kHz. KOP was the 88<sup>th</sup> broadcast station licensed in the United States.

There were significant technical problems in implementing the use of radios in automobiles. The vacuum tubes, which comprised the internal workings of the radio receiver, were fragile and required extensive cushioning. The electrical systems of the automobiles available then were not powerful enough to operate the radios, so six-volt batteries had to be mounted on the running boards. The battery was only good for four hours before it had to be replaced.

KOP was licensed as a broadcast station and as such had to conform to the Commission’s rules. The program format was certainly unusual – music interdispersed with police calls. In 1922 there were no public service bands. Radio was finding its way.

Considerable friction between the Department and the FRC existed as the music did apparently interfere with police business. In the beginning, local politicians did not always lend their enthusiastic support as they were not yet impressed with unproven technology. Nonetheless, KOP was the first station to dispatch cars via radio. The communications were one way.

By March 1924 the Detroit News and the public were convinced of the utility of radio dispatched police cars and by 1928 such cars had become a permanent fixture in the Department. Two way radio communication was established elsewhere in 1933 by the Bayonne, N.J. police department.

The KOP experiment ended on November 28 1925 but newly formed public service stations took its place. The station was the 88<sup>th</sup> broadcast station licensed in the United States and should be recognized as the antecedent station for all stations on the public service bands. The foresight of the Detroit Police department is laudable.

## Calendar

February 2 – Groundhog Day

February 3 – Corry Club Meeting

February 5 – RAE Club Meeting

February 7 - Vermont QSO Party See [www.ranv.org](http://www.ranv.org)

February 7 - Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party. See [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

February 7 - Minnesota QSO Party. See [www.w0aa.org](http://www.w0aa.org)

February 7 - British Columbia QSO Party. See [orcadxcc.org](http://orcadxcc.org)

February 8 - North American Sprint. See [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

February 9 – 13. School Club Roundup. See [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)

February 10 – WWA Club Meeting

February 12 – Union City Wireless Association Club Meeting

February 14 - New Hampshire QSO Party. See [www.w1wqm.org](http://www.w1wqm.org)

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

February 14 - Birthdate and Birthplace of Thomas A. Edison Special Event. NI8G, Milan, OH. Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club. Certificate & QSL. Jack Hubbard, NI8N, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. SASE Required, E-QSL See [ni8n1@yahoo.com](mailto:ni8n1@yahoo.com)

February 21 – VE Session at Greene Township Bldg. on Tate Road.

February 21 - ARRL Int'l CW DX Contest See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

February 22 - **WASHFEST 2015 (20th Annual Event)** Castle Shannon, PA. See <http://n3sh.org>

February 28 - North American QSO Party. See [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)