



# The QUARAE



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## Prez Says



Winter has finally arrived in here Central Florida. We have been setting records for the high temperatures since we arrived in October. The weather

has finally cooled off the last couple of weeks, down in the 40's and 50's at night and mid 60's during the day, perfect. I guess the snow was late in arriving in Erie but from the pictures I see on the Facebook page of Bob W3IAX snow has definitely arrived. Oh well Spring is not too far away.

The 61 repeater was off the air for a while because the antenna was knocked down in a wind storm a couple of weeks ago. I want to thank Rick WA3MKT and Adam KB3THU for getting the antenna down, repairing it and getting the repeater back on the air. John WB3IFD and Rick WA3MKT have been working on the link radio for Echolink so hopefully we will have the Echolink back on the air. I really miss my 9PM Rag Chew Net keeping in touch with the folks in Erie and many others who join us on occasion.

The club is going to add a ramp to the back door of the clubhouse so that we will have wheelchair access. Gene KB3JZL is looking into the requirements and materials needed to complete the ramp. We have been offered help with the project by McKean Boy Scout Troop 73 as an Eagle Scout project. Maybe we can get some of the Scouts

interested in learning about Amateur Radio and getting a license.

The club has been approached by the Lawrence Park Historical Society to participate in there 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the incorporation as a first class township. It will be an opportunity for us to get some exposure for our hobby. I am a member/volunteer with the LPHS so I will get with them and find out what we need to do and then bring it to our meeting for discussion.

The Orlando Hamcation Hamfest is coming up on February 12-14. I am looking forward to the fest as well as seeing folks from Erie. I will try and have warm and dry weather this year (if El Nino will cooperate) for you this year. At least I can promise NO WHITE STUFF!!

Don't forget to check out the various nets that are listed on our website. 73, Doug AD4UL

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They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

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**Radio Association of Erie  
Club Meeting at the Red  
Cross Bldg at 4961  
Pittsburgh Avenue**

**Thursday January 4**

# January General Meeting Minutes

7 PM Antenna Lecture by Ed Fong on Antennas

8:10 PM Meeting started

Board Members and Officers Present - Adam Keronhan, KB3THU, Richard Quinn, KB3ZVH, Craig Hill, K3PLV, Bob Fuller, N3LBI, John Lindvay, WB3IFD, and Frank Etzler, N8WXQ

New Hams – None

Silent Keys – None

Vistors – None

Treasurer's Report - \$586.35 in checking.

Membership Report – 13 Life, 11 Current

Facilities Report – None

Repeater Report – High winds knocked down antenna. Thanks to Adam Keronhan, KB3THU, and Rick Cutter, WA3MKT, antenna was repaired and reinstalled.

Echolink Report – Kevin McKenna, KE3V, gave a computer to the club for echolink.

Contesting Report – Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, had 355 QSO's and 46 states in the RTTY roundup. Ron Seybolt, WB3DOM, received a certificate for the PA QSO party for Erie County. John Lindvay, WB3IFD received a certificate for the PA QSO Party for Warren County

Old business – None

New business – Lawrence Park Historical Society wants a ham radio booth for an event in Oct.

Meeting ended 8:50 PM

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I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay checks.

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## OPERATOR ETIQUETTE

Each time I go on a Dxpedition I marvel at how various societies are so much different from others. An example is the behavior of some of the operators in pileups. The two worst are Italians and Portuguese. This doesn't mean that every Italian or Portuguese operator is a lid. Some are very good operators, but the poor operators give all of them bad names. An example is in a pileup where many stations are calling at once. I get part of a call such as W2. I say "Whiskey Two, only the Whiskey Two". I hear Italy Zulu Five X-ray X-ray X-ray (not the real call). I'll say, "stand by the Italy Zulu Five, I only want the Whiskey Two". Again the IZ5 calls. This goes on for four or five calls until finally I just work the IZ5 and mark in my log "LID" to get rid of this station so I can work the W2. This year I was on 30 meters running a pileup at about 28 words per minute (28 WPM seem to be best as slower takes too long and faster seems to leave too may people out – anyone with some practice can copy their own call at 28 WPM). I get a station calling with extremely slow code – less than 5 WPM. Not surprisingly it's an Italian station. In the amount of time it took for him to get his call sent I would work five other stations. Finally I stood by and worked him. But even after working him, he continued to call. Italy is a direct path to Jersey and they tend to be very strong. So this guy was the strongest station on the band and copying calls through him was very difficult.

This doesn't mean I'm prejudiced against particular country's operators. I'm just telling what all those who go on Dxpeditons experience. Maybe someone can explain to me why such things occur. It's always been a puzzle to me.

Craig Hill, K3PLV

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You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice

## Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

By Bob Witte, K0NR

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association).

We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.

For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

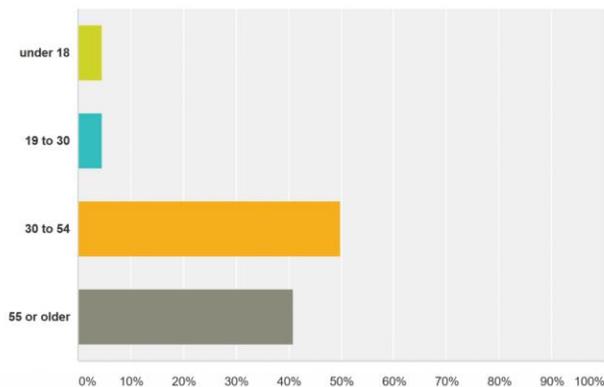
My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

## What is your age?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



Bob Witte, K0NR, blogs about amateur radio at K0NR.Com. You can find this post at <http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/kids-not-the-future/>. You can e-mail him at [bob@k0nr.com](mailto:bob@k0nr.com). He is also on Twitter: @K0NR.

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**In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'**

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## RAE Membership Drive

It is time to renew your membership. Full member costs are \$15. Associate memberships are \$12. Fill out a form and mail today! Send to: Radio Association of Erie, P.O. Box 8931, Erie Pa. 16505 Forms are available at

<http://www.w3gv.org/docs/Radio%20Association%20of%20Erie%2020--%20Membership%20Application.pdf>

# Ham Calendar

February 2 – Ground Hog Day

February 4 – RAE meeting

February 6 - British Columbia QSO Party. See [www.orcadxcc.org](http://www.orcadxcc.org)

February 6 - Minnesota QSO Party. See [www.w0aa.org](http://www.w0aa.org)

February 6 - Vermont QSO Party. See [www.ranv.org/vtqso.html](http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html)

February 6 - 10-10 International Winter Contest. See [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

February 9 – Wattsburg Wireless Association meeting

February 11 – Union City Wireless Meeting

February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday

February 13 - OMISS QSO Party See [omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php](http://omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php)

February 13 - New Hampshire QSO Party See [www.w1wqm.org/nhqso](http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso)

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 15 – Conneaut Club Meeting

February 20 - ARRL International CW DX Contest. See [www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

February 20 – VE Exams

February 27 - South Carolina QSO Party. See [scqso.com/rules](http://scqso.com/rules)

February 28 - North Carolina QSO Party. See [rars.org/ncqsoparty](http://rars.org/ncqsoparty)

February 28 - **WASHFEST**, Pittsburgh, PA  
by Wireless Association of South Hills  
**See :** <http://n3sh.org>