



The QUARAE



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Some Observations

Lately, I have heard some nasty things about Politics. We must not forget that 2 meter repeaters is really a party line that some people just listen, rather than join in the conversation for a multitude of reasons. Maybe they are listening on a scanner. Maybe they are doing something else, but want to hear what is going on. For whatever reason, there should be no nasty statements about officials from either party. We all need to get along. My father told me. "Son if you can't say something nice about somebody, don't say anything at all."

Ham radio operators are a very diverse group of people. Some just want to operate and are good in radio communications for disaster relief. Some enjoy providing communication for public events. Some enjoy contesting and collecting wall paper. Some enjoy building and improving equipment and antennas. Some of us like CW, while others use voice or PSK31 or FLdigi. We all have our dislikes and likes as far as Ham Radio goes. Just because a ham does something different than you, you shouldn't disparage him or her.

We have a lot a new hams and unfortunately they don't get enough training after they pass the Tech exams to start communicating correctly. So take the time to help these new hams, rather than make fun of them.

The club has lots of antennas that it doesn't use and probably never will. We should get rid of them. If

you are interested in any, please contact me with which one you want and what you'll pay for them. I will bring your bid before the board for approval.

I saw a poor old lady fall over today on the ice! At least I presume she was poor - she only had \$1.20 in her purse.

January 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:15 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: John Lindvay WB3IFD, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, Gene Brinig KB3JZL, Bob Fuller N3LBI, Ed Barlow K1ZIK.

Members Present: Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Richard Cutter WA3MKT, Mike Morrison KC3GOC, Ron Seybolt WB3DOM, Michael Cider KC3FCF. John Szymecki and Bob "don't spell me backwards" KC3GBD

Program: Frank Etzler N8QWT gave a presentation of Propagation Software.

New hams: Stan Williams KE8FPP

Silent Keys: None



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at the Red
Cross on Pittsburgh Ave.
Thursday February 2 at
7 PM**

**Program: Rick Cutter
will give a talk and demonstration about
deviation. Bring your HTs**

Visitors: Bob Link KA3LSK, Susan Holgrek
KC3CBE

Treasurer's report: \$1,131.81

Membership report: 19 paid members

Facilities Report: Lighting finished thanks to Rick
Cutter WA3MKT and Joe Ponchak KA3CPV. We
need to inventory antennas and get rid of some.

Repeater Report: Echolink is working.

Contesting Report: nter Field day is January 28th and
29th.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting end at :8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted

John Lindvay

Half the people you know are below average.

CIA documents about Ham radio declassified online

CIA reports about amateur (ham) radio in the
former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States)
and Warsaw Pact member countries have been
declassified to a new online search engine.

The website is:

[https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site
/amateur%20ham%20radio](https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/amateur%20ham%20radio)

The documents include translations and assessments
of : amateur radio clubs, including DOSAAF;
training; monitoring sputniks; technology and
equipment; and even qsl cards.

All the documents have been de-classified and
made available to the public for the first [time in this
internet archive](#); some were previously available in
a closed system at the US national archives.

Our thanks to **Andy G0SFJ** for spotting this item

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Warren County Hamfest

On 03/05/2017

Location: Youngsville Volunteer Fire

Department

222 E. Main Street

Youngsville, PA 16371

Sponsor: Warren County ACS / Venture
Crew 73

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.11 (PL 186.2)

Public Contact: Russ Bush , N3YD

157 Bates Street Youngsville, PA 16371

Phone: 814-564-9202

Email: n3yd@usa.com

Experience is something you don't get until just after
you need it

High Reliability

Interconnection Technology (Soldering)

From Pace Technical Education Publication # 505-0082

Soldering is not just melting solder on copper. A
chemical reaction takes place forming an
intermetallic bond. The solder dissolves and
penetrates the copper.

We must consider the thermal mass of the joint we
want in picking the correct soldering iron (gun).
For very small work such as soldering circuit board
components a low wattage iron (30 watts or less) is
used. For large wire connections or large switch
terminals, a soldering gun is more appropriate. Tips
should be dressed and tinned. A bright thin tinned

surface must be obtained on the tip to ensure proper heat transfer and avoid impurities to the soldered connection.

To prevent oxidation, flux must be used. Most solder that we use for electronics has a flux core. It is composed of a 60/40 compound of tin to lead. It melts at a temperature of 361 degrees and stays liquid for a while, so it is important not to move the parts until the solder has turned solid again. **Don't use plumbing solder. It has an acid core and will corrode your connections and ruin your project.** Also with much of a health concern for lead in solder, a new solder composed of tin, silver and copper has been developed for use with Europe leading the way by the Reduction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) which limits the amount of lead in any component to 0.1%.

Unfortunately most lead-free alloys are more expensive than lead alloy solders, melt at a higher temperature and thus need a higher temperature flux, and provide stronger, but more brittle solder joints.

You should always tin stranded wire before soldering it to something else. This will keep the strands together so you won't change the current carrying integrity of the wire. A good mechanical electrical connection should be made first before you solder.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

Noise floor report does not inspire confidence

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last June, the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee asked licensed and unlicensed users of the electromagnetic spectrum to answer some questions about the noise they were experiencing

and whether or not it was affecting their services. Specifically, they asked:

- * Is there a noise floor problem?
- * Where does the problem exist? Spectrally? Spatially? Temporally?
- * Is there quantitative evidence of the overall increase in the total integrated noise floor across various segments of the radio frequency spectrum?
- * How should a noise study be performed?

Well, the results are in, and Radio World recently published a summary of the responses that the FCC received (<http://www.radioworld.com/business-and-law/0009/noise-floor-where-do-we-go-from-here/338242>). The FCC received 93 replies from 73 (great number, eh?) different people or organizations, including:

- * 23 companies/industry organizations
- * 39 RF professionals (broadcast and wireless)
- * 31 licensed radio amateurs
- * 9 responders did not reply to the questions asked

Respondents included the ARRL, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, ATT, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I found especially interesting comments from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. They include:

- * Increased cooperation is needed between manufacturers of Part 15 devices and users of radio spectrum to identify noise sources and take appropriate remedial action.
- * Radiated emission limits below 30 MHz in the FCC Part 15 rules for unintentional emitters should be enacted. There are presently no radiated emission

limits below 30 MHz for most unintentional emitters.

* Reduced Part 15 limits for LED lights should be enacted to be harmonized with the Part 18 lower limits for fluorescent bulbs.

* Better labeling on packaging for Part 18 fluorescent bulbs and ballasts to better inform consumers of potential interference to radio, TV and cellphone reception in the residential environment.

* Specific radiated and/or conducted emission limits for incidental emitters, such as motors or power lines, should be enacted.

* Conducted emission limits on pulse-width motor controllers used in appliances should be enacted.

* Substantially increase the visibility of enforcement in power line interference cases.

Other organizations made similar comments.

While the report is encouraging, it won't mean a thing if no action is taken on these issues. Given that the FCC is cutting back on its field offices, and our president-elect has said that he plans to reduce the number of governmental regulations, I'm not optimistic that we'll see the noise situation get better before it gets worse. What do you all think?--

When he's not battling the noise floor at his QTH, 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.

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

Amateur Calendar

February 2 – Ground Hog Day

February 2 – RAE Club Meeting

February 4 - All Vermont QSO Party. See www.ranv.org/vtqso.html

February 4 - Minnesota QSO Party. See www.w0aa.org

February 7 – Corry Club Meeting

February 9 – Union City Wireless Club Meeting

February 11 - OMISS QSO Party. See www.omiss.net

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 14 – Wattsburg Club Meeting

February 18 - ARRL International CW DX Contest
See www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

February 18 – VE Exams

February 20 – Conneaut Club Meeting

February 22 - SKCC CW Sprint. See www.skccgroup.com

February 25 - South Carolina QSO Party. See scqso.com/rules

February 25 - North American RTTY QSO Party.
See www.ncjweb.com

February 26 - North Carolina QSO Party. See rars.org/ncqsoparty