



The QUARAE



Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2015

Prez Says.....

I hope everyone had a MERRY CHRISTMAS and got all the radio and computer equipment that you were looking for. My favorite part of the holidays is getting together with family and friends and enjoying good food and drink.

Now that we are into 2015 I am looking forward to another good year of Public Service support and also trying to get more people interested in Amateur Radio. 2014 was a good year for the RAE with improvements being made at the clubhouse, a contesting/QSO group utilizing the new amplifier and antennas, new antenna on the 82 repeater, front windows replaced, the "shack" next to the building being wired with power and antenna feed lines and a very successful Boy Scout JOTA event in October. I would like to work with the scouts and see if we can generate more interest in our hobby.

W3GV now has a 440 DStar repeater in operation at the clubhouse. We still need a permanent location with access to the Internet. We have a couple of locations in mind so hopefully we can get the repeater into one of these locations soon.

I am in the process of putting a preliminary schedule together for the 2015 Public Service events. I will get the schedule in the QUARE as soon as I can. There is a possibility that the Edinboro Triathlon will not be run this year after twenty some years. Sorry to hear that, so stay tuned.

So lets have a great 2015 with the RAE and any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions regarding the club, please let me know. THANKS & 73,

Doug AD4UL

Editor's comments

I hope every one had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I thought the combined Christmas party with WWA group was a success. Fifty four people attended. Neal Proper was picked as Ham of the Year by the WWA club.

I won a 25 dollar gift certificate from AES but traded Rich Quinn for a gift certificate from the Olive Garden. This made my wife happy because she thinks I have enough "ham" stuff. There were enough prizes that almost everyone in attendance won.

The club members have been thinking up ideas to heat the club house more economically. It seems we spent quite a bit last winter of heating oil. We plan on installing a wood pellet stove and insulating the ceiling of the club house. Some one should check in on the cost of extending the National gas line to the club house. We plan on insulating the water tank and water lines so we don't have to turn the water off and on when we visit.

We are still looking for a good home for the D-star repeater. Right now it is at the club site and we don't have a full time internet connection and it



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at the Red
Cross
Thursday January 8
7 PM- General Meeting**

Program: TBA

receives limited use. It is using the same UHF frequencies as the old Red Cross repeater. The Kenwood TS-2000 went back to Kenwood for repair. No matter what we did and we did a lot, the radio would not communicate with the new computer and or for a fact with any computer. I have not spoken to anyone at Kenwood, but I received in e-mail saying I am receiving a package maybe on Monday, January 5. They billed my credit card, \$197.69 so that means they found something wrong. I hope I can find out what was wrong. Three local hams, Ron Seyboldt, Craig Hill, and Mike Baumberger all filled some one hour slots as W1AW/3. Ron Seyboldt had the last QSO of the year at 2014-12-30 at 23:59.

I am really having bad luck with antennae. My 80 meter dipole pulley rope broke and brought the dipole down. I need to take down a 30 foot high pipe in order to string the pulley. This time I will use a wire to haul up the antenna. My miniquad is still at ground level in my back yard and my son tipped it over, (mowing the grass), breaking off some of the small brass pieces that stick out on the ends. I need to dig out the old brass and install new and get the darn thing on my roof. My problem is that I am a procrastinator.

I honestly tried to use Publisher for this month's QUARAE but it was too frustrating. Maybe next month.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

December General Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on December 4th, 2014 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. The secretary present, a quorum being present, the secretary called the meeting to order.

New Hams- three new hams, a family from Centerville

SK- David Raydo KA3AUH & W3HLM lost his daughter (Teena)

Secretary- KB3THU moved to accept the minutes as published in the QUARAE. It was seconded, and approved, motion carried.

Treasurer's report- none

Board of Directors- none

Membership- none

Repeaters- attempted to get the D-Star repeater online, the duplexers were checked for tune and ok.

Website- was asked if the meeting location could be placed on there

Newsletter- publisher is converted over to satisfy ease of publication. Email any articles to jlindvay@msn.com

Clubhouse- windows are in, done. TS 2000 was in transit to repair (mailed 3DEC2014). New computer and monitor are in and almost fully set up.

Contesting- CW contest was operated from home. 10 meter contest is the 12th & 13th.

Unfinished business- Christmas Party held at the Greene Township Building Saturday Dec 13th @ 5pm

New business- WA3MKT resigned as a board member

Good of the Order- Education will begin after January, more info to follow. Talk of a sealed bid for the TenTec was discussed (still open item)

Meeting adjourned at 1925.

Ham Column from KB6NU



How do we promote better operating practices?

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good

operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail

saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how

to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

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When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

The patron saint of poverty is St. Nickeless.

Local Hams Participate Mobile in PA QSO Party

Peter AA2AD and Laurie N3KZI operating as W3CG/xxx.

Laurie and I came home from our respective jobs today to find seven (7) County Multi-Op certificates: CLI, COL, MTR, NUM, SNY, UNI, and VEN, all in one envelope. Oh the joys of mobile operation!

Thanks Mike, thanks all. It was a blast. We know a new antenna is in order to complement the K3, and are looking at screwdrivers.

I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm clean now.

ARRL's Logbook of The World Tops 100 Million QSL Records!

The ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) online "card-less" contact-confirmation service this week recorded a new milestone -- 100 million QSL records out of some 630 million uploaded contacts. That's an increase of more than 18 million QSL records since the end of last year. First described conceptually in the October 2001 *QST* "It Seems to Us..." editorial, Logbook of The World launched in September 2003. Since then, it has become an accepted Amateur Radio institution -- perhaps not at the same level of traditional QSL cards, but close and gaining. The 100 million contact confirmations, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out, is



the equivalent of 200 million QSL cards.

"If placed end to end, that many QSLs would reach more than 17,000 miles -- not quite all

the way around the world, but enough to qualify as a 'long-path' QSO," he quipped. ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, pointed out that using LoTW can mean a considerable saving in postage for DXers and others over the expense of exchanging QSL cards.

LoTW was an instant success. Within 2 weeks of its debut, the service already had some 2200 registered users and had confirmed some 51,000 contacts out of more than 8 million uploaded. The number of users today number more than 72,000 -- up by nearly 10,000 this year alone.

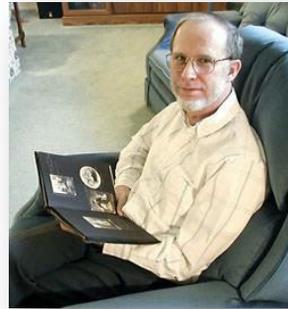
Over LoTW's 11-year lifetime, many logging programs have incorporated features to enable them to interface smoothly with LoTW. Several awards programs, starting with the ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) award, now rely largely on LoTW to determine whether an applicant has met the award's requirements. It's also made it easier for award seekers to track their progress. LoTW is the only

means to confirm ARRL Centennial QSO Party contacts. The service also supports VUCC, WAS, and WPX.

I was going to buy a book on phobias, but I was afraid it wouldn't help me.

Letter to the Editor

Hello John,



I just read the December QUA-RAE newsletter and saw your boilerplate closing at the end:

"The Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was formed over 60 years ago by a

radio enthusiast called Frank Dawson Bliley. It was his intent to form a group of individuals interested in the development and advancement of two-way communications. He devoted his entire life to his work and hobby. After his death, his family at his re-quest donated a large sum of money to the RAE. The Federal Communications Commission call sign of W3GV was also reissued to the club in remembrance of the founder."

While technically slightly inaccurate--there were seven other collaborators in its forming--I am confident, my father was the initiator of the idea, but have no proof other than the request for his call sign after his death. It was nice to see his name in print; it is an honor. Thank you.

Attached is a PDF copy of the original articles of incorporation suitable for posting on the club's Web site. I am sure you will see more than one familiar name among the signatories. Regretfully, their call

signs were omitted and I cannot remember any of them. What a shame.

Philip E. Sterner
W. C. Walter "Walt" Jordan
William F. Sommer
John V. Brotherson
Robert T. Schlaudecker
Francis "Frank" W. Ames
F. Dawson Bliley. W8GU/W3GV
W. Howard "Mac" MacIvor

By the way, the Notary Public, Kathryn Young, was a legal secretary to my father's business and personal lawyer, Isaac J. Silin. Total trivia, but of interest at least to me. ;-) I would not be surprised to find the legal address on the petition, "610 Marine Bank Building, Erie, Pennsylvania", was the location of his office at the time.

Unrelated is the huge tragedy in Don Stickich's life. I cannot fathom his loss. Please let me know if the ham radio community forms a support project that I can contribute to in some way. He is a great guy and deserves our help.

73,
Chuck Bliley
(Articles are posted. Ed.)

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Congratulations



Kudos to Frank Etzler
N8WXQ who co-authored a
paper on medications in the
JAMA Pediatrics.

Calendar

January 6 – Corry Club Meeting

January 8 – Union City Wireless Club Meeting

January 8 – RAE Club meeting at ARC.

January 10 - North American CW QSO. See
ncjweb.com

January 13 – Wattsburg Wireless Assoc. Meeting.

January 16 - Fort Meyers Hamfest.

Website: <http://www.fmarc.net>

January 17 - North American SSB QSO Party. See
ncjweb.com

January 17 – VE Testing Session 9AM at Greene
Township Bldg, Tate Road

January 19 – Martin Luther King Day

January 24 - ARRL January VHF Contest. See
www.arrl.org/contests

January 31 – Lockport Hamfest 8 AM till Noon at
South Lockport Fire Company, 5666 South Transit
Road, Lockport, NY. Admission \$5. **01/31/2015**

Website: <http://www.lockportara.us/>