



# The QUARAE



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**Our club station W3GV is the call of Dawson Bliley**

## President Says

Summer has officially arrived, lots of warm weather in store I'm sure. I hope everyone has a great summer and the weather gods are good to us!!

Well, after many, many discussions and lots of planning the 146.82 repeater now has a new antenna. It is a FOUR BAY FOLDED DIPOLE. THANKS to Andrew K3AGS and his helper Jessika for climbing the tower a few times to get the antenna up. The first trip up the tower was used to check out the hardline, as we suspected that something was wrong with either the feedline or the old antenna. As it turned out Andrew attached a 50 OHM dummy

load to the feedline and the SWR was good. The next trip up the tower was to remove the old antenna. Andrew had to tackle this job on his own. Getting the old clamps off made it a long day but the old antenna came down. Then we got rained out so another antenna party was planned. On the third trip up the tower Andrew used a pair of bolt cutters to remove the two standoffs remaining from the old antenna. Then the new antenna was hoisted up the tower using Gene's truck. When Andrew tried to mount it on the tower leg we had an interference problem so the antenna had to be moved to another leg of the tower and everything worked out. So at about 9PM on June 14 the 146.82 repeater was back on the air. I would like to THANK Rick WB3MKT and Adam KB3THU for heading up the antenna project. Supporting Andrew on the ground were Ron WB3DOM, Gene KB3JZL, Joe KA3CPV, Rick WA3MKT, Adam KB3THU and me. The new antenna seems to be



**Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting –  
July 3 at the at the clubhouse on Wagner  
Rd at 7 PM. Hotdogs at 6 PM**



**Program TBA.**

doing a good job for us and I am glad this project is complete.

As I write this note (6/24) Field Day is coming up this weekend. I hope everyone had a chance to participate in the event and stopped out at the RAE clubhouse to visit or operate.

So far we have helped out at four public service events, March of Dimes Walk, Edinboro Triathlon, MS Bike Ride and Swim Across the Bay. I have had a great response when asking for help, so keep up the good work. The next event should be the Half Marathon on July 20. So let me know if you can help.

The Wattsburg Hamfest is coming up on July 12. I hope to see ya'll there!!

73, Doug AD4UL

## **June General Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The president and secretary in attendance, a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 1900 by chair AD4UL.

Presentation- WA3MKT gave a demonstration of the 82 repeater and voter system and answered quite a few questions the membership had about the system

New Visitors- none

Silent Keys- Bill Longstreth KA2WDK

Upgrades- none

Secretary- motion by KB3THU to accept the minutes as posted, It was seconded, approved, motion carried.

Treasurer- absent, no report

Board- meeting for the board will take place June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross

Membership- 61

Public Service- Edinboro Triathlon is complete. 1/2 marathon July 20<sup>th</sup>

Website- no report

Clubhouse- no report

Contesting- 10-10 open season. June 14-15<sup>th</sup> VHF contest. June 20-21 Old Asian CW Contest. Kids Day June 21<sup>st</sup>. June 28-29<sup>th</sup> Field Day (4A)

New Business- Motion made by KB3THU to pay the club membership to the Lighthouse Society. It was seconded, and approved, motion carried. WA3MKT made a motion to pay Fred Krause \$20.00 for the repair of the 2m radio in the clubhouse. It was seconded and approved, motion carried.

Good of the order- WWA Hamfest. Two classes are going on right now, Tech and extra. WA3MKT asked if anyone was interested in building circuit and making projects. Speed limit and complaint from a neighbor on Wagner Road was discussed. WB3DEL showed the National Contest Journal and the W3GV entry.

50-50 KA3CPV

Adjourned at 2145

## **Exciting New Changes to FCC Regs**

ARLB012 FCC Okays Changes to Amateur Radio Exam Credit, Test Administration, Emission Type Rules

**In a wide-ranging Report and Order (R&O) released June 9 that takes various proceedings into consideration, the FCC has revised the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to grant credit for written examination elements 3 (General) and 4 (Amateur Extra) to holders of "expired licenses that required passage of those elements." The FCC will require former licensees - those falling outside the 2-year grace period - to pass Element 2 (Technician) in order to be relicensed, however. The Commission declined to give examination credit to the holder of an expired Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) or to extend its validity to the holder's lifetime.**

The Report and Order may be found on the web in PDF format at,

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2014/db0609/FCC-14-74A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db0609/FCC-14-74A1.pdf)

"Our decision to grant credit for written examination Elements 3 and 4 for expired licenses that required passage [of those elements] will provide some relief for former General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra class licensees," the FCC said, "and is consistent with how we treat expired pre-1987 Technician class licensees who want to reenter the Amateur Service." Pre-1987 Techs can get Element 3 credit, since the Technician and General class written examinations in that era were identical. The Commission said current rules and procedures that apply to expired pre-1987 Technician licenses "are sufficient to verify that an individual is a former licensee under our new rules."

The Commission said that requiring applicants holding expired licenses to pass Element 2 in order to relicense "will address commenters'

concerns about lost proficiency and knowledge, because a former licensee will have to demonstrate that he or she has retained knowledge of technical and regulatory matters." The FCC said the Element 2 requirement also would deter any attempts by someone with the same name as a former licensee to obtain a ham ticket without examination.

In 1997 the FCC, in the face of opposition, dropped a proposal that would have generally allowed examination element credit for expired amateur operator licenses. In the past, the FCC has maintained that its procedures "provide ample notification and opportunity for license renewal" and that retesting did not impose an unreasonable burden. The issue arose again in 2011, with a request from the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

**The FCC pulled back from its own proposal to reduce from three to two the minimum number of volunteer examiners required to proctor an Amateur Radio examination session. The ARRL, the W5YI-VEC and "a clear majority of commenters" opposed the change, the FCC said.** The FCC said it found commenters' arguments persuasive that that the use of three VEs "results in higher accuracy and lower fraud that would be the case with two VEs." In a related matter, though, the Commission embraced the use of remote testing methods.

"Allowing VEs and VECs the option of administering examinations at locations remote from the VEs is warranted," the FCC said. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in 2002 endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. The Anchorage VEC

has long pushed for the change, citing the expense to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to Alaska residents living in remote areas.

The FCC declined to address "the mechanics" of remote testing, which, it said, "will vary from location to location and session to session." The Commission said specific rules spelling out how to administer exam sessions remotely "could limit the flexibility of VEs and VECs." The FCC stressed the obligation on the part of VECs and VEs "to administer examinations responsibly" applies "in full" to remote testing.

The FCC amended the rules to provide that VEs administering examinations remotely be required to grade such examinations "at the earliest practical opportunity," rather than "immediately," as the rule for conventional exam sessions requires.

Finally, the FCC has adopted an ARRL proposal to authorize certain Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the Amateur Service. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in 2013 granted an ARRL request for a temporary blanket waiver to permit radio amateurs to transmit emissions with designators FXD, FXE, and F7E, pending resolution of the rulemaking petition.

"Commenters strongly support amendment of the rules to permit these additional emission types," the FCC noted. "The commenters assert that the proposed rule change 'is consistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service,'" and will allow repurposing surplus mobile relay equipment from other radio services in the Amateur Service, the Commission added.

The FCC said it also will make "certain minor, non-substantive amendments to the Amateur

Service rules." It is amending Part 97 "to reflect that the Commission amended its rules to eliminate the requirement that certain Amateur Radio Service licensees pass a Morse code examination," the FCC said in the R&O. It also said it was correcting "certain typographical or other errors" in Part 97.

The new rules become effective 30 days after their publication in The Federal Register, which is expected to happen this week.



### 13th ANNUAL 2014 NW PA HAMFEST

Hosted by the Wattsburg Wireless Association  
Saturday, July 12, 2014

Hamfest Opens at 7:00 am!

**PRIZES!**

Main Prize: \$150 Gift Certificate

Talk-In Prize: \$75 Gift Certificate

Entrance Tickets are \$5 at the Gate, under 16 years - free.

Advanced Tickets are \$4.

Tailgating available

Vendors spaces available. Tables prices \$5 per table at the gate, advanced \$4 **payable in advance.**

Make your plans now to attend!

You may purchase advanced tickets by mailing a #10 SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) and \$4.00 per admission ticket and \$4.00 per table to:

2014 NW PA Hamfest  
9333 Tate Rd., Room #114

Erie, PA 16509

All advanced requests must be postmarked by June 30, 2014. Ticket requests received after June 30, 2014 will be held at WILL CALL gate for you to pickup when you arrive. If you are unable to have tickets mailed to you because you are traveling, you may request that the tickets be held at the Will Call gate for you.

Please make checks payable to Wattsburg Wireless Association.

Vendors contact us for electric and special needs. Vendors can set up the evening before. Email for more info.

The Hamfest is held at the Greene Township Municipal Building  
9333 Tate Road, Erie, Pa

Convenient!!! 2 miles South on Route 8 from Interstate 90! 3 miles from Erie City line

For more information email:

[hamfest@wattsburg-wireless.us](mailto:hamfest@wattsburg-wireless.us)

Tailgating - Vendors - Prizes - Food -  
Restrooms - Off street parking  
Outdoor picnic area & grills - Large playground  
for kids - VE Exams

Talk-in on 147.315 - (CTCSS Tone None)

Ham Radio License Exams

Entrance fee per person for everyone entering  
the grounds over 16 is \$5.00

GOOD FOOD !!

July 10 – Union City Wireless Association Club Meeting

July 12 - !3th Annual NW PA Hamfest

July 19 – VE Exams at WWA on Tate Road

July 21 – Conneaut Club Meeting

August 5 – Corry Club Meeting

August 17 - FIRST Annual CARS Club Ham Fest - at Lakewood Rod & Gun Club---433 East Terrace Ave. Lakewood,NY 10 AM till ?

Auction @ 2 pm All Classes of "Ham Radio Exams Held During Day. Call-In Frequency 146.79 More Information call Dan Trippy @ 487-7592

## Ham Radio Calendar

July 1 - Corry Club Meeting

July 3 – RAE Club Meeting

July 4 – Independence Day

July 8 – Wattsburg Wireless Association Club Meeting.