



The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay

July 2017

Prez Says

June was a busy month for the Radio Association of Erie. I would like to thank all the folks that helped out with the Public Service events in June. We started off with the Edinboro Triathlon in early June. We could have used more operators for that event, there are a lot of intersections that we need to cover for the bicycle run.. Then Mike W3MJA and I did the two days MS Society Escape to the Lake 150 mile bicycle ride from Moraine State Park to Conneaut Ohio with an overnight stay at Allegheny College in Meadville. There were 650 bicycles for that event and only one minor injury for the two days so it was a great event. Three of us did the tenth and final Bay Swim from Vista 3 at the peninsula to the Erie Yacht Club. That event had 308 swimmers with lots of kayaks, boats and Presque Isle lifeguards keeping an eye on the swimmers. In fact we had Sam KB3DAF running marine mobile in a kayak. Amateur Radio support is very much appreciated by the various organizations that we assist at these events. So once again I would like to say a big THANK YOU to those who helped and I hope I can get more volunteers for the coming events. The next event will be the Erie Runners Club Half Marathon at the peninsula on Sunday July 16, so please let me know if you can help out. The other events coming up are listed on our website, w3gv.org. Finishing off June was the ARRL Field Day. I don't have the final numbers yet but the band gods were kind to us this year. We worked 20M PH and DIG, 40M PH and CW and 80M PH which were active most of the 24 hours. Because of all the rain on Friday setup day we decided to not put the tent up. Instead we decided to use the small "Igloo" for 20M so whatever the weather we would stay dry and warm. Saturday

night got pretty chilly so I was glad to be in the "Igloo" with the radio and lights keeping me warm. We had 14 visitor/operators sign in this year, I would to have had more folks operating but we did OK.

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to Gene KB3JZL and Joe KA3CPV for putting the final touched on the Handicap Ramp Project. They added the stone walkway from the ramp to the driveway so it is ready to go and it looks great.

So once again if you can help out at any of the upcoming Public Service Events please let me know.

THANKS & 73,

Doug AD4UL

Velcro - what a rip off!

June 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Began at: 7:53 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: Doug Sweet AD4UL, John Lindvay WB3IFD, Frank Etzler



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
July 6 at the club house
at the end of Wagner Rd.**

6:00 Hot dogs

7:00 PM- General Meeting

Program: TBA

N8WXQ, Ed Barlow K1ZIK, Bob Fuller N3LBI,
and Richard Quinn KB3ZVH



Members Present: Richard Cutter WA3MKT,
Richard Durning WA1YJZ, John Churchill
N3DBC, Charles Kauffman KB3RIT, Sandy
Kauffman KB3RUC, Larry Kemmler KC3JBR,
Kevin McKenna KE3V, Mike Morrison KC3GOC,
Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Ron Seyboldt WB3DOM,
Bob Sorento KC3GBD

Program: Contest Academy Presentation “Operating
for Little Pistols” provided by Frank Etzler
N8WXQ

New hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: Cody Uphoff

Treasurer’s report: \$1,288.19 in checking. Doug
Sweet gave Investment amounts.

Membership report: 15 Life members, 33 full
members, 4 free members = 52 members

Facilities Report: Richard Quinn stated that
handicap ramp is done. Doug Sweet encouraged a
round of applause for Rick Cutter, Joe Ponchak,
Gene Brinig and all others that helped complete the
project.

Web Site: None

Repeater Report: 82 is now running at 100 watts.
Rick Cutter recommended that we move the
antenna so that coverage is better towards the east.
We are going to delay antenna replacement on St.
Vincent Hospital.

Public Service: Edinboro Triathlon will be held
June 3rd. Meet at McDonald’s in Edinboro. Bay
Swim will occur on June 17. This will be the last
bay swim.

Contesting Report: None

Old Business: None

New Business: We are invited for two officers to
attend a luncheon sponsored by Boscors at the
Sheraton downtown on June 7 at noon. Field day
will be held at the club house. John Churchill is
going to supply the generator.

Meeting end at: 8:27 PM

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees,
fought prostate Cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind,
Can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, Take 40
different medications that Make me dizzy, winded, and
subject to Blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor
circulation; hardly feel my Hands and feet anymore. Can't
remember If I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank
God, I still have my driver's license.

For Sale

Your item here. Yep your item. Send your ad for
ham gear here now! Place your ad here and make
some easy money on stuff you never use.

How to Copy CW in Your Head

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about
CW is, “How do I learn to copy in my head?” When
I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very
unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold
turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never
copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGI, author of Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes",

then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah...dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a Pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code and the No Nonsense series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com

NW PA Hamfest

by Wattsburg Wireless Association



This hamfest takes place Saturday, July 8, 2017 from 7:30 AM to Noon at the Greene Township Municipal Building 9333 Tate Road, Erie Pa. 156509. 1st Prize is \$150. 2nd Prize is \$75. There are door prizes drawn every hour. VE Exams at 9AM. Entrance Fee is \$5, advance \$4. Under 16 is free. Tables are \$5, advance \$4. Tailgate and parking area free. Excellent food from the grill will be available. Payment is advance and must be received by July 1, 2017.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

Editor's Thoughts

I'm tired. Burnt out. Coming up with new stuff for the QuaRae is becoming a chore. You could help me by sending something, an article, your thoughts about ham radio, a cartoon, a story of something that happened to you. Actually just about anything would be appreciated. Does anybody actually read this club paper?

Amateur Calendar

July is a very slow month for amateur events. There are no QSO parties this month.

July 1 - [RAC Canada Day Contest](#)

July 2- [DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest](#)

July 4 – Independence Day

July 5 - [Phone Fray](#)

July 6 – RAE Club Meeting

July 8 – 2017 Northwest PA Hamfest

July 10 - [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)

July 11 – Wattsburg Club Meeting

July 13 – Union City Club Meeting

July 15 – VE Exams

July 17 – Conneaut Club Meeting