



The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

July 2018

It Seems to Me

It seems like old times. Doug AD4UL presided at the June meeting because Ed K1ZIK was sick. We had a good meeting at the club house proceeded by hot dogs, chips, and salad and a program on some of the history of Morse Code presented by Frank W8WXQ.

It was nice to see Tricia KC3DCU there. The ramp is getting some use. During field day Dave Sawicki KC3IGN who is also attached to a wheel chair visited us.

Something needs to be done about the entrance way to the basement at the club. We should put a post and chain around the opening so no one fall down the steps. Speaking of the club house, we need to also fix the wood on the east side of the garage and the wood in the main door of the garage. At the very least, we should paint. Any takers on these easy projects?

I hope Joe KA3CPV is having a good time visiting relatives in Vermont. He said he would be gone for a month. Anybody else taking a special vacation this summer or going somewhere special? Remember you can still check into the 2 meter nets via Echolink.

General Meeting Minutes for 6-7-2018

Began at: 7:33 P.M.

Board Members and Officers Present: K3plv-Craig, Kc3gbd-Bob, Ad4ul- Doug, N8wxq-Frank, Kb3zvh-Richard

Members Present:

n3srf,ad4ul,wb3ifd,kd3d,kb3zvh,kc3iyd,k3plv,kc3gbd,n8wxq,ka3plv,kb3jzl,wb3dom,wa1yz,kb3zvh

Program: Morse Code History

New Hams: None

Silent Keys: Ka3ctf Gerald Stork

Visitors: None

Treasurer's Report: \$ 1888.50 Electricity \$ 73.38
\$ 200.00 From Presque Isle Partnership

Membership Report: Mailings sent out 5-19-2018,
20 sent out

Facilities Report: None

Repeater Report: Still looking for someone to take over maintenance of the repeater

Public Service: Half Marathon at Presque Isle on 7-15-2018

Contesting Report: Field Day at club house 6-23-2018 and 6-24-2018

Old Business: Update computer to windows 10, ramp sealant needs to be done

New Business: Frank selling Radio to club. Was declined

Meeting end at: 7:56

Next Meeting 7-5-2018 at Club House

Submitted by Secretary Richard Quinn kb3zvh

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](#), 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

Ham Radio Calendar

July 1 – RAC Canada Day Contest See
<http://wp.rac.ca>

July 3 – Corry Club Meeting

July 4 – Holiday

July 5 – RAE Club Meeting

July 10 – Wattsburg Club Meeting

July 12 – Union City Club Meeting

July 14 - NW PA Hamfest 2018,Wattsburg Wireless
Association. See <http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us/>

July 16 – Conneaut Club Meeting

July 21 – VE Exams

July 21 - Batavia Hamfest Alexander, NY
Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. See <http://w2so.org>

July 21 – RTTY North American QSO Party, See
www.ncjweb.com

July 22 - CQC CW Great Colorado Gold Rush
www.coloradoqrclub.org