



Prez Says



Sitting on my patio in the 80 degree weather, clear blue skies I noticed that my stealth antenna, a GAP Titan vertical, is not so stealthy right now.

The leaves are off the maple trees in the woods behind my house where I installed my antenna. But Spring has sprung so the new leaves and whirlybirds are about to descend so it will once again will be hidden by the leaves. The HOA here frowns on visible antennas.

I made it to the Orlando Hamcation and met some of the guys from Erie. It was nice to see some familiar faces. I was also able to attend a couple of forums, one of them was talking about a red van that was called EMCOMM-1. The guy who owned it talked about all the ICOM radios that were installed that allowed him to communicate with any Public Service Groups that may be required to respond to emergencies. I guess it is available for loan and has been used at some disaster sites. I also attended a forum on the latest DSTAR equipment available. There are a lot of ways to get involved with DSTAR. They discussed the use of the Raspberry Pi micro, really some neat uses. They talked about the new Kenwood DSTAR radio.

Speaking of Hamfests, the Dayton Hamfest is coming up at it's new location and they are trying to

get a bus together to leave from Meadville. If you are interested get in touch with Mike Hall N3QQH at 814-724-8170 for more information.

I just sent the update to Paul to enter at w3gv.org the date for the March Of Dimes Walk at Behrand campus on April 30. If you can help out please let Bob N3LBI or me know. Once again we have a busy Public Service schedule again this Summer so check out the list on our website, mark your calendars and help out when you can.

As usual please check out the various nets that are available at our website and participate as much as you can. It is always good practice and a chance to check out your equipment so we will be ready if called on in an emergency. 73,

Doug AD4UL

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

2017 ORLANDO HAMCATION by K3PLV

The third largest hamfest in the world is now history. Once again Erie was very well represented at this hamfest, which ran February 10th, 11th, and 12th. The weather was very good with sun each day and the temperature running from the low 70s to the mid 80s. I have been attending this event for at least 18 consecutive years. Erie area or hams that have Erie connections attending were: Doug Sweet AD4UL, Al Platz N3JOC, Ron Ploss NT3W, Craig Hill K3PLV, Brian Hemmis K3USC, Tom Schmitz KA3CRC, Gary Alberstadt KA3FZO, Butch Peelman KB3MI, Torrey Young KB3OFD, Ron Rycek KB3QBB, Don Stichick W3HLM, Tom

Hawes WA3PRC, and Al Sarau W4QZ (ex KE3YA).

Some people drove down, some flew down, some are snowbirds, and some now live in Florida. Everyone I talked to enjoyed the hamfest a great deal. It was nice to see everyone and the sunshine was a nice break from the normal Erie February weather. Hopefully all of the attendees will once again be there next year and maybe we will convince even more Erie area people to come. There are many airlines that offer good prices. KB3OFD and myself flew from Cleveland to Orlando on Spirit Airlines and I saw prices for about \$100 round trip per person. So quit putting things like this off and plan to attend next year. You will be glad you did.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:30 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: John Lindvay WB3IFD, Doug Sweet AD4UL (via skype), Frank Etzler N8WXQ, Gene R. Brinig KB3JZL, Ed Barlow K1ZIK, Craig Hill K3PLV, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, and Bob Fuller N3LBI

Members Present: Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Ron Seyboldt WB3DOM, Bob Sorento KC3GBD, Sam Simpson KB3DAF, John Churchill N3DBC, Michael Cider KC3FCF, Mike Morrison KC3GOC, Richard Cutter WA3MKT and John Szymecki

Program: Richard Cutter gave a talk and demonstration on checking deviation using his Agilent Instrument.

New hams: None

Silent Keys: Peter A. Traphagen KN3G, and Larry Allan Rickard WB2BIS

Visitors: None

Treasurer's report: \$937.08

Membership report: 37 Members

Public Service: Doug Sweet AD4UL stated that all events are on the web page.

Facilities Report: Gene Brinig KB3JZL stated we will finish ramp this spring.

Repeater Report: Echolink is now provided by Mike Orelski N3GKS.

Contest Report: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting end at : 7:56 PM

George Younkin won the 50-50 and gave all the money back to the club

*"Scientists investigate that which already is;
engineers create that which has never been" -*

Albert Einstein

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service to Raise Rates

Although ARRL believes it's important to maintain the long-standing tradition of the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service as a membership benefit, increased administration costs will require an increase in rates, in order to keep the Service available and viable.



“The Service has been a member benefit for decades,” an ARRL statement said. “Since its official formation in November 1976, tens of millions of QSL cards have been shipped from ARRL Headquarters to Amateur Radio QSL bureaus of other

national societies worldwide. At one time, this benefit offered a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to exchange QSL cards for a fraction of the cost of the postal service. What Amateurs saved in financial cost, however, was made up for in time; it could take months, or even years, to send and receive a QSL through the bureau.”

Effective November 1, the rate for 1 ounce of outgoing QSLs via the Service will increase to match the 1 ounce USPS international postage rate. As of September 2016, this rate is \$1.15 per ounce — about 10 cards. An additional service fee of \$7 will be charged per individual transaction, to cover administrative costs.

ARRL said QSLing is very different now, and, while postal services are generally more reliable than in years past, international shipping costs have risen significantly. “With the advent of the Internet and online QSL confirmation services such as ARRL’s Logbook of The World, fewer and fewer paper cards are being exchanged,” the ARRL statement observed.

Calling the Outgoing QSL Service “a significant tradition in the world of Amateur Radio,” the League said it’s committed to keeping that tradition and service alive for members who enjoy using it. “We are committed to ensuring our members will be able to send their QSL cards through the Service for decades to come,” the ARRL statement concluded.

The one who invented the door knocker got a Nobel prize.

Some Interesting Internet Links

Associations/Clubs

ARRL – www.arrl.org
AMSAT – www.amsat.org
FISTS – www.fists.org

FLORIDA – Florida Contest Group –

www.floridacontestgroup.org

IARU – www.iaru.org

OMISS – www.omiss.net

QCWA – www.qcwa.org

RAE – www.w3gv.org

Wattsburg Wireless – www.wattsburg-wireless.us/

Union City Wireless Assoc. – wa3uc.johnlis.com/

Conneaut Wireless Club – www.qsl.net/w8bhz/

Corry Wireless Club - <http://w3yxe.wordpress.com/>

Magazines

CQ – www.cq-amateur-radio.com

Call Lookups

DX Zone – <http://www.dxzone.com>

Ham Call (Buckmaster) – <http://hamcall.net>

Ham Call Lookup – <http://hamcalllookup.com/>

QRZ – www.QRZ.com

Contesting

WA7BNM contest page –

www.hornucopia.com/contestcal

Digital

British Amateur Radio Teledata Group (BARTG) –

<http://www.bartg.org.uk/>

Digital Modes Club – <http://www.digital-modes-club.org>

European PSK Club – <http://www.eupsk.com/>

PODXS 070 Club – Penn-Ohio DX Society –
<http://podxs070.com/>

FCC

FCC – Universal Licensing System –

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

Logs

DXLab Suite – <http://dxlabsuite.com/>

Ham Radio Deluxe – www.hrdsoftwarellc.com
N1MM Logger – <http://n1mm.hamdocs.com>
N3FJP – www.n3fjp.com
Win-EQF* - www.bitwrap.no.wb
XMLog – <http://xmlog.com/>

QSLs

eQSL – <http://www.eqsl.net>
Log Book of the World -
<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

Misc.

Learn CW Online – <http://lcwo.net/>
Ham Nation – <http://twit.tv/hn>
Islands of the world – www.rsgbiota.org
10 meter beacons – www.qslnet.wj5o.bcn.htm
Band Conditions -
<http://www.cleanairwithultraviolet.com/bandconditions/>

Reverse Beacons -
<http://www.reversebeacon.net/srch.php>

Podcasts

RAIN Report (Radio Amateur Information Network) – <http://www.therainreport.com/>
Amateur Radio Newline –
<http://www.arnewline.org/>
Ham Radio Now – <http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>
K7AGE – <http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>
Ham Nation – <http://twit.tv/hn>

**A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said:
'Keep off the Grass.'**

Amateur Calendar

March 2 – RAE Club Meeting

March 4 - ARRL International SSB DX Contest.
See www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

March 5 – Warren County Hamfest

March 7 – Corry Club Meeting

March 9 – Union City Club Meeting

March 11 - SKCC CW Weekend Sprintathon. See
www.skccgroup.com

March 11 - Oklahoma QSO Party. See
k5cm.com/okqp.htm

March 11 - Idaho QSO Party. See
idahoarrl.info/qsoparty

March 12 - Pennsylvania Charter Day Special Event. WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. 14.275 7.175. QSL. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. Charter Day is the day King Charles of England granted William Penn a charter for land that would become Pennsylvania. See www.qrz.com/db/wm3pen

March 12 - North American RTTY Sprint. See
ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf

March 12 - Wisconsin QSO Party. See
www.warac.org/wqp

March 14 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

March 17 – St. Patricks Day

March 18 - Louisiana QSO Party. See
laqp.louisianacontestclub.org

March 18 - Virginia QSO Party. See
www.qsl.net/sterling

March 18 – VE Exams

March 20 – Conneaut Club Meeting

March 25 - CQ WW WPX Contest. See
www.cqwp.com/rules.htm

March 29 - Viet Nam Veteran's Day. W5KID,
Baton Rouge, LA. Baton Rouge Amateur Radio
Club. 14.270 14.230 7.280 7.230. QSL. USS KIDD
Amateur Radio Club, 305 S. River Rd., Baton
Rouge, LA 70802. Aboard the USS KIDD from
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Wednesday, March 29th,
2017 as a Salute to all Viet Nam Vets. Thank You
for your Service. See www.brac.org