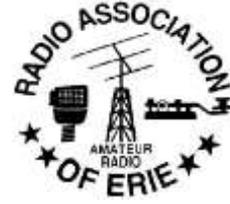




# The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

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## It Seems to Me

It is a sad day for RAE. Only ten people attended the February meeting and most of them were board members and officers. True, the weather has been lousy for the last three meetings; Snow, snow, snow.

We are still looking for someone to take care of our repeaters. Rick Cutter did it for numerous years and we would like to thank him.

Also I would like to Frank Etzler for the great presentations that he has been putting on at the meetings.

I am looking for someone with HF capability in their car. We need to go out to Presque Isle in sight of the light house and schedule a contact with VE3CBK. He needs a light house in Pennsylvania for an award. If you can do it give me a call.

WB3IFD

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## Harborcreek Ham Club update

Gentlemen,

The Area 51 student group met yesterday after school and continued to work on Amateur Radio activities. Their goal was to get the 20m antenna outside and up into the air. This was an ambitious goal considering that it was snowing.

The first step that they took was to attempt to identify areas outside of our room which could be used to tie off the ends of the 20m horizontal dipole antenna. Finding none, and knowing that we will

eventually be putting the antenna on the room and up high, they opted to build temporary supports to get the antenna off the ground. To the woodshop they went and build they did.

The students had little to no experience with woodworking, but they quickly realized that I wasn't going to be providing schematics or directions, and so it was up to them to figure out the design. When it came to using the mitre saw, band saw, and other tools, I did provide supervisory oversight and safety instruction, but ultimately it was still them that did all of the measuring, marking, choosing, and operation of tools. Seeing them use power drills for the first time was quite the comedy.

It took quite some time for the support structures to be assembled, but by around 5:00 they were up. The students chose to add 10' of 1/2" pvc pipe to an 8' 2x4 to give considerable height. Unfortunately, the PVC was not able to withstand the lateral stress of the wire pulling on it and it bent like a fishing rod. Adapt we did though and the antenna was quickly added onto the 2x4 and brought a meager 5' off the ground at the ends and 2' at the center. Nevertheless, it was sufficient to test to see the difference between the antenna inside the room (last week) and outside.

With time running against us (we end at 5:30), we scrambled to get the radio set up and connected to see if we could hear anything. A few quick turns of the VFO and bam, there was a voice, crisp and

clear. We listened for a few minutes and got a single call sign, which we looked up and found was from Texas. TEXAS! Yippe Ki Yah! We kept spinning the knob and heard about six to eight conversations across the 20m band. The students were exhausted, but thrilled. We had confirmation that the antenna works, and that was a big step forward.

This was our first time hearing voices on the radio clearly, and it was a good experience for them. They did the work, and they reaped the benefits. We didn't spend any time preparing for the test, but they gained experiential understanding which will hopefully help to motivate them to study in the future.

I appreciate the help you have given me in my pursuit of the hobby. I appreciate the support you have given to these students. With some luck, we can hopefully keep the momentum going.

I'm sending you these updates because you have all been of such tremendous help to me personally, and to the students at Harbor Creek.

Due to a variety of factors, this past Wednesday the Area 51 group met only briefly. The students set up the radio and we tested the antenna using the MFJ antenna analyzer. We charted out the dips on the antenna and compared them to the Band Chart to see which resonant frequencies are in amateur bands. We then turned on the radio and listened to the ARRL School Club roundup for a while. Once the students were done listening to other students having fun, they proceeded to practice for the test. We reviewed about 20 questions and then the students took practice tests. We saw a slight improvement over the last practice test. The hope is that the students will be ready to take the test in March or April.

We did try and talk on the antenna but weren't able to do so. I'm not entirely sure how to use the antenna tuner, nor do I know if what I'm doing is correct, but that the antenna is wonky. We have some testing to do... Hopefully we can get up and

talking by the end of May so that we can participate in the School Club Roundup in June.

Another next step is to build some copper pipe J-pole antennas. I bought the copper pipe and fittings for 3 antennas, and with the wire we were given, we should be in good shape for 2 meters. I think we'll need to find a way to analyze the antenna's characteristics to be sure we don't have too much reflected power... Not sure how to do that quite yet, but the plans seem pretty straightforward, so it shouldn't be a problem.

More fun to come this week.

-- Drew Mortensen

## **30 Meter Multi Mode Weekend**

When: March 16th and 17th 2019

Where: 10 MHz - 30 Meter Band (10.100 – 10.150)

Objective: To promote experimenting and using different digital modes on the unique 30 Meter Band

Please join in if you have time this weekend. Those of you who want to participate using the more common modes of CW, FT8, BPSK31, RTTY, we welcome that, but those wanting to try other less used modes please do so and turn your RSID/TXID on to help others know what mode you are transmitting (common modes i.e. BPSK31/RTTY no need for RSID, do use RSID on the less common/exotic modes i.e. QBSK/HELL/MSK/DOMINOEX/THOR/THROB/CONTESTIA/OLIVIA/etc.).

A number of digital mode groups will be participating this weekend so if you have wanted to try out a new digital mode or make some contacts using less common digital modes this weekend might be of interest to you. There are a number of multi-mode digital software programs so this is also a chance to get on the 30 Meter Band to try them out. Most of them have RSID/TXID (Reed Solomon Identifier- automatic mode detection and tuning which will help or aid for the less commonly

used digital modes so turn on the RSID/TXID).

This event is NOT a contest...no set times...no rules...no exchanges...no logs to send in or to anyone....no winners other than those that participate with casual use of the 30 Meter Band knowing that others with like interests will be on this weekend to experiment, ragchew, DX and have some fun trying different digital modes!

Where on the 30 Meter Band to find different digital mode activity:

*(Note: these are suggested only and observations of known digital mode activity....all dial frequencies are USB for digital modes.....below " \*\*\*\* " indicates for the more active or used frequencies/modes)*

10.100 - 10.130 CW \*\*\*\*

10.130 - FT8Call

10.132 - SSTV-Narrow (MP73-N) Region 2

10.132 - 10.134 ROS Region 1 (Region 2 - note not legal in USA)

10.135 - OPERA

10.136 - FT8 (WSJT) \*\*\*\*

10.138 - JT65 JT9 (WSJT)

10.1386 - MEPT/WSPR

10.138 - 10.140 - JT65 (WSJT)

10.1405 - PROPNET & PropNet Robots (BPSK31)

10.140 - 10.141 BPSK31 QRP

10.140 - 10.142 BPSK31 - DX Region 1,2,3 (or BPSK/QPSK,31,63,125,etc.) \*\*\*\*

10.142 - 10.144 RTTY

10.145 RTTY,MFSK,THOR,THROB,DOMINO,OLIVIA,CONTESTIA, SIM31,etc. -*note:Turn on TXID/RXID*

10.144 - FeldHELL (10.137 - 10.144)

10.144 - SSTV-Narrow (MP73-N) Region 1

10.142 - 10.144 - ALE-400hz

10.145 - 10.148 - ALE-2khz

10.147 – 10.148 PSKMail/APRS

10.1491 - 10.1495 APRS

For a more detailed 30 Meter Band Utilization Chart our digital friend Ian G3NRW has helped us on that so please go here: <http://g3nrw.net/30m/>

Operating hints for the weekend:

- Do use RSID (RXID/TXID) for the less common/exotic modes (i.e. Contestia,Olivia,Domino,etc)
- Do CQ with RSID for more than just a few of CQ's, don't expect to have someone to reply on a less common used mode the first few CQ's...give it a while for others to find you and the mode being used
- Do use good operating habits – clean signal, lowest wattage to complete the QSO, QRL in common mode first, if band is busy or crowded spread out or use narrower width modes (i.e. if band is busy don't use OLIVIA 8/500 in the middle of the 30 Meter PSK 10.141 portion of the Band-not good operating habit if the band is busy and you will not make many friends)
- Do not let not having a dedicated 30 meter antenna stop you from joining in....load up what antenna you do have and give it a go on 30 meters.
- Do have fun and compare modes, wattage, antennas, etc with other operators that are interested to do the same..most the 30 Meter Digital Operators are not Call,599,73 most want a QSO (even DX) but also keep in mind that for poor band conditions or weak signal work WSJT modes of FT8 (JT65/9) is hard to beat!

\*\*\*\*Please note we are secondary users of the 30 Meter Band and to use good operating procedures <http://www.30mdg.org/tips.html>

Have fun and hope to see you on the waterfall!

Thanks from the 30 Meter Digital Group (30MDG) celebrating over 10 years and 10,000 members on the 10mhz 30 Meter Band!

Don kb9umt 30MDG#00001

March 16 - 30 Meter Multi Mode Weekend  
See article

# Radio Calendar

March 2 - ARRL International SSB DX Contest,  
See [www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

March 17 – Saint Patrick’s Day

March 18 – Conneaut Club Meeting

March 2 - Novice Rig Roundup See  
<http://novicerigroundup.com>

March 3 – Birthday of Alexander Graham Bell,  
Scotch Born American Physicist, famous for  
inventing the telephone.

March 5 – Corry Amateur Radio Club Meeting

March 7 – RAE Club meeting at the Red Cross  
Building.

March 9 - Oklahoma QSO Party. See  
[k5cm.com/okqp.htm](http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm)

March 9 - Idaho QSO Party. See  
[idahoarrl.info/qsoparty](http://idahoarrl.info/qsoparty)

March 9 - Warren County Hamfest 2019. See  
<http://www.kb3bsa.com>

March 10 - All Wisconsin QSO Party. See  
[warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm](http://warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm)

March 11 – Birthday of Vannevar Bush, electrical  
engineer, developer of the first electronic analog  
computer.

March 12 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

March 16 – VE Session at Greene Township  
Building.

March 16 - Louisiana QSO Party. See  
[laqp.louisianacontestclub.org](http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org)

March 16 - Virginia QSO Party. See  
[qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party](http://qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party)