



The QUARAE



Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2014

Editor: John Lindvay WB3IFD

Our club station W3GV is the call of Dawson Bliley

President Says

The first of May is almost here and there is still ice on the lake! What a winter here in good ole Erie, PA. I should have stayed in Florida a few days longer. Two days after I got back it snowed!! I was glad my wife has been carrying a snowbrush in the back of her car for the last 40 yrs or so, it came in handy. Oh well, other than the weather it is good to be back.

I drove down to Raleigh, NC last week for the annual RARSFest, I am still a member of that club and I go back every year to help out at the hamfest. I have a good time and get to have “eyeball QSO’s” with my ham friends and also get to have lunch with some of my IBM friends. I did pick up a couple of items I was looking for. I ordered a D-Star DVAP that will allow me to get into the D-Star system using the D-Star HT that I picked up at the Orlando Hamcation. By the way Mike N3GKS has a D-Star node set up at his house using 145.50 Simplex. Anyone who has D-Star capability can give it a try. I would like to see a D-Star repeater set up in the Erie Area. By the way it was just as cold in Raleigh as it was in Erie.

As I write this we will be doing our first Public Service event of the year for the March of Dimes. I would like to thank Bob N3LBI for getting volunteers for the walk. I am looking forward to the events we will be doing this summer, so please help out when you can.
73, Doug AD4UL

April General Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held April 3rd, 2014 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. In attendance were AD4UL via skype, the secretary present, a quorum also present, the meeting was called to order by AD4UL at 1900.

**Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting –
May 1 at the at the clubhouse on
Wagner Rd at 7 PM. Hotdogs at 6 PM**



Program TBA.

Presentation- ARRL CD about the history of the ARRL

New hams- none

Visitors- Dave Dukes

Silent keys- none

Secretary's report- motion by KB3THU to accept the minutes as published, seconded. It was approved, motion passed.

Treasurer's report- given by KB3ZSF. Next month's electric bill was to be back to normal due to the physical reading of the meter.

Board of Directors- WB3IFD stated board recommended 2 laptops and one desktop. Open House chairperson was WB3DEL. Looking into commercial help to climb the 82 tower to replace the antenna. Antennas proposed were a 4 dipole array for aprox. \$1100, and an 8 dipole array for \$2000. Voter is in the GE rack and the crystal arrived. Hotspot's future and restrictions were discussed at the board meeting as well.

Membership- Guest Dave Dukes introduced himself. Interested in becoming a member. Motion made by KB3THU to accept Mr. Dukes as an associated member. It was seconded and approved. Motion carried. KA3CPV made a motion to accept KB8JVW as a member. It was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

Repeaters- Proposals to the membership about the 82 antenna. More discussion in future meetings needed. It was proposed to the club about the possibility of the 61 repeater moving to the 911 center. Echolink and the remote base seemed to be good.

Public Service- March of Dimes walk is coming up. List of public service is posted www.w3gv.org

Website- WB3IFD reported all is okay, traffic was needed on the website

Newsletter- published. Articles were completed for the next couple months. As always WB3IFD will take your articles. Contact him at jlindvay@msn.com. It was also suggested to stop the physical mailing of the newsletter with a few exceptions.

Clubhouse- KB3THU was to arrange with Scotty about getting a quote on the windows. K3PLV made a motion to purchase the 2 refurbished laptops KB3THU acquired and to purchase another desktop computer. It was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

Contesting- WPX CONTEST and results of paper logging. Logs were not submitted in time due to problems merging and sending in logs. WB3DEL made a motion to have a \$20.00 limit on major ARRL contests to provide some food. It was seconded and approved. Motion carried. Open house committee was formed.

New business- KB3ZSF asked for a money transfer. It was to be determined later after all proposals were in and approved before any transfer. Wattsburg Wireless Association sent us two tickets to the NWPA hamfest. These tickets were to be raffled off at the May meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 2033

Law of the Result- When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

March Board Meeting Minutes

A board meeting of the Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was held on March 27th, 2014 at the Erie chapter of the American Red Cross. In attendance were AD4UL via Skype, WA3MKT, KB3THU, WB3IFD & N3LBI. Absent KB3NAT, K3PLV & KB3ZSF. AD4UL called the meeting to order at 1900.

Clubhouse- cleanup date is April 26th, 2014

Public Service-March of Dimes walk April 27th 2014

Membership- board discussed ways of getting more people involved

Tower work- explored the option of hiring someone to climb the Waterford tower. Antenna proposals were given by WA3MKT, including a second antenna half way up the tower for future use.

WB3DEL- Thanked the club for the tower and station at the clubhouse. Hotspot cost him \$1.05 plus the \$20.00 per month for the service with a \$100.00 credit the following month. None of the existing computers will connect to the hotspot. The usb adapter purchased will not connect with it either. Proposed to purchase 3 new computers. Quotes included Lenovo sku #3275056 \$329, Acer Spire sku#5009057 \$409, & Lenovo sku #57323995 \$449 at Best Buy. Contest logs were not sent in. ARRL SB log was not printed out properly and was rejected. Power level was missing and the country was in that field. Budget for the weekend contesting was also asked for. Mike also volunteered to be the public affairs chairperson for the clubhouse.

KB3THU proposed to purchase two refurbished laptops for \$200

TS2000 still has a problem communicating through the RS232.

WB3DEL was going to send out an email to the reflector for volunteers for the open house. Open house and field day being held on the same day was also discussed.

Motion to adjourn at 2036

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

Clarence Darrow

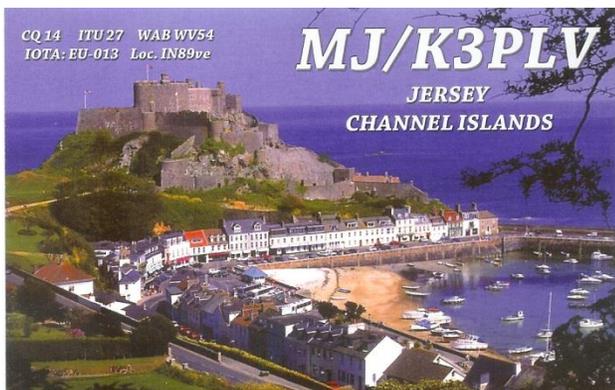
Casual DXing

By Craig Hill, K3PLV

Well another trip to the island country of Jersey has come to a close. I flew out March 17th for an 11 day trip. I flew from Erie to Philadelphia, Philadelphia to Manchester England, and Manchester to Jersey. Jersey is located about 14 miles off the coast of France, and 100 miles south of England. It is the sunniest of all the British isles and has it's own government, currency, and postage stamps. It does have close ties to the U.K. The trip was uneventful except for one minor problem. I asked the women at US Air if my bag could be checked all the way through to Jersey. She said "no" that I would have to go through customs in Manchester, pick up my bag, and then go back through security. When I arrived, I went through customs, and then to the baggage belt. My bag did not show up. It turned out that the bag was checked through to Jersey. As a result I walked about 3 miles to get back to where my flight went out. Oh well, that's part of traveling.

I arrived on Jersey about 11:00 am local time, met the woman who had my hire car (rental

car), drove her to her office in the capital, and then to our guest house. I dropped off my baggage and drove to the car park, about ¾ of a mile away. I rested for a little over an hour and then retrieved my car and drove back to the airport to pick up my friend, K8PT. I dropped him off, parked again ¾ of a mile away and went back to rest. We rested about 2 hours and then I drove to the Jersey Amateur Radio Society club station. We set up and my friend, MJ1CYD stopped by to visit. After he left, we operated for about 2 hours and then went out to get something to eat. Then we went back to the club station for some more operating. We broke off early (about 9 pm) and drove back to the car park and the guest house. Needless to say, I was a little tired.



The next morning we met for breakfast at the guest house at 8 am. A full English breakfast consists of a choice of cereal, prunes, fruit juice, bacon (not smoked), sausage, baked beans, a grilled tomato, egg, toast and tea or coffee. After 9 days of this I don't want to see a prune or baked beans for a long time. Every day is groundhog day. We eat, drive to the station, operate until about 1 pm, go out to eat, back to the station, operate until about 7, out to eat, and then back to the station until about 10:30. We used to operate until about 2 am, but we're

getting old and can't stay up that late. We only did one night until about 1:30 am. this trip.

I used the club FT-1000 MP, and an Acom 1010 amplifier. Unfortunately there had been a bad storm a week before we arrived and it wiped both the Opti-beam and the log-periodic. The club members managed to get the log periodic down, repaired, and back up the tower. But the opti-beam was damaged worse and will wait until later to be repaired. Some of the wire antennas were also damaged so we used the 160 meter dipole for the second station. Each day we would trade off antennas. My friend's station was a FT-900 (his) and our SB-200 we shipped over some years ago. But unfortunately the SB-200 broke down after about three days. I would go to my friend's house some days for several hours and K8PT would use the FT-1000, Acom amp, and log-periodic.

Conditions on most bands, especially 10 and 12 meters were great. Japan would be open for about 3 hours with large pile-ups in the morning. Then North and South America would be open for many hours. I never remember working so many west coast stations. I worked many stations running QRP and many mobile stations. Of course Europe was always open. I worked many Erie and Erie related hams. WB3DOM, KB3DPM, KB3OFD, KB2OUA, K3SBU, WA3PRC, W3BBO, W2FD, KA3CRC, KB3MI, NT3W, K2OF, W3YX, K3LRI, WA3IFD, KJ4LAA, KD8TIZ, WW3S, K3TLP. (KJ4LAA and KD8TIZ were students I had that got started in amateur radio because of me). I also had many stations call me that usually we have to break the pileup to work, such as BV, BA, VU, OD, 9K, A9, 4J, 9M2, 9M6, YB, V5, TJ, 5R, and FO. I worked all 50 states and well over 100 countries. I made over

4,100 QSOs and now have over 40,000 QSOs from Jersey. My friend, K8PT, made over 3,900 QSOs this trip. On our final day we quit early, packed up, and our friend and his wife picked us up and drove us to an Italian restaurant in the capital city of St. Helier. We had a great dinner, went back to our guest house, and got up early (went to get the car at 1:15 am Erie time). I flew from Jersey to London Gatwick, took the bus to London Heathrow, then to Philadelphia, and back to Erie. I thought I might miss my Heathrow flight as the terminal I was flying out of was the final bus stop. But I made the flight by minutes. Over 50 QSLs were waiting for me to answer when I got home and many more came the next days. And that's what we call a casual DXpedition. Everyone should think about trying one. 73, K3PLV

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Where did my signal go ?

Bill, KD8HSI

At one time I was able to get into the 210 repeater ok. In fact I acted as the 2 Meter Net Controller at times. In an effort to improve my signal to the 147.210 repeater, I replaced my rooftop antenna with a 2 Meter / 440 dual band beam antenna and mounted it on my tower. Transmission and reception was only slightly improved. All of a sudden reception got so bad I could no longer receive clearly enough to hear the 2 Meter repeater. By the way, the 444.8125 repeater transmitted and received loud and clear. After talking with other Hams and listening to various conversations on HF about interference,

I got a few clues. Defective GFI outlets, electric heat thermostats, and LED lamps.



Thinking about my problem, I realized that I do not have the interference during the day when it is light. I do not have GFI outlets and my baseboard heating is on all day, so those two are not the problem. That evening when the interference came back, I turned off all the lights. Interference was gone. I turned lights back on one at a time and when I got to the kitchen lamp on the counter, the interference returned. Problem found. After searching the internet about this problem, I found out that this is a common problem. This is especially true with inexpensive LED lamps, because manufacturers try to cut construction costs. The Light Emitting Diodes themselves do not generate any detectable noise. The switching power circuitry driving the LED's operate at high frequencies, which, when not properly filtered can result in electromagnetic interference. Based on the reported experiences of some LED users, interference issues and, occasionally EMC violation, can arise as a result of radiated emissions in the 30MHZ to 300MHZ range by some LED products. The LED lights most commonly involved are of fixture type MR16, however radiated emissions have been found in other fixture types. 2 Meter repeaters

fall in this 30MHZ to 300MHZ range.
My conclusion would be to not buy cheap when purchasing LED lamps. As I mentioned before, manufacturers can sell cheaper because of lower manufacturing costs, which effects quality.

Borrowed from the PATCH Newsletter of the Lake County Amateur Radio Association in OH.

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Local Ham Gets Letter From FCC

Monitoring Station K734B
Federal Communications Commission
P.O. Box 19873
Washington DC 20018

Richard T. Quinn, KB3ZVH
419 Oregon Avenue, Apt 6
Erie, PA 16505

Dear Sir,

On March 1, 2014, our monitoring station recorded you operating on 14.222 MHz, using A3j emission. As you should be aware, this frequency is not allowed to be used by a holder of a General Class license. The penalty for out of band operation is a maximum fine of \$5,000 for every day the offense occurs, suspension of your operators license, and revocation of your station license. You are required to notify us in the next 30 days detailing the steps you are taking to keep this action from happening again. Should you not respond to this request in the next 30 days, further action will be taken.

Thank you,

Samuel Douglass

KB3ZVH KB3ZVH, Richard Quinn in his enthusiasm to work some new rare DX did a no-no and transmitted out of band. Needless to say he got the contact and also received a letter.



Rich Quinn and Ron Seybolt discussing what to do about the FCC letter.



Our New Linear

Ham Radio Calendar

- May 1 – RAE Club Meeting
- May 3 – Spring Ten-Ten CW Contest. See www.ten-ten.org
- May 3 - 7th Area QSO Party. See 7qp.org
- May 3 - Indiana QSO Party. See www.hdxcc.org/inqp
- May 3 - New England QSO Party. See www.neqp.org
- May 4 – Ripley Hamfest. Contact Bob Fuller n3lbi@roadrunner.com with any questions.
- May 6 – Corry Club Meeting
- May 8 – Union City Club Meeting
- May 10 - Nevada Mustang Roundup. See www.nvqsoparty.info
- May 11 – Mother's Day

May 15 - 30 Meter Mobile Beacon **W0B**, Nixa, MO. Beacon Busters. 18.113 10.129. QSL. Al Gallo, 1730 State Hwy HH, Highlandville, MO 65669. An experimental 30 meter mobile beacon giving up to date grid squares will be on the air starting May 15 on 10.129. W0ERE and NOSAP will be running 3 watts to a quarter wave trailing wire floating in free space on our trip from Missouri to the Dayton Hamvention. We will monitor 18.113 for live signal reports and also looking for reports via email or audio files. The beacon will be back on the air May 19th on our return trip. See w0ere@hotmail.com

May 16 – Dayton Hamvention
See <http://hamvention.org>

May 17 – VE Exams at Wattsburg Club

May 18 – Corry Club VFW Breakfast

May 24 - CQ WW WPX Contest. See www.cqwp.com

May 26 – Memorial Day

May 31 – Edinboro Triathlon

June 1 – Butler Breezeshooters Hamfest