



# The QUARAE



Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2017

## April 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Began at: 7:45 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: Doug Sweet AD4UL (via Skype), John Lindvay WB3IFD, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, Ed Barlow K1ZIK, Bob Fuller N3LBI, and Frank Etzler N8WXQ

Members Present: Richard Cutter WA3MKT, Richard Durning WA1YJZ, Michael Morrison KC3GOC, Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Bob Sorento KC3GBD, Ron Seybolt WB3DOM, George Younkin N3SRF and John Szymecki

Program: Frank Etzler N8WXQ showed a video on Navassa Island Dxpedition.

New hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: Treasurer's report: \$1,247.95 Check for Website not yet cashed.

Membership report: 16 Life Members, 27 Full Members, and 3 Free Members

Facilities Report: Richard Quinn is heading up the April 29 Clubhouse Clean-up

Repeater Report: Richard Cutter is going to install repeater diagnostics that can be accessed via touch tones. He wants to eventually place a directional antenna on the tower to give better access to the Edinboro area via a voter system. Also he mentioned about replacing the .61 antenna on St Vincent Hospital. He asked for a special board meeting to discuss specific improvements to repeaters.

Public Service: First event will be the March of Dimes Walk at Behrend. A sign-up sheet was passed around by Bob Fuller N3LBI

Contesting Report: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Bob Fuller N3LBI announced the Ripley Hamfest will take place in May. Craig Hill is still in hospital. He has been moved to Specialty Select and can have visitors for short periods of time.

Meeting end at: 8:10 PM

No 50/50.

Respectfully submitted.

John Lindvay

## Interesting gadgets I wish I had time for

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

Android antenna analyzer

On Reddit, some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer. Its frequency range is 1 – 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots.

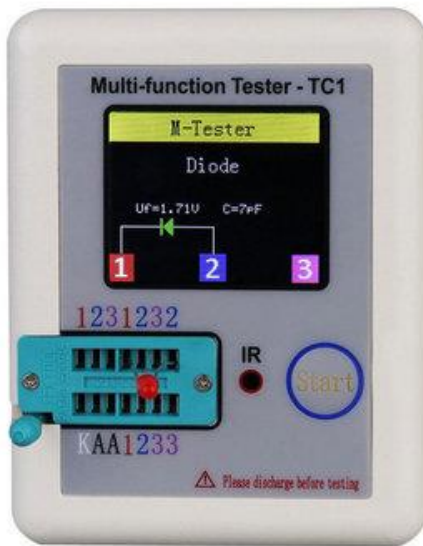


Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

### Multi-functional component tester

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture – a smart component tester ([http://www.banggood.com/3\\_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html](http://www.banggood.com/3_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html)) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.

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This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzWg>

### Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC ([https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et\\_cid=28941683&et\\_rid=1231362216&cmp=](https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=)

. The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (upto 1TB)
- Real Time Clock to keep track of time
- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

When he's not drooling over electronic gadgets, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## The North Hills Amateur Radio

**Club** is sponsoring a special event

station K3M as part of the Mars New Year Celebration on Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6th at the Mars Area History and Landmarks Museum in Mars, PA. The Martian Solar Year is 1 year 322 days and this is the second Mars New Year Celebration in Mars, PA. NASA will be in force with displays and fun games. This event features displays and educational programs from the Mission to Mars by NASA, as part of the NASA STEM Education program.

The NHARC will have an HF operating station, operating 80-10 on CW and SSB. We will also be on the D-Star REF0063C reflector as well as using a handheld satellite HT. ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Officials will be on hand to support the activity. Local Amateurs will demonstrate their homebuilt radio devices, and a D-Star hot spot will be running on a Raspberry Pi.

K3M, Mars, PA. North Hills Amateur Radio Club. 14.255 14.055 7.235 7.055. Please send a SASE for QSL to Al Houston N2MA, 281 Forsythe Rd, Mars, PA 16046.

# Amateur Calendar

May 2 – Corry Amateur Club Meeting.

May 4 – RAE Club meeting.

May 6 - 10-10 International Spring CW Contest. See [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

May 6 - 7th Call Area QSO Party. See [ws7n.net/7QP](http://ws7n.net/7QP)

May 6 - Indiana QSO Party. See [www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html](http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html)

May 6 - FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint. See [fistsna.org](http://fistsna.org)

May 6 - Delaware QSO Party. See [www.fsarc.org/qsoparty](http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty)

May 6 - New England QSO Party. See [www.neqp.org/rules.html](http://www.neqp.org/rules.html)

May 7 – Ripley, NY Hamfest

May 9 – Wattburg Club Meeting

May 11 – Union City Club Meeting

May 11 – NAQCC CW Sprint. See [naqcc.info](http://naqcc.info)

May 13 - Arkansas QSO Party. See [www.arkqp.com](http://www.arkqp.com)

May 14 – Mother's Day

May 19 – Ohio State Convention (2017 Dayton Hamvention)

May 20 – **No VE Exams**

May 20 - EU PSK DX Contest. See [www.eupsk.com](http://www.eupsk.com)

May 27 - CQ WW WPX Contest. See [www.cqwp.com](http://www.cqwp.com)

May 29 – Memorial Day

June 1 - RAE Club Meeting

June 3 - Rochester Hamfest. See  
<http://www.rochesterham.org/hamfest.htm>