



The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay

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It Seems to Me

Spring has finally arrived. I hate snow. I had an incident with my snow blower last winter that put me in the hospital for six days. My wife has learned how to operate the infernal machine in my place.

It is time to do some work on my antennas. That seems to be the trouble now days. Everybody is getting older and can't do the things that need to be done. We need some new blood. As Joe KA3CPV jokingly suggests that one of the requirements for people taking the Tech test, "Ask them if they can climb" and if they says yes, then they pass the test. Everybody depends on Rick WA3MKT. He is burned out. So we need new people. New young people. (At least under 50).

The Wattsburg club wants to put the ARRL handbook in every high school in the county. This seems like a good idea, but at \$50 a handbook, very expensive. We can get the scouts involved like they did in Warren County, but we need someone to take up the torch. Also we can put on ham classes and do demonstrations at the schools. Anybody else have any ideas? John WB3IFD

November 5, 2017 is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Hope you didn't forget to set your bathroom scale back ten pounds on Saturday night.

April 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:07 PM
Board Members and Officers Present: George Younkin N3SRF, Craig Hill K3PLV, Gene Brinig

KB3JZL, Ed Barlow K1ZIK, Frank Etzler N8WXQ, Ron Seiboldt WB3DOM
Members Present: Kevin McKenna KE3V, John Church N3DBC, Bob Fuller N3LBI, Richard Durning WA1YJZ, Sam Simpson KB3DAF, Chuck Kaufman KB3RIT, John Lindvay WB3IFD
Program: None
New hams: None
Silent Keys: Steve Miller WB3WBT
Visitors: Torry Young KB3OFD
Treasurer's report: \$1,640.08 in checking account
Membership report: 22 paid members. There was quite a discussion about how to get new members in club. Nothing was acted on.
Directors Report: N3SRF George Younkin, reviewed current RAE Board of Directors decision to continue suspension for a request for 2018 membership from a previous RAE member suspended in 2013. There will be an audit of financials. Adam Kernohan KB3THU said he will continue to be trustee although he was not at meeting. Check on insurance of equipment/also liability insurance. Web page is paid for next two years.
Facilities Report: None
Repeater Report: We need someone to work on repeaters
Public Service: Chuck Kaufman KB3RIT, talked about the Memorial Day Freedom Challenge that takes place on April 28th
Contesting Report: None
QuaRae Report: John Lindvay WB3IFD said QuaRae is posted on web site. He will check to see if there is a way to measure "hits" on website.
Old Business: Sent out email asking membership about working field day. Received two replies. One person was interested. One person said they

are working field day somewhere else. Plan is to continue to have field day at club house.

New Business: Next meeting will take place May 3rd at Wagner Rd club house. Hot dogs will be available.

Meeting end at: 8:40 PM

No 50/50 was held.

by Richard Quinn KB3ZVH

I don't have white hair, I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise.

Ripley Hamfest is Coming!

May 6 from 8AM to 1PM The hamfest is held at the Ripley Fire Station. 11 South State Street, Ripley, New York.

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

QUARAE Articles

We need membership help with articles for the QuaRae. Almost anything will do. A cartoon, a photograph, thoughts on Ham Radio. I like to thank all the people who have contributed in the past. But don't rest on your laurels. Keep sending material to John Lindvay. My email is jlindvay@msn.com.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

“Alexa, help me with ham radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an [Amazon Alexa](#) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called [Continuous Wave](#). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code. To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt... • Learn • Practice • Alphabet • Common words • Random words • Words •

Sentences • Call signs • Contest • Quick Brown Fox • QSO • Help • Stop – To end your session. I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only. Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command “learn,” it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed. Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill. Other ham radio skills While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found: • [Ham Exam](#). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool. • [Ham Lookup](#). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database. • [Ham Radio Propagation Forecast](#). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by NONBH). • [ARRL Audio News](#). It adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing. You can build your own voice app. The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at [VoiceApps.Com](#). Two other websites—[Pullstring](#) and [StoryLine](#)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier. Since I'm currently in the process of updating my No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide, it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](#), teaches ham

radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

The Fate of the PA QSO Party

The first news is just a report that the plaques are still at the engravers. They will be mailed out immediately after they are picked up.

The second and more important PAQSO Party news is that after 17 years, and 13 of them as Chairman, I am retiring. I'd given notice after the party, with few details, but the situation has cleared now, and it is time to move forward. I have other aspects of Amateur Radio I want to experience, and with Mark NK8Q and myself doing the party work, with Elaine K3ERP doing the financials - it simply gobbles almost all of my time. In conjunction with the board of directors of NARC, (I am Vice President) we set up a process for other NARC members to take over the administration of the party, with me acting as a consultant. We had a few bites, but after being presented with the scope of the effort, they thought better of it. In order to provide a timely transfer, a date of April 30th was decided upon as the in-club deadline. We did have one outside bite, but was not successful in getting their club members to move forward on it.

Since that effort fell through, we move on to the next phase. We are putting out the call for another club to take over the Pennsylvania QSO Party and administer it, and hopefully do a much better job than I have.

This is a chance to place a club's imprint upon the QSO Party/Contesting world.

The successful candidate will get the copyright to the name, a transfer of the database files, and a certain level of consultation from me (if any is wanted) If any group is interested in taking over the Party, get in contact with me. I suggest a certain amount of expediency is important, as the next party is only 6 months away,

and preparations must be made. If no joy on that, the 2017 Pennsylvania QSO Party will have been the finale.

- 73 Mike N3LI -

Ham needs Help

John Yochim, KD3KEM needs someone to build and install a vertical antenna at his home. Due to John's health he cannot do the work. John has the new vertical antenna at his house still in the box. John lives in Fairview and can be reached at 833-0169. With weather improving any help would be greatly appreciated.

Calendar

May 1 – Corry Amateur Club Meeting

May 3 – Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting at clubhouse, end of Wagner Road

May 3 - NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest. See www.nrau.net/activity-contests

May 5 - 10-10 International Spring Contest. See www.ten-ten.org

May 5 7th Call Area QSO Party. See ws7n.net/7QP

May 5 - Indiana QSO Party. See www.hdxcc.org/inqp

May 5 - Delaware QSO Party. See www.fsarc.org

May 5 - New England QSO Party. See www.neqp.org

May 6 – Ripley Hamfest.

May 8 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

May 10 – Union City Amateur Radio Club Meeting

May 12 - Arkansas QSO Party. www.arkqp.com

May 13 - Mother's Day

May 18 -Great Lakes Division Convention (Dayton Hamvention) in Xenia, Ohio. See <http://hamvention.org>

May 19 – VE Session

May 19 - 150th Anniversary of Tabasco Pepper Sauce by W%DDL. See www.w5ddl.org

May 21 – Conneaut Club Meeting

Keep scrolling!

Local Nets UHF/VHF/HF

DAY	TIME	FREQ	MODE	COMMENTS
SUNDAY	7PM	50.190	USB	6MTR SSB NET
SUNDAY	9PM	146.61/82/70	FM	ARES/RACES TNG NET
MONDAY	8PM	144.450	AM	2 METER SIMPLEX
TUESDAY	8PM	50.400	AM	6 METER AM NET
WED	6:30PM	146.61/82	FM	NBEMS NET
THU	8PM	144.210	USB	210 ROUND-UP
FRIDAY	8PM	144.210	USB	210 ROUND-UP
SAT	8PM	50.400	AM	6 METER RAGCHEW
DAILY	8PM	146.61/70/82	FM	MAIL BAG NET
DAILY	9PM	146.61	FM	RAG CHEW NET
LOCAL HF NETS				
DAILY	8AM	14.340	USB	FORT PIERCE NET
DAILY	6:30PM	7.233+or-	LSB	ERIE CONNECTION
WED	8PM	28.410	USB	NOVICE TECH NET
SUNDAY	8PM	29.000	USB	LAKE ERIE EMERGENCY NET

HF = RED 2 METER = BLACK 6 METER = BLUE