



The QUARAE



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Prez Says



Well I have joked for years about when I leave for Florida, 40 degrees or the first snow flake. Well this year the joke was on me. When we left Erie Saturday morning my wife made a comment, what is that white stuff on the ground? On I-79 in McKean it was snowing and it stuck to the ground for a little bit. It looks like we got out of town just in time. We had an easy trip to Florida, no problems with the traffic or the weather. The weather here in Florida is pretty warm, in the mid 80's most of the time, oh well it beats the white stuff.

I was listening to a JOTA station on one of the 2M repeaters down around Pittsburg and they had the kids taking turns talking to a station set up to chat. It sounded like they were at a park with a lot of other activities going on. The kids were going to shoot BB guns, fish, bow & arrow shooting and of course talking on the radio. I talked to Gerry W2FD who with help of Mike KC3FCF set up an HF and 2M stations at the church in McKean. Sounds like the kids were mostly Cub Scouts and those that wanted got a chance to talk on the radio. I would like to thank Gerry and Mike for getting the stations on the air and hanging around most of the day.

I haven't been able to call my 9PM Rag Chew Net since I arrived in Florida. The Echolink system is still not fully operational. I can hear the repeater but

it can't hear me yet. I was on the phone last week with John WB3IFD trying to get the system up. We are halfway there. I miss the net but hopefully the system will be on the air shortly.

I still need to get my HF Vertical up in the woods behind my house. I am in a deed restricted neighborhood but with the big trees in my backyard I can hide the GAP Vertical so it can't be seen from the road. I use a copper pipe J pole in the attic for 2M and it seems to work pretty well.

Don't forget that the club meetings are now back at the Red Cross building for the winter months. Also we are going to try a "Trunk of Junk", a mini hamfest in the parking lot before the meeting. If you have anything to sell bring it to the meeting, hopefully someone will be looking it.

73, Doug AD4UL

October General Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2015

Board Members and Officers Present – Doug Sweet AD4UL, Frank Etzler N8WXQ, Craig Hill K3PLV, Robert Fuller N3LBI, Rich Quinn KB3ZVH, and John Lindvay, WB3IFD.



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at the Red
Cross**

**Thursday November 5
6 PM Trunk of Junk
7 PM Meeting**

Program: TBA

Meeting started at 6:45 PM

Rick Cutter WA3MKT gave an interesting talk and demonstration on making a deluxe UHF antenna.

Minutes were approved as written and published in the QUARAE.

Frank Etzler N8WXQ gave the treasurer's report.

Doug Sweet AD4UL gave the clubs investments report.

There was no membership report. Jenniffer Estrada WP4NYQ was notified prior to meeting to provide a membership report by Doug Sweet AD4UL.

Board Meeting Report. Starting in November weather permitting we will have a "trunk of junk" sale in the Red Cross parking lot before the meeting. This is a small flea market centering on electronic stuff to sell or trade. It will start of 6 PM. Also we will be selling items no longer needed at the club house at these sales and on the RAE web site.

John Lindvay WB3IFD stated that Echolink needs to have a network cable routed from attic to 2nd floor at his home. Adam KB3THU gave all the equipment, except a monitor and a power supply to John who loaned the missing equipment to the club for the hook up. Also needed some direction from Adam KB3THU on how all the pieces go together and how 440 radio works.

Doug Sweet AD4UL announced the all the public service events have been completed for the year. There was an off chance that there might be one more event.

There were no new hams.

There was one silent key. Ed Gubish W3POS who was proficient in slow scan television.

Doug Sweet announced the PA QSO party takes place next weekend. He will be at the club house and invited all club members to participate. We also sponsor a plaque for the party and the membership approved the payment of \$35.

Doug Sweet AD4UL announced that Mike Cidor KC3FCF is looking for help for JOTA weekend October 17th in Fairview.

A motion was made and passed to give good neighbor Bob, a check for \$100 for yearly upkeep on the grounds.

A motion was made and passed to give Wattsburg Wireless \$150 for door prizes at Christmas Party.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Announcement



K8PT and I will once again be operating from the small independent island country of Jersey (MJ/K3PLV and MJ/K8PT) from November 4th through the 11th. This will be my 15th time that I have operated from there. We will be on all bands, 160 through 6, using single-sideband, CW, and RTTY. I would like to work as many locals as possible and periodically will stand by for the local area. I really can't say what particular frequencies I will use, as that depends on conditions and QRM. But I can be found very easily by looking at the DX spots on one of the DX packet clusters or Telnet. An example would be DX Summit, <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>. Also I will try to be on the Fort Pierce Connection on 14.340 MHz at 8 am Erie time. Jersey is off the coast of France, so point your antennas towards Europe (54 degrees) if you have a rotatable antenna. But I have worked many mobiles and QRP stations on other trips, so it's not a problem hearing you. Please say hello. 73, Craig – K3PLV

The problem with political jokes is they get elected.

Antenna Analyzers You Can Hack

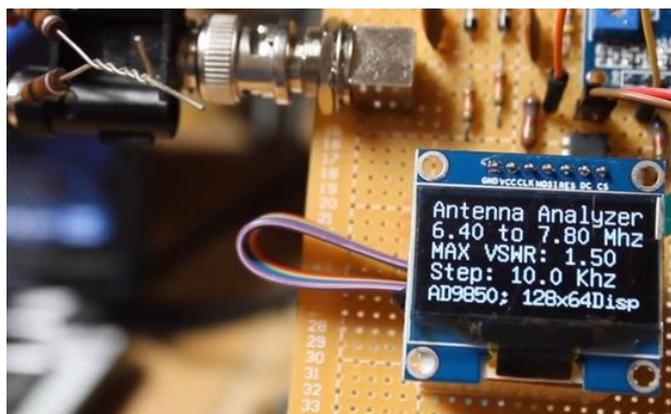
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a nut for antenna analyzers. I think that they are one of the most useful things a ham can own.

I've often wondered why there aren't more DIY antenna analyzer projects, though. Perhaps it's because designing measurement circuits isn't easy. An antenna analyzer has to have a signal source as well. Even so, an antenna analyzer doesn't need a whole lot of accuracy to be useful, so you would think that more builders/hackers would tackle a project like this.

I do know of one antenna analyzer kit on the market. The VK5JST Antenna Analyser Kit (<http://www.ahars.com.au/about/kits/>) costs about \$110 USD. I actually purchased this kit a year or so ago, and it looks like a great unit. The unit seems well-designed, and it comes with a plastic case, unlike many projects these days, but I haven't yet gotten around to building it.

I've also recently found out about an Arduino-based antenna analyzer project (<http://hackaday.com/2015/08/06/40-antenna-analyzer-with-arduino-and-ad9850/>). It uses an AD9850 module as the signal source. The approximate cost for all the parts is about \$40, and you can experiment with the code, if you like. If you have the time and inclination, this project might be worth taking a hack at.



Another antenna analyzer project from Australia is the VK3YY antenna analyzer (or "analyser" as they spell it there). It uses an Arduino Nano. The interesting thing about the blog post in which VK3YY describes the project

(<https://vk3yy.wordpress.com/2014/09/29/antenna-analyser-project/>) is that you can follow his design and experimentation process.

Yet another analyzer

While I'm talking about antenna analyzers, let me mention another one that I've just found out about: the IW2NDH Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.iw2ndh.com/>). This antenna analyzer isn't a kit, but at \$175 seems to be a good deal. This unit has a frequency coverage of 2 – 160 MHz, and can be used as an antenna analyzer, signal generator, and a scalar network analyzer.

Apparently, this started out as an Arduino project. As Maximo, EA1DDO, pointed out on the radioartisan Yahoo Group, there is source code for this project on GitHub (<https://gist.github.com/jackdev23/7876502>), and a schematic is available on the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) website (<http://www.ure.es/media/kunena/attachments/2420/Schematic.jpg>).

When not writing about antenna analyzers, Dan, KB6NU, actually builds an antenna now and then. You can often find him on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m), working CW. His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.

Are You Storm Ready?

By Joseph Koskovic – N8JKO

As we enter into September, we may not recall the issues that Mother Nature raised around us in the previous weeks. Yet we came to see those moments in a blink of an eye. As we approach fall and the routines of both school and work, storm preparedness should be as much a part of the seasonal change as checking the furnace, or removing the window screens.

As both an amateur radio operator and an Eagle Scout, preparedness is part of my daily routines. But when thinking of preparedness we need to extend outward to our families, neighbors, and friends. In my case, for weather related preparedness considers the gift that keeps on giving... a weather radio with tornado alert. Such was a gift to my son for his new home.

As we have recently experienced, tornado watches can come up at any time. In Lake County, the NWS Cleveland office changed a tornado watch to a warning. And although it may not happen again for years, we don't know when or where the next alert will sound. And in those cases, extra minutes do count. So in the list, add a weather radio.

This summer also demonstrated that even our water supply can be impacted by pollutants, as the western region of Lake Erie became a potential danger for the residents of Toledo, and western Ohio. Even with the danger passing in days, to the residents of Toledo, the days were far from normal without that utility we so take for granted. So is it unreasonable to stock and rotate enough water for three days? For some, they are already prepared. Many people stock bottled water, and in some cases, families have water coolers for the convenience of spring or distilled water that is stocked monthly. So for these families, it's not reach. According to About.com, the average to plan for is three gallons per-person, per day. This is an extremely reduced quantity, as the U.S. Geological

Survey evaluates a typical person uses approximately 80 to 100 gallons a day.* Frankly, it's a good idea to have some clean water put aside and rotated on a regular basis for those rare occasions when the utilities we count on suffers as a result of mother nature's wrath.

But the most important part of being storm ready is developing your plan before danger appears.

Have you set up an emergency plan for the home? Where do you go in the event of tornado or severe weather?

Are your phones fully charges?

Do your flashlights have fresh batteries?

Do you have a weather radio with tornado alert?

For infants and toddlers, do you have supplies for a couple of days?

Do you have fresh water available?

Do you know the dangerous areas for flooding in your area that you need to avoid?

Do your children know the safe locations to go when storms appear (both home and away)?

Are your medications or the medications for a family member up-to-date?

And don't forget for those times between work-and-home, shopping-and-home, and trips away from home. The same common-sense rules for home should apply for these locations too. Be weather savvy, and highway savvy too. Websites like ohgo.com can provide Ohio interstate conditions, alerts, and even video from cameras in many metropolitan locations. NOAA weather or the weather channel can provide information to the desktop, smartphone, or tablet. Ready.gov can provide you information for making an emergency plan.

Yet the entire point to preparedness is the common sense that is inside of all of us... communicate with family. Tell them where you are, and where you're going. If severe weather is forecasted, prepare, and stay safe. Develop a family plan, and practice it.

Doing so will have you better prepared for

emergencies, and safer in the long run.

* <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/qa-home-percapita.html>

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office

Trunk of Junk

What is that? Before the November club meeting at the Red Cross, at 6 PM we will have a little hamfest in the parking lot. Bring stuff you don't have a use for and sell it to other hams. Anybody can buy or sell and we hope you stick around for the meeting.

WWA Christmas Party

All Ham Operators and anyone interested in Ham Radio are invited.

Location: Summit Township Senior Citizens, 1450 Townhall Road, Erie, PA 16509

When: Saturday, December 12, 2015, Time 3 PM til 7 PM.

Cost: \$15.00 per person. Cash or check.

Make checks payable to: Shirley Ploss. (Non-refundable once reservations are made)

Menu: Glazed Ham, Baked Chicken, Pork and Kraut, Rolls and Butter, Coffee and Tea, Cake.

RSVP by November 30th to: Suzanne Seyboldt N3LPO Phone: C (814) 969-8542 or

H (814) 456-0500 Email: n3lpo@aol.com.

If you RSVP and do not attend you are still responsible to pay for your order.

So don't forget to mark your calendar for this event. See you there.

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven. ~Will Rogers~

PA QSO party from Warren County



My son-in-law, Wes KB3PPI and my daughter, Emily KB3PPG flew in from Calgary, British Columbia, to be with me and my wife at Wes's hunting camp near Sheffield in Warren County for the QSO party. They flew into Buffalo and drove to Erie and met us. We all drove down to Warren Friday night. Wes brought his Yeasu 897 transceiver and a MFJ manual tuner. I took an IC-718 transceiver and an IC-746 Pro to operate. I went to the Cleveland hamfest and month earlier and picked up what I thought was an 80 meter dipole and enough material to make a trap dipole for 80-40 meters. I also took an army surplus discone antenna for 6 meters. Saturday morning we discovered that the 80 meter antenna was really a 20 meter dipole. (I thought the coiled wire was a few turns short.) We then built the 40-80 meter dipole. Wes put up an army surplus pole and fastened the rope guys to the ground. We used a pulley arrangement to pull up the dipoles to the top of the 25 ft. pole. After constructing it, we discovered the SWR was much, much more than 3:1 on 80 meters. So we jumpered out the traps and the SWR came down to 1.5:1. So much for the traps being good for an 80-40 meter dipole. We had a good run on 80 meters Saturday night and worked a quite a few stations. We woke Sunday and realized all the action would be on 40 meters, so we cut the wire right in front of the traps and inserted some

insulators. We tried 40 meters and the SWR was good! Our very first contact complained there was a terrible buzzing on our signal. At first we thought it was the mike, so we switched it with the 718 mike. Still had that terrible buzzing. We then swapped out the whole radio and still had the buzzing. We then connected to the 20 meter antenna and the buzzing went away. However, we didn't want to operate on 20 but on 40 where all the action was. We found out that the only radio that didn't produce the buzzing was the Yeasu 897. We never did find out why the buzzing and didn't take time to investigate; we had a party to operate. So we ran the contest on 40 meters from the 897. We monitored 6 meters throughout the contest but only worked one station, KD8MG/3 in Jefferson County. 6 meters was a big disappointment because of the time and effort to put up the antenna. Our main mode of operating was to go up and down the band working stations call CQ. We also kept looking for a free and clear frequency until we found one, then we started calling CQ. It took two operators, one to talk on the radio and one to operate the computer and enter information in the log. We would take turns calling CQ. My daughter Emily was at first a little mike shy, but after a few moments was working like a pro. Why is it that hams act like gentlemen and come back to a YLs first every time? We worked 206 contacts, 57 counties, and 27 sections. We had a good time, no TV, no cell phones, just good conversation with our in-laws and ham radio.

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

PA National Fire Museum Reaches Out to the World for Its 20th Birthday

As part of its 20th anniversary celebration, the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum, in conjunction with the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club Inc., will hold a Special Event Station the weekend of Nov. 14-15. The event will be held at the museum at

1820 North 4th Street, Harrisburg. Amateur (ham) radio operators will operate the Special Station on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 15, from noon to 4 p.m.

Special Event Stations are used by hams to help commemorate historical occasions or other special events. Members of the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club will use their radios to talk across the state, country and even around the world to spread the word about central Pennsylvania's first-class fire museum.

The Pennsylvania National Fire Museum opened on November 17, 1995. Housed in an 1899 Victorian firehouse of the former Reily Hose Company No. 10, the all-volunteer museum features an outstanding collection of artifacts from the hand-drawn equipment of yesterday to the modern fire apparatus and equipment of today. Nearly every aspect of firefighting, from the smallest hand tools to large, horse-drawn steam pumpers, is on display.

For further information about the Special Event Station, contact Richard E. Lenker (KB3YRC) at (717) 236-1864 or *Rich3784@comcast.net <Rich3784@comcast.net>. *Information about the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum and the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs' Club can be found at [*www.pnfm.org](http://www.pnfm.org)

<<http://www.pnfm.org/>>* and [*www.w3uu.org](http://www.w3uu.org)
<<http://www.w3uu.org/>>*

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.~John Quinton~

Ham Calendar

November 3 – Election Day

November 3 – Corry club meeting

November 5 – RAE club meeting

November 7 - ARRL Sweepstakes, CW See
www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 10 – WWA club meeting

November 12 – Union City Wireless club meeting

November 14 – PA Nation Fire museum. See
article above.

November 14 - 0 Kentucky QSO Party. See
www.wkdx.com/mainsite

November 16 – Conneaut Club Meeting

November 17 - NRA's 144th Birthday Party
Paulden, AZ. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. See
www.w7yrc.org/nrabirthda

November 21 – VE Exams at WWA club

November 12 - ARRL Sweepstakes. See
www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 28 - CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest.
See www.cqww.com/rules.htm

December 12 – Christmas Party. See article above.