



The QUARAE



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Editor John Lindvay

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Prez Says

The cool weather is here to stay I think, so the hot summer is finally gone. Our Public Service activity is over for the year so I would like to say THANK YOU to all of the operators who provided communications for the various organizations that we assist. We provided communications at ten events this year and received \$700 in donations to the club. I think providing communications for Public Service events is one of the best things we can do as Amateur Radio Operators for our community and I know it is greatly appreciated by the organizations we help.

Starting this month the RAE club meetings will be held at the Red Cross building on Pittsburg Ave., south of West Grandview, 7PM on the first Thursday of the month. I hope to attend the meetings via Echolink from sunny Florida.

For the recent Simulated Emergency Test (SET) we used 146.58 Simplex as our main frequency. Frank KB3NAT was the Net Control at the 911/EOC building and the simplex frequency worked out very well. He was able to communicate with a lot of the stations that checked in and also used some relays as well. Overall I thought the SET worked out well. As we have seen in the past using 146.58 simplex near the 146.61 repeater is not good, causes interference on the simplex radios. I would like to see the Erie County Simplex frequency of 145.59 used in the future, so I recommend that we all add 145.59 simplex to our radios and we will be ready to go.

Don't forget to check out and join in on the various nets that are available. They are listed on

the RAE website w3gv.org.

73, Doug AD4UL

October 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:00 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: Doug Sweet AD4UL, John Lindvay WB3IFD, Gene Brinig KB3JZL, Frank Etzler N8WXQ, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, Bob Fuller N3LBI, and Ed Barlow K1ZIK

Members Present: Joe Ponchak KA3CPV, Jim Rose KA8VSZ, Mike Morrison KC3GOC, Ron Seybott WB3DOM, Wendell Howard KC3IYD, Richard Durning WA1YJZ, Larry Kemmler KC3JBR, Robert Sorento KC3GBD, John Szymecki

Program: None

New hams: None

Silent Keys: John Wenerowicz W3FJP

Visitors: None

Treasurer's report: \$1,339.56



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
November 2 at the Red
Cross Bldg. located at
4961 Pittsburgh Ave.**

**7:00 PM- General Meeting
Program: TBA**

Membership report: None

Facilities Report: None

Repeater Report: 82 Repeater seems to jump frequency. Echolink not always available

Public Service: All done until next year.

Contesting Report: Pennsylvania QSO Party takes place October 14 and 15

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion to send \$100 check to Good Neighbor Bob for mowing grass all summer. Passed.

Motion to give WWA \$100 check for Christmas Party. Passed. Next meeting will be election of new officers. Doug Sweet AD4UL and John Lindvay announced they would not run for Secretary and President. Next meeting will take place at the Red Cross Building.

Ron Seybolt WB3DOM won the 50/50

Meeting end at: 7:28 PM



Gene KB3JZL and Joe KA3CPV installing a 6 meter beam. Fall antenna season is upon us. Need those antennas to last all winter.

Wide Area Net (WAN)



Recently, I received an e-mail from John Lindvay WB3IFD about writing an article for the QUA-RAE about the Wide Area Net (WAN) Repeater System and AllStar. The WAN Repeater System is a network

of linked repeaters using the AllStar Link technology. AllStar is similar to EchoLink and IRLP, using the Internet to connect multiple repeaters together, however, AllStar has many advantages over these other systems. By using wider bandwidth and higher dynamic range, the audio throughput is better than any other popular technology. AllStar takes analog audio and immediately converts it to a digital stream. As a digital signal, it can be transported over great distances without degradation, and can be relayed over the Internet or through an Ethernet network. The system is fully programmable, making it easy to connect and disconnect repeaters from the system using easy to remember codes. The WAN is comprised of many repeaters located mainly in Pennsylvania; however there is a strong presence in Maryland and Washington, DC as well. Each repeater is represented as an individual node on the AllStar system. If a node needs to be removed from the WAN due to a net, it can be done very easily using DTMF or via remote online login. Most AllStar nodes use common DTMF codes. I have been using the WAN for about 4 years. My first experience using the WAN was on the 145.11-repeater in Sugar Grove. In 2013, the Radio Amateur of Corry 444.800 repeater became the first repeater in Erie County to have a permanent on demand link to the WAN in Erie County.

There are multiple ways to get connected to AllStar. The best way to break it down is between hardware and software. Two vendors of the hardware are Scott Zimmerman N3XCC at RepeaterBuilder.com and the USB Radio Interface (URI) from DMK

Engineering. In regards to the software, AllStar uses DIAL. DIAL is used on a "conventional" computer system (one with a hard drive, SSD, or Flash card) and involves a full installation of Debian GNU/Linux. The x86 version supports modern motherboards and hardware, unlike its predecessors (ACID, etc), and now there is support for the Raspberry Pi 2/3 (other ARM platforms coming). The best part is the software is free plus you now have a use for that old Windows XP machine. Also, a repeater controller is built into the software. There are multiple YouTube videos on how to install AllStar on a conventional desktop system. As for the Raspberry PI, there are only websites.

With AllStar link, there are both Repeaters nodes and Simplex nodes on there air. Locally, Joe Royek W3JSR of Corry has a simplex node on the air. To build your own simplex node you will need the USB Radio Interface (URI) from DMK Engineering along with the appropriate patch cable to your radio. URICables.Com manufactures many cables for many common radios that have packet ports such as the Kenwood TM –V7A mobile. <http://www.repeater-builder.com/products/usb-rim-lite.html> also has a board for the Alinco DR-x35 radios. <http://arsrepeaters.com> also builds the interface to connect a handheld to get on Allstar link.

Presently, the Wide Area Network is available in Erie on the N3NKKV Repeater on 146.64 with a PL Tone of 186.2. The repeater is a Yaesu System Fusion running at 20 watts and is located about 1 mile north of the Greene Township Municipal Building. When the repeater is connected to the WAN, the "Tink Tonk" courtesy tone is active. Since I have had my repeater connected to the AllStar System, it has changed my outlook on 2 meters. For the past few years, I thought that 2 meters was a "dead" band in Erie. Actually, now during my 20 minute commute to work there is actually activity on my 2 meter rig. Some of the people I have talked to on 64 were quite interesting.

One day I had an interesting QSO with guy fighting the Philadelphia traffic on I-95 while I was on the Peach ST Jam. Another morning, I had a QSO with a ham who told me about the places to avoid in Lancaster during a vacation trip down state. Everyday can be totally different. This is what ham radio was meant to be - experimenting and integrating current technology together.

In closing, The WAN system is like any other publicly available AllStar system - open for you to try. You don't even need a radio! You can sign up for your own (free) AllStar account and connect using the "WebTransceiver" or you can connect through one of many conventional repeaters. If you have any questions about AllStar or the WAN, e-mail me @ [jjlis165@gmail.com/](mailto:jjlis165@gmail.com)

73, John Lis N3NKKV

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old,
You grow old because you stop laughing!**

The Conneaut Hamfest

Gene picked me up at 6 AM on Sunday. We stopped at Joe's house and picked him up. We arrived in Conneaut at 7 AM and ate breakfast at the State Street Diner located on the southeast corner of Route 20 and State Street, just a stone's throw from the Conneaut Hamfest. Although the entrance to diner is hidden, I knew the way in because we ate there before. If you want to eat there you must enter on the State Street side and after that, you must navigate to the restaurant through another door.

We were the only ones in the restaurant except for a couple of locals that were having their morning coffee and flirting with the waitress. It is my kind of restaurant. It has low prices and they give you plenty of food. I don't understand why more hams don't stop there and their way to the hamfest.

When we first entered the VFW building, I was a little disappointed on the noticeable lack of vendors.

You could canvas the hall in half an hour and see everything. I must confess even though there was a lack of vendors, I found some good bargains. I bought a D-Star radio to see what this D-Star is all about. I know the club has an UHF D-Star repeater. We just need a place to put it. The place has to have internet, and good coverage.

I was very tired after looking at the used stuff on the tables so I sat down and met some hams from Eastern Ohio. After a while we had about six or seven hams sitting around chewing the fat, waiting for the prize drawings. The hamfest was to go to noon, but really was over at 11 AM. Larry Klemmer KC3JBR won third prize, a VHF/UHF base antenna. This was just after he made a loop antenna and a 4 element metal tape 2 meter beam for fox hunting that he brought to our Thursday night session. John Lindvay WB3IFD

The biggest lie I tell myself is ..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it"

RAE Elections

RAE Elections take place at the November meeting.

Both myself John Lindvay WB3IFD as a board member and secretary, and Doug Sweet AD4UL as President are NOT running again. I will continue to edit the QUARAE and Doug will continue to organize and chair public service events. It is time for new blood for club offices. So we need nominations for both positions. Make sure you attend this important meeting.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.



For Sale

A Satellite receiver, a SWR meter and a 300 watt linear. Contact Judith Rainsberger. 833-1732

New 440 Repeater on the Air

The WA3UC 441.900 repeater is now on the air with its permanent antenna located with 146.700 repeater and at the same height. It is currently running with no pl and signal reports of its coverage are appreciated. We wish to thank all those who helped reach our goal including KB3NAT, WM3G, WX3E, N3NKV and many others, Good Job!

Lee Williams N3APP

Amateur Calendar

November 2 – RAE Club meeting

November 4 - ARRL EME Contest
www.arrl.org/eme-contest

November 4 - ARRL Sweepstakes Contest
www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 7 – Election Day

November 9 – Union City Wireless Club Meeting

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 11 - Kentucky QSO See
www.wkdx.com

November 14 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

November 17 - YO International PSK31 Contest

www.yo5crq.ro/Rules.htm

November 18 – VE Exams

November 18 - ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest,

www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 20 – Conneaut Club Meeting

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day