



The QUARAE



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October 2015

Prez Says....



In August's "Prez Says", I talked about setting up at the Presque Isle Lighthouse for the Lighthouse/Lightship on the first weekend in August. On Friday Gerry W2FD brought his "Spud Gun" so we could shoot some lines into some tall Cottonwood trees over the garage. We hung a 40Meter Dipole in the air about 70 feet up. The next day I set up my radio and computer in the garage. I got on the air about 10:30AM to a very quiet 40M. I checked 20M and it was a little better. I was able to get the Barnagat Lighthouse in New Jersey. I switched back to 40M and made about 30 contacts. The next day the bands were just as bad as the day before. I was able to work the Two Harbors Lighthouse on Lake Superior in Minnesota; they were also on 20M. So the weekend wasn't that good, but we did get to take the tour of the lighthouse and the tower.

I found out there are two groups involved with Lighthouse Weekend. The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) is with the INTERCONTINENTAL Lighthouse Weekend which is the first weekend in August. The other group is the INTERNATIONAL Lighthouse Weekend which holds their event on the third weekend in August. I talked to the Presque Isle

people and asked if we could leave our antenna up and come back on the third weekend, no problem.

So I went back on August 15 and 16 to work the International Weekend. The bands weren't much better but I was able to work 13 lighthouses and one lightship. I also found out that the International group used a different numbering system for the lights, so I was passing out the wrong number, oh well. Hopefully I will get the correct number and be able to work the two weekends next year.

I found documentation and pictures from the last time the Presque Isle Lighthouse was on the air, it was 2001, and they did it from outside the fence.

73, Doug AD4UL

September General Meeting Minutes

Club Officers and Board members attending are Doug Sweet, AD4UL, John Lindvay, WB3IFD, Mike Brumberger, WB3DEL, Craig Hill, K3PLV, Bob Fuller, N3IBI, Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, and Richard Quinn, KB3ZVH.

The meeting was called to order on 9/4 at 7 PM



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting at the Club
House on Wagner Rd
Thursday October 1
6PM Hotdogs 7PM**

**Meeting
Program: TBA**

Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, presented a video on the VP8ORK South Orkney Island DXpedition.

New Hams: Miranda Young, KC3FLI

Silent Keys: Rich Waldinger, NI3Q and Gerald Riblet, KA3JCI

Frank K8WXQ gave the treasurers report.

There will be a September 24 board meeting at 7 PM at the Red Cross Building

Doug will contact Jenniffer Estrada, WP4NYQ and ask her if she would submit a membership report.

Doug needs people to sign up for “Beast on the Bay”, Sept 24 and Presque Isle Marathon on

Doug received e-mail from David Ross who has a 30 foot tower with a rotating tri-band dipole to take down and a 10 foot section already on the ground free to the first person to come and take it down.

John Lis, N3NKV, Public Outreach Coordinator for Erie County ARES/RACES/Skywarn, announced open house at the 911 center, September 26, 10 AM to 1 PM, 2777 Flower Road, and on September 12th- 10 AM until 2 PM – Open House at West County EMA/West County Paramedics on RT 18. Erie County ARES/RACES/Skywarn will have a display table with a VHF and HF demonstration station at both events. In addition there will be a simulated emergency test on October 3 from 9 AM to 12 noon. Please check into the SET and volunteer for the open houses.

Larie R Zack, N3XOG, is looking for volunteers for the North Coast Watch Radio Team to assist Presque Isle Park rangers and police during emergencies. If you are interested, contact Larie.

A motion was made and seconded to have the business portion of the meeting first and then the special presentation. Discussion followed. The motion was voted down.

A motion was made and seconded to have the membership say the pledge of allegiance before the meeting. The motion was passed by majority vote.

Ed Kubish, K1ZIK, won the 50/50 and donated the winnings back to the club.

Respectfully submitted by John Lindvay, WB3IFD

I recently received the enclosed letter about joining the Heard Island DXpedition coming up in March of 2016 and thought others might find it interesting. Heard Island is an extremely remote island. It is the furthest land from Erie and is almost exactly on the other side of the world (No not China as we were taught back in elementary school). Very few people have ever visited the island, probably less than 500. It is an honor to be asked. I would have no problem handling the pileups due to my experience when I have operated from Jersey and the Isle of Man. I would love to go, but the cost is just too high. But feel free to donate to send me – hi.



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Letter to K3PLV

Dear K3PLV:

I see on NG3K.com (“Announced Operations”) that you were a member of a previous DXpedition, which is why I am motivated to contact you. Please let me tell you what it’s about...

You probably know about the upcoming (March/April 2016) DXpedition to Heard Island, VKØEK. I am the organizer/Expedition Leader for the project. You can see a lot of information on the main website www.heardisland.org, the blog www.vk0ek.org, and various news outlets. We distribute a Newsletter that you can subscribe to, and you can get back issues. Co-organizer of the project is Rich KY6R and here. [and the link](#). My personal CV is here; I have been organizing and leading expeditions for 35 years, under the auspices of my nonprofit organization Cordell Expeditions.

Heard Island was last activated as VKØIR in 1997. At that time it was the #1 Most Wanted entity in the world. I was the organizer/expedition leader of that operation, which in spite of being exactly at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, logged a world record number of QSOs. You can read all about that project in my book [VKØIR Heard Island](#), which you can download (free). There is a very good

reason why Heard Island has not been activated for almost 20 years: The combination of cost, time for the voyage, permit requirements, and complexities of a full life-support DXpedition to a sub-antarctic island have thus far proven too great—no one has been willing to tackle this enormous challenge. Not surprisingly, Heard Island has again climbed nearly to the top of the Most Wanted list.

About 3 years ago, I decided to undertake this expedition. Since then, after considerable evolution of the plans, we have reached the stage of secure arrangements and stable plans, and we are in the process of acquiring the equipment and other resources for the trip. Here is a basic summary of how this will be carried out:

The team of 14 will sail on the Braveheart from Cape Town, South Africa, on March 10, 2016, arriving at Heard Island somewhat over a week later. With the help of the vessel crew, they will erect a major campsite at Atlas Cove, the historical site of various expeditions since 1947, and the location of our 1997 campsite. Radio operations will commence on the first day, and continue for most of the next three weeks. During this time, some members of the expedition will be carrying out scientific investigations, principally aimed at searching for unknown species in support of climate-change studies. During one week part of the team will move to the opposite end of the island to establish radio contacts with Central and West Coast North American stations, and to carry out scientific explorations in that very interesting location. After the 3-week stay, the facilities will be packed and the vessel will sail for Fremantle, Australia, arriving on or about April 22.

But the DXpedition is more than just operating radios and logging contacts. A key element in the plans and preparations is technology innovation, motivated by the desire to advance the art of amateur radio communications. One element is DXA, the real-time online radio log server. This

system, used previous on K7C and TX5K, allows DXers to get online confirmation of their QSOs within 1 minute after making them, enabling correction of errors, elimination of pirates, and immediate ordering of QSL confirmation. Another innovation that we are working on is enabled by the anticipated use of satellites for high-speed data transmission, using the new Ka-mode, capable of handling real-time video. We are developing a multi-purpose instrumentation platform to be installed permanently on Heard Island, accessed via Inmarsat. In addition to weather instruments, video cameras, and other environmental sensors, we are considering a HF radio that can be controlled remotely through the satellite link. Yet another innovation we are working on is an automated capability for electronic fulfillment of QSL requests, enabling very rapid generator and mailing of QSL cards.

So (finally), let me tell you what motivates me to write to you. A few months ago, we were forced to change the vessel, and the schedule/itinerary. Unfortunately, two of the team members could not accommodate to the change, and had to withdraw. I have filled one of those spaces, but as of this moment, I have one space left. We are looking for an appropriate person to take this space and join us for this adventure. I am hoping that either you might be interested, or if that is not appropriate, helping us find the last team member.

Here are the essentials of the DXpedition:

Time: March 10 (Cape Town) to April 22 (Fremantle, Australia)

Cost: Negotiable (see below)

Skills: Some experience with radio operations on DXpeditions

Prep: Personal clothing, travel, job and family arrangements

Health: No disabling medical issues

Team: Planning, helping with preps, teamwork on the expedition

Legal: Radio license, VISA for travel to S. Africa, Australia

Insure: Personal travel/evacuation insurance.

Regarding the cost: The actual cost of putting the team on Heard Island is US\$35k/person. In fact, we have been very effective in fundraising, so the fair-share team contribution is US\$18k. However, a significant reduction in this fee to the 14th team member might be possible, and I am open to this.

An editorial comment: I hope you see that this is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Heard Island is such a difficult a DXpedition target (partially due to its environmental sensitivity) that it is likely that it will not be activated for another 20 years, and possibly never. At this point we have made the essential arrangements, including the permit from the Australian government, and therefore the hard work already has been done to make this possible.

So let me summarize: If you are in a position to contemplate taking the last seat on the expedition, I would very much like to talk with you (no obligation). You could call me at **925 934 3735**, or we could do it all by email. If however, this is not a possibility for you, but you might be able to help us find that last team member, we will be very grateful. You are welcome to talk with any of the team members, advisors, collaborators, etc., in order to get a better sense of the project.

I do appreciate the chance to connect with you, and of course I wish you Good DXing and/or Great DXpeditioning!

73, Bob, KK6EK

Ham Calendar

October 1- RAE club meeting

October 3 - California QSO Party. See www.cqp.org/Rules.html

October 6 – Corry club meeting

October 8 – Union City club meeting

October 10 - Pennsylvania QSO Party. See www.nittany-arc.net

October 10 - Arizona QSO Party. See www.azqsoparty.org

October 13 – Wattsburg club meeting

October 16 – Jamboree on the air

October 17 - New York QSO Party. See nyqp.org/wordpress

October 17 - Iowa QSO Party. See www.wa0dx.org/IAQSO

October 17 - South Dakota QSO Party. See www.kb0sw.com/SDQP

October 18 - Illinois QSO Party. See www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html

October 18 - Conneaut ARC's Ham Fest. See <http://www.facebook.com/W8BHZ>

October 31 – Halloween