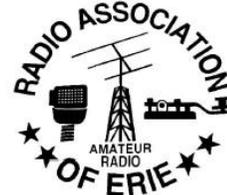




# The QUARAE



Volume 17 Issue 9

September 201

## Editor says

I am going away to Boston for the next two weeks. Consequently the QuaRae is going to be short this time around.

## August 2016 General Meeting Minutes

Began at 7:00 PM

Board Members and Officers Present: Craig Hill K3PLV, Doug Sweet AD4UL, John Lindvay WB3IFD, Richard Quinn KB3ZVH, and Frank Etzler N8WXQ

Program: None

New hams: None

Silent Keys: Fred Barnes KC3VD (Life Member)

Visitors: Matt Rea W3FIQ

Treasurer's report: \$1,352.89

Membership report: 57 Members

Facilities Report: Boy Scouts will start building on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Repeater Report: Rick Cutter reported that voter is now running at club house.

Public Service: Doug Sweet received a Thank You card from Diane Sickles for providing communications for the JDRF Slow Roll around Presque Isle Park after dark.

Contesting Report: The Maryland/DC QSO party and Lighthouse Weekend is coming up this month. We need a contest chairman.

Website: None

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made and passed by the membership to refill the fuel oil tank while fuel oil prices are down. A motion was made and passed to look into and purchasing a hot spot for the club house. John Lindvay read an E-Mail from K3LR about a Leadership Conference to be held on August 6 at the Quality Inn, 1545 Wayne Street, Indiana, Pa. Free to all club members.

Meeting end at: 7:24 PM

## 5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet: Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/#hamradio>

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information

needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!”

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, “Readable with practically no difficulty.” When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. Practically no difficulty” is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater. What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

=====

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

## Amateur Calendar

September 1 – RAE Meeting

September 5 – Labor Day

September 6 – Corry Club Meeting

September 8 – Union City Club Meeting

September 10 – Beast on the Bay

September 11 - BCARA SwapFest in Butler, PA  
See <http://www.w3udx.org>

September 11 - Erie Runners Club Marathon at Presque Isle

September 13 – Wattsburg Club Meeting

September 17 – VE Session

September 17 - Creekside Bike Ride - Sherman, NY

September 19 – Conneaut Club Meeting

September 24 - Race for Recovery at Presque Isle

September 25 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show. See <http://www.hac.org>