



The QUARAE



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April 2013

Editor: John Lindvay WB3IFD

President Remarks.

Well, Punxsutawny Phil blew it again this year. With all the white stuff still around I would say spring has not sprung regardless of what the calendar says. I will try and bring some warmer weather with me when I get back to Erie. I just received an Email from Pat Davis, who runs four of the public service events we do, with the dates for the 2013 events. The public service events that I have so far:

April 28 - March of Dimes Walk at Presque Isle

June 1 – Edinboro Triathlon

June 8 & 9 – MS Society Escape to the Lake Bike Ride

June 22 – Bay Swim

August 25 – Presque Isle Triathlon

September 7 – Barber Beast on the Bay – Extreme Obstacle Course at the Barber Center

This is a new event so I'm not sure what we will be doing. We may have a couple more public service events coming up and I will let everyone know as I find out. There is a Spring Clean Up at the clubhouse scheduled for April 27. We will need volunteers to clean up the grounds and do maintenance/cleanup of the clubhouse. This will be a chance to work on any

improvements to the clubhouse and the equipment we have been discussing in the last few club meetings such as antennas, grounding, tree trimming, etc. We will also be planning other club events this summer such as the Tall Ship celebration, Field Day, PA QSO Party, Club Picnic and any other events that may come up. It looks like a very busy Spring and Summer for the club so I am looking for volunteers to jump in and help out where they can. See ya'll in April!

THANKS & 73, Doug AD4UL

Dues are due

Radio Association of Erie 2013 Membership Dues are now due. 2013 Dues are \$15.00.

Send to: Radio Association of Erie, P.O. Box 8931, Erie Pa. 16505 or pay at meeting

Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting – April at 7 PM the Red Cross Building



Program DXing from Yemen.

Club House Fixup

It is time we fixed up the club house and made it more accessible to club members. The board has approved the purchase of headphones for each of the radios with more improvements to come. We already have a 7 element tribander and a 2 element 40 meter beam. The tribander will replace the existing 3 element antenna and there was discussion of purchasing some sort of collapsible tower or trolley system to hold the 40 meter beam. We also want to purchase a linear with an automatic tuner built in.

Ham Speak: **This rig is really hot** - It's stolen.

Ripley Hamfest

When: Sunday, May 5th 2013

Where: Ripley, NY. Firehall 300 ft south of US Rte 20 on NY 76 @ traffic light

Time: 7 AM Vendor/Seller Setup
8 AM till Noon

Admission: \$3 per person \$2 per table. Limited number of tables

Directions: I86 Exit Sherman, NY 430 right, NY 76 North to Ripley

I-90 East Exit Westfield South NY394 US Rte 20 Right Ripley, Left at light

I-90 West, Exit US Rte 20 at NY/PA line. Turn Right, then right at traffic light in Ripley.

For Table Reservations: Bob Fuller 814-898-1115 or Fred Krause 716-708-9830

Ham Speak: **It seems to be a vintage regenerative type** - It oscillates.

Date for Club Picnic Set

The RAE is having a family picnic Saturday July 20, 2013. We will be giving away a \$200 gift certificate to AES in Cleveland. All paid up club members are eligible to win.

Ham Speak: **I just aligned it** - The slugs on the transformers are jammed.

March General Meeting

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie was held on March 7, 2013 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. Secretary KB3THU & president AD4UL via Skype were present. AD4UL called the meeting to order at 1900.

Silent keys- Bill Austin WB3IFE & Dick Eisenburg Sr N3TYE

Secretary- motion made by KB3THU to approve minutes as published, it was seconded, carried, and approved

Treasurers report- March totals reported.

Membership is at 31. Motion made by WB3IFD to send out postcards to remind about renewals; it was seconded; motion carried. An audit committee was formed- WB3DOM, WB3IFD & KB3NAT. Equipment list was to be checked to add to the insurance. Payment for dues was sent back to N3NKV.

Board of Directors- March 28th is next meeting.

Repeaters- 82 still working with 2:1 swr. 61 is good. W3ERC 440 was unplugged until service monitor was able to go out and work on realigning it.

Website- Paul has the site up and running. Any media that anyone wants on there, contact AD4UL, KB3THU or KB3POY.

Newsletter- went out electronically and mailed to those who do not have email. WB3IFD is always looking for material.

Clubhouse- water \$250 for a new 220v pump. Pressure tank is ok. Water purity test discussed. Motion by WA3MKT to get a new pump, it was

seconded, motion carried. Other projects were the back door, the 40 meter antenna and the 7 element beam. Motion by WB3IFD to have a picnic, it was seconded, and approved, motion carried. WB3IFD was to form a committee and report a date back to membership.

Perry 200- ships will be mooring around the public dock and where the Niagara is. There is already a HF and 2m antenna and radio on site. Motion by N3SRF to build a protective case for the radios at Perry 200 for the event, to be left there after the event, it was seconded, approved, motion carried. Headsets and lightning protection were discussed, prices were to be gathered and brought back to membership.

Skywarn- KA3JVX mentioned during the last weekly training session that checkins will be as needed by location of the storms, using the given repeaters in the area of the severe weather.

Good of the order- Meadville repeater has a new antenna. Coverage does reach the lakeshore, although it is spotty, but drastically improved.

1959- Presentation by WA3MKT about software defined radio kit he built. Info at WB5RVZ.org

50/50- N3LBI – returned to club ← Thank you Robert!!

Motion to adjourn at 2040

Ham Speak: **I just had it serviced** - I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.

HAM RADIO NEWS

From www.hamhijinks.com

FCC'S "ONE KILOHERTZ AT A TIME" GETS CLOSER TO 14.313 BUT NOT QUITE THERE

Thursday March 28 2013 at 5 AM

By K5KVN on the Scene

Bolivar, MO,;March 26, 2013 – In the latest move of it's "One Kilohertz At a Time" enforcement program, the FCC this week announced at \$10,000 fine issued to a Missouri man for illegal operation on 14.312 MHZ. Agents say it didn't take long to discover the offender, once they finally got to the frequency he was on.

The "One Kilohertz At a Time" program ensures that we will cover the entire radio spectrum, but that will take an extremely long time." Said Enforcement Agent Ronald Speakman.

FCC agents began the program in 1974. "We started listening for offenders at 3 Hertz and have been working our way up the dial since then., We arrived at 14.312 MHZ on March 25th and were very pleased to find some interference." Said Speakman.

This week's announcement is welcome news to many ham radio operators who complain of interference currently happening one kilohertz away on 14313 MHZ.

Agents are asking for patience as they continue to slowly sweep spectrum. "We are aware of complaints for 14.313 MHZ and we are working as fast as we can to get there. We are on 14.312 MHZ now and we will move up to the next kilohertz soon." Says Speakman.

Citing a need to preserve the element of surprise, Speakman wouldn't provide specifics as to when that might happen

Ham Speak: **This rig has wide frequency coverage** - It drifts up and down and out of band.

ZCZC- Mean anything to You?

By Ron Prindle N3BXL

If you have ever monitored 145.010 MHz FM, you will hear this “data” stream at least once a week in the Erie, Corry, Ridgway and St. Marys areas!

When the National Weather Service Office issues a Weather Alert/E.A.S./S.A.M.E. message, this data stream is sent before the 1 KHz audio alert tone, it sounds like three shots of a buzzing sound, that is the “ZCZC-“ text seen below.

In the Erie Area, the data stream is transmitted on 162.400 MHz and is decoded by my Gateway Computer at my QTH, that handles all my AX.25, weather and A.P.R.S. mapping 24/7. My Pentium II has eight windows open at one time running WinXP (for those who wish to know) and it has enough time to track the International Space Station above my Ham Radio desktop. This includes all my Packet Radio TNCs and messaging devices with my call signs attached to them.

What is “ZCZC-“?

The following message just occurred at the regular “Routine Weekly Test” of the NWS Emergency Alert System machine, (done as close to 11 AM to Noon each Wednesday, as conditions permit);

N3BXL-
1>WXALT,N3ZUD,W3GV,CRRY,STMY
[03/20/13 12:24:34] <UI>:

***** Emergency Alert System message follows @ 12:23:30 PM 3/20/2013**

N3BXL-
1>WXALT,N3ZUD,W3GV,CRRY,STMY
[03/20/13 12:24:43] <UI>:

ZCZC-WXR-RWT-036013-042049-042039-042123-042121+0015-0791622-KCLE/NWS-<p0

What does this message mean and why is it sent in its “raw” form on 145.010 MHz FM?

In reference to the government’s E.A.S. structure;

[HTTP://www.NWS.NOAA.Gov/OS/EAS_CODES.SHTML](http://www.NWS.NOAA.Gov/OS/EAS_CODES.SHTML)

More than just weather information can be disseminated over the 162.400 MHz radio. Sure weather is what we expect to hear, year around, but did you know that even local “Amber Alerts” flow over this network?

The structure of the “ZCZC – “ message is an easy line to read, once you get the hang of it all. The WXR label above says the information is indeed weather related and the next “label” RWT, means this is just a routine weekly test and then the next several labels are the areas effected by this message.

If you have one of those weather radios that opens its squelch on given locations, these 036013-type codes should look familiar to you. Personally, even after programming my PC to extract and retransmit the data stream out over the local Packet Radio Network on two-meters, I still need a reference sheet, to see who is effected by the alert message. Here is the

reference I use at home when I hear the weather radio go off.

**036013 – Chautauqua Co. (NY) 042121 –
Venango Co. (PA) Local S.A.M.E.
Codes**

**039007 – Ashtabula Co. (OH) 042123 –
Warren Co. (PA)**

**042039 – Crawford Co. (PA) 096149 –
Erie Lakeshore (Immediate)**

**042049 – Erie County (PA)096169 - Erie
Lakeshore to Canadian Border**

So, if you quickly decode the effected locations, the RWT message above was for the 162.400 MHz listening area.

Once you have the locations down, the controversy begins. For you see this system was designed to run on short interval, time-based events. The above message “+0015” is simple enough, saying the alert lasts for 15-minutes. If you look into the “period” breakdown, the alerts sent out by the Cleveland NWS Office, often exceed the “timer” limits of the radios sold by Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, you name it! Periods in the time frame of days cannot be broken down in the “+xxyy” field. In fact I often see my weather radio box “clear” when I know the event goes on for many, many more hours! Keep this in mind.

For this reason and those alerts often come out in a “flurry” I will not breakdown they’re meaning for analysis and miss interruption. So, I take what we have and send it out without modification, “raw” onto our Packet Radio Network.

The rest of the message is noteworthy as well. The next field looking like; “-0791622” is the date and time this message was posted, Julian date, meaning today 3/20/2013 is the 79th day of the year at 1622 UTC.

Every ZCZC- message sent over the E.A.S. Network will have its location of origination and the initials of that person who sent the alert out over the air. In our case above; “-KCLE/NWS-<p0” the Cleveland Hopkins Airport – National Weather Service Office and the operators “mark” that follows.

Note: It must be said before the conclusion of this article, that the E.A.S. message is not and automated message at all. Meaning, someone at the NWS Office must walk up to the machine and create the message, (if they see fit that one is necessary) and we get only what they transmit. The reception and dissemination of that raw data stream here in Erie, is however autonomous, in that it is an automated “repeated” function locally. I filter no messages at all over the Packet Radio Network. Even though, my personal weather radio S.A.M.E. list fires the open squelch feature on the list above, any and all data streams sent by Cleveland goes out over the local Ham Radio frequency, whether related to weather or not.

I strongly recommend that you visit the above URL, that explains the “WXR” and other categories so you know exactly what you are listening to and get to know the three letter identifiers for specific conditions and the differences between watches and warnings, of all types.

If there were a need and the desire for me to program in said text decoded interruptions, I would do so. Since I have been on the air with

this E.A.S. messaging system since I picked up K3IVG's Kantronics TNC from many, many years ago after his passing, no one has asked for a breakdown of these codes, so it is what it is. Hopefully, you now know what the "ZCZC-" label means for us here locally. Questions on the matter? Write me at; N3BXL@Juno.Com

Radio Calendar

April 5 – Corry Club Meeting

April 6 – Missouri QSO Party. See www.w0ma.org/mo_qsoparty.htm

April 12 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

April 13 – Montana QSO Party. See www.fvarc.org

April 13– New Mexico QSO Party. See www.swcp.com/~n5zgt

April 13 – Georgia QSO Party See www.georgiaqsoparty.org

Apr 13, 1300Z-2200Z, W3SGJ, 90th Anniversary of the BVARA. Beaver County, PA. Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association. 21.380 14.280 7.240 3.970. Certificate & QSL. Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 424, South Heights, PA 15081. PSK31 and CW operating frequencies are listed in the web page and in QRZ.com Special QSL card for received and confirmed QSL cards. Special Certificate for two or more bands or two or more modes. w3sgj.org

April 13 - 59th Annual Hamfest. Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club.
Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2013.html>

April 14 – Union City Wireless Club Meeting.

April 19-Apr 21, 1700Z-1700Z, K2BSA/8, Scoutfest. Zanesville, OH. Muskingum Valley Council BSA. 14.290 7.190. QSL. Matt Murphy c/o Muskingum Valley Council BSA, 734 Moorehead Ave, Zanesville, OH 43701. kc8bew@gmail.com or kc8bew.net

April 20 – Michigan QSO Party. See www.miqp.org

April 20 – Nebraska QSO Party. See www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm

April 20 – South Dakota QSO Party. See www.w0blk.org

April 20 – North Dakota QSO Party. See www.w0nd.com

April 20 – Ontario QSO Party. See www.va3cco.com

April 15 – Tax Day

April 27 – Club house Spring Cleanup.

April 27 – Florida QSO Party. See www.floridaqsoparty.org

April 28 - Two Rivers ARC Hamfest
Location: Boston (McKeesport), PA
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.trarc.net>

April 28 - March of Dimes Walk at Presque Isle

May 5 – Ripley Hamfest