

QUARAE

JULY 2008 EDITION



SkyWarn Deployed!

Three times in one month has the SkyWarn Spotters been deployed for severe weather affecting the Erie Area.

In any case, it is great to know that we have many on lookout. The one storm at 6 am really caught some people off guard, including myself who was sleeping at the time.

However, the EC Team stresses that we only report severe weather related incidents over the radio. If there is heavy rain or lightning is not really considered severe. You should report severe weather meeting the following criteria. These are the

events the National Weather Service would like to know about as soon as possible:

- Tornado
- Funnel Cloud
- Wall Cloud
- Hail: dime size or larger (Quarter Size for nets)
- Wind Gusts: 58 mph +
- Flooding
- Storm Damage

Your severe weather report should be detailed but concise, and should address the following questions:

- WHAT did you see?
- WHERE did you see it?
- WHEN did you see it?

Any other details that are important - How long did it last? Direction of travel? Was there damage? etc.

Otherwise, great work all of our spotters have been doing. Keep up the great work!

These tips have been provided by the National Weather Service.

With such an ugly summer that it has already been—I'm sure we'll all be called upon again. As long as severe weather doesn't destroy our region—we will all be in good shape!

Stay safe, and again, great work we all have been doing!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

Club Repeaters	
146.6100	PL: 186.2
146.8200	PL: 186.2

ANNOUNCEMENTS BOARD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Novice-Tech Net has moved from 28.400 to 28.410 USB due to the old frequency being a popular calling frequency. <li style="text-align: right;">•WB3DOM—Ron •Radio Amateurs of Corry (RAC) meet the first Tuesday of every month. <li style="text-align: right;">•WA1YJZ—Rich •Congratulations to our new area hams for obtaining their amateur radio licenses! •The Ham Radio Family

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Issue 07

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Possible Interference to our bands!?!

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. The League has filed a 120-page response--including studies--in response to the FCC's BPL *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23. The *NOI* asking how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gores with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception. "This interference potential, as a matter of both law and fact, disqualifies access BPL as a potential future competitive broadband delivery system."

So-called "access BPL" would use existing overhead medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and broadband services to homes and businesses. Another form of BPL, "in-house BPL," uses electrical wiring inside a building to distribute digital signals. The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

In announcing its BPL initiative earlier this year, members of the FCC could barely contain their enthusiasm for the technology. The League's comments point out, however, that the FCC had acceded to the utility industry by citing potential interference to and

from unlicensed power company PLC power-grid control systems in turning down ARRL's petition for a 136 kHz allocation. ARRL had asked that hams be permitted to transmit on 136 kHz at less than 2 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP); the FCC had proposed 1 W EIRP.

"Yet, the same industry, together with BPL manufacturers, is apparently contending now that at HF and VHF, where the power lines are better antennas than they are at LF, that BPL can co-exist with amateur stations using more than 10,000 watts EIRP," the League said. "Both arguments cannot be valid."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 33.7 dB to 65.4 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

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Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie

General Membership Meeting - June 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President KE3V at 7 pm at the RAE Clubhouse.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3ZNP, N3NKV, KB3BAM, AD4UL, KB3NAT, KB3CAT

Upgrades: KB3RDO – Technician; N3DBC- Extra

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion made by N3LBI. Seconded by KB3NAT. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: None Available

Board Report: N3NKV gave a synopsis of the board meeting of May 27, 2008. There was not a quorum present. The meeting was used as a work session. Topics discussed included: Field Day, Listserv, Upcoming Public Service Events, Directories, Membership Cards, Status of Purchase of Membership Software, and Formation of Election Committee.

Committee Reports:

Repeater: N3APP reported that the 440 transceiver needs to work. We may need to upgrade to a commercial grade transceiver for the location in the near future. There are also desense issues at the St. Vincent's site on the receiver. A cavity filter may have to be installed.

Newsletter: KB3RDO mentioned that the newsletter would be getting a different look.

Website: N3NKV mention that www.raerie.org will soon be phased over to www.w3gv.org

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that we still need material for the railings for stairs. We may have to buy materials for railing.

Education: N3NKV reported that K3UFG presently has 5 students in Technician Class.

Old Business:

Directories: N3DBC mentioned that it is final format in Excel. Needs to be formatted for MS Word.

Field Day: AD4UL mentioned that setup will start up at 2 pm on Friday at Fairfield Hose. He said he needs a lot more help than usual. We will be running a 4A station this year. There was a discussion on planning for the event that took place.

...MORE ON PAGE 4

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

KB3NAT mentioned that a mobile embroiderer/silkscreen company will be at the Northwest PA Hamfest. He also had a demonstration of his foxhunt transmitter and RDF antenna.

WB3CNJ asked why membership in the RAE has been declining.

50/50 Winner: \$11.00 to N3LBI

Motion to Adjourn made by KB3CAT Seconded by KB3BAM at 7:59 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis*

Radio Association of Erie Secretary

**Food, Prizes,
Foxhunts,
Talk-ins, VE
Exams and
much more
at Erie's
Very Own
Hamfest!**

Erie's Very Own Hamfest!

The 7th Annual Northwest Pennsylvania Hamfest is Saturday July 12th at the Greene Township Municipal Building (WWA Club).

Hamfest to start at 7 AM with prizes including:

Main Prize: 2 Meter HT
Talk-in Prize: 25A Astron.

Entrance fee is \$5 and anyone under age 16 is free. Tailgating and vendor spaces available.

Opportunities to take your license exam!

Outdoor picnic area along with two foxhunts.

Great food and talk-ins

on the 146.700 WA3UC repeater. In all—good fun and local Erie area hams will be there!

Hope to see you there!!!



Possible Interference to our bands!?! (cont'd)

Reply comments in this proceeding are due on or before August 6, 2003. Interested parties may submit electronically filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Under ECFS Main Links, click

on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required field. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submit-

ted via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential

threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site.

Taken from the ARRL Radio News Website.
Rick Lindquist, N1RL

July 2008 Area Events						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Have a Great 4th of July!		1 Radio Amateurs of Corry Meeting	2	3 Radio Association of Erie Meeting	4 National Holiday	5
6	7	8 WWA Club Meeting at 7 PM	9	10 UCWA Club Meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 License Exams
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	REMEMBER! Local Erie Area Nets... More check-ins the better.	

Contact the Editor: KB3RDO@yahoo.com

Schedule of Events

- Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting on the 3rd of Thursday at 7 PM. Will be at the clubhouse.
- The Wattsburg Wireless Association has it's monthly Radio Examinations for obtaining or upgrading a license. Exams start at 9 AM.
- Field day is on the 28th and 29th of this year. Location will be Fairfield Fire Dept.
- Your event can be posted on the calendar. Just contact the editor!
- Schedule is subject to change.

KB3RDOs Logging Software Suite

I, myself, have developed a logging program to keep track of your QSOs with people in the Erie Area along with the world! This software was developed by me using the Microsoft Visual Basic programming language for Windows®.

This software was intended for Erie County, PA Hams. There are features in the program that would not suit outside the county. These features include:

SkyWarn Severe Weather Net: Spotter Check-ins; Severe Weather Reports; etc... are all handled using a window to fill in information taken during actual nets. The net controller can use this

software to log the call, when the spotter was on, and when he was off, along with taking reports, grid squares, locations, status. Plus the log can be saved and even printed for future reference.

Erie Area Mailbag Net? Yes, the software has the capability of logging the calls of all who check-in to the net; if they had traffic, comments, questions, etc.

Along with logging your QSOs with other Hams.

The software is free, all you really need is a fast internet connection such as DSL. The program is 60MB.

You can backup your contacts and restore them in the event of a system crash or upgrade.

So, don't take my word for it—give it a try!

Download at:
<http://www.mediafire.com/?ctcemmf91x>

Enjoy! From your friend, editor and fellow ham:

Nicholas Seelinger—KB3RDO.

**JULY 2008
EDITION**

**QUARAE
NEWSLETTER**

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE
ONLINE EDITION OF THE QUARAE!**

**QUARAE NEWSLETTERS THAT ARE
MAILED ARE PRINTED IN
GRAY-SCALE.**

**Editor:
Nicholas Seelinger
KB3RDO**

Radio Association of Erie Monthly Newsletter

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