

# QUA - RAE

The Official Newsletter of the Radio Association of Erie

## RAE Christmas Party

Attention Club Members: I have some good news for all our newsletter readers. Plans for the Radio Association of Erie's annual Christmas party are complete. Here is what's in store for our members.



Shrine Club

Saturday, December 21, 2002

6:00-6:30pm- Vegetable and Cheese Tray and Cash Bar.

6:30-8:30pm- Dinner and Music

Menu: Buffet consisting of: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Roast Beef, Rigatoni, Twice Baked Potato, Green Beans, Mixed Green Salad, Rolls, Butter, Coffee &

*Just a quick note for all the readers. My email address has changed. My new email is: [rjl191@adelphia.net](mailto:rjl191@adelphia.net). Please change your address book to reflect the change. Email sent to the old address after the 1st of the year will not be accepted.*



Tea.

Music by Gene Leone.

Please join us for feasting and reflection. Enjoy a nice evening out before the holiday. We look forward to seeing you there!

If your interested please, please RSVP ASAP. We are limited to the number of people who can attend.

Robert Fuller (N3LBI) will take reservations starting now.

Cost: \$16.00 Per Person

Reservations required by December 14, by Email [n3lbi@adelphia.net](mailto:n3lbi@adelphia.net), or Phone 814-898-1115.

Radio  
Association  
of Erie

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December 2002



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**RAE Officers—2002****President**

William Craig, N3ZUD

**Vice President**

Ronald Prindle, N3BXL

**Treasurer**

Michila LaJohn, KE3XR

**Secretary**

Dianne Miller, K3LD

**Board of Directors-  
Chairman**

Robert Fuller, N3LBI

**Board Members**

Jack Haven, N3RKO

Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW

Dennis Sharer, KA3WYO

Neil Shea, N3ZNP

**EOC Chairman**Steve LaJohn, N3SRD  
slajohn@adelphia.net**Membership**Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW  
Bobn3faw@adelphia.net**Newsletter Editor**Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX  
rjl191@adelphia.net**Repeater Chairman**Bill Craig, N3ZUD  
bcraig@velocity.net

## IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES

**Membership Meeting:**  
**Thursday, January 2, 2003**  
**7:00 PM**

**RAE club meetings are now  
being held at our winter  
location.**

**Location:**  
**American Red Cross**

**Board of Directors Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2003**

**Location:**  
**American Red Cross**

**Christmas Party:**  
**Shrine Club**  
**Saturday, December 21, 2002**  
**Drinks @ 6:00 PM**  
**Dinner @ 6:30 PM**

## A Message From Our VE Team

The RAE VE Team has moved from Villa Maria to City Diner & Bakery, also known as Panos Restaurant at 1523 East 38th Street. We have learned that some who wished to test, did not know of the change and went to the wrong location. Test sessions remain the same as to the date and hour. It is the first Saturday of each month and at 8 A.M.

At the November session, Jerold Groves of East Springfield, and Todd Johnson of Corry each passed the Technician exam. Since then, Todd has informed me that he received the call sign KB3ITK. He has a 10 year old daugh-

ter, Emily, who is interested and intends to test later on. There is also a 12 year old son whose interest is art, and along with his father, is a member of the local Art Club.

Our next test session will be on Saturday, January 4 at the location and time listed above.

Norma W3CG

## Notice from your Editor

Hi all! I wanted to let members who receive this newsletter know that this will be the last newsletter sent via email. It was decided that future Quarae's would be posted for download.

Beginning the 1st of the year, all previous and new newsletters will be hosted on a web-server. Members will still

receive an email, but it will only be a reminder that the newsletter is available for viewing. Members who receive the newsletter via postal mail, will continue to do so. If you have any opinions, views or concerns... please direct them to me only... I may be reached via email at rjl191@adelphia.net or via phone message at 897-9872.

## General Meeting Minutes— August 1, 2002

Board Members Present: N3ZUD, KE3XR, N3FAW, N3RKO, and K3LD. Not present: N3BXL, N3ZNP, N3LBI and KA3WYO

Meeting brought to order by President N3ZUD at 7:11, General Membership Meeting at the Red Cross.

Visitors: Jeff Jackson and Larry Niece from K9 Search and Rescue

Secretary's report- K3LD: motion to accept the minutes that were printed in the QuaRae.

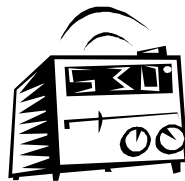
Motion: K3TJM Second: N3HPR

Treasurer's report- KE3XR: report given. Ron (N3BXL) applied to Verizon again for the \$500 grant for community service which has been received. Also Ron donated to cover the basic cost of the phone of \$300.00.

Board of Directors report- K3LD- EOC- some wiring has been completed. The .61 line was shortened and some work has been complete. Mobil com has been cancelled. Cushcraft antenna up. The Xmas party is set for December 21 at the Shrine Club, will let all know how much and what the menu is as soon as they get the menu. Elections Also club was donated a Ten Tec Omni radio, power supply, microphone and manuals by Paul Flick (W3KAZ).

Membership- N3FAW: 88 members so far for 2003 membership drive. Moment of Silence for Joe (K3IVG).

Contest- KB3A- PA QSO thanked all who participated and for the donation of the plaque for the event. Good to hear the W3GV call sign out there this year. The club did well with contacts. Sweepstakes on Nov 16 18. N3RKO- the W3GV received a certificate for 3rd place for the MDC QSO Party. The Ten Tec radio has been sent to Ten Tec to be checked out.



QuaRae: KC2HVX (Bob) Wants to know of anyone not able to open up PDF files let him know at KC2HVX@hotmail.com Bob (KC2HVX) motioned effective January putting the QuaRae on the web and e-mail all members when it is in. second KB3A all in favor non opposed The members without web access will still get paper copy.

Public Service- N3RKO- warming up for next year.

Repeater: / EOC: N3SRD- we have dropped the contract with Mobil Com. The repeater is sounding better. Lee (N3APP) did some tweaking and it needed some serious adjustments done. .61 signal increased in areas you couldn't hear before. Worked on the hardline, shortened it and we now have 2 antennas up and working well. Steve is looking for signal reports. North East still not on the air. EOC wiring still needs

completed. Want to get heat into the EOC, may need to look at other avenues to get heat in. It is winterized.

Skywarn: N3HPR- Skywarn snow spotters should have received kits for the snow reports to Cleveland.

ARES/RACES: N3HPR- 9:00 Sunday one net of the week. Winter coming get your winter stations up and running.

VE- K3LD- Saturday Dec 7 and January 4 will be at Panos on 38 St. East. Saturday, November 16 and Dec. 21 at 12:30 at Gannon

Elections: N3ZUD- Have for	
President	KB3A
VP	N3RKO
Treasurer	KE3XR
Secretary	K3LD
Board	N3BXL and NI3Q

All in favor. Non opposed. New Officers for 2003 close election. 7:50

Club 50/50 raffle only 748 tickets out of 2000 sold. Winner- Lou Hahn WB3KVH \$374.00  
50/50 raffle \$15.50 W6FCQ

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## An Amateur Station on the Move

*If you're going to live life on the road, it pays to do it right!*

When we decided to sell our property of almost 40 years and travel the US in a motor home, the question arose of how were we ever going to enjoy this Amateur Radio hobby as we had in the past. To answer this question, we decided to design a mobile station that suited our needs and would be an integral part of our vehicle. Because we intended to purchase a new motor home, the station equipment selection and layout, as well as the vehicle floor plan and construction were of prime consideration.

- WinLink 2000 HF e-mail system and printer
- GPS system for traveling and identifying our fixed locations
- Weather station to include wind, temperature, humidity and pressure
- Tunable HF antenna system, usable when fixed or in motion
- Power system usable with either 12 V dc or 120 V ac

Soon after the motor home is parked, an impressive mobile station takes over the dashboard area.

The antenna system and weather station sensors mount on the rear

A home on wheels!

Karen Titus, KG4IQX, on the air.

Major equipment selection was as follows:

- Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver and a SGC 500-W Power Cube amplifier
- Diamond 7500 antenna
- An SCS PTC-II PACTOR controller and a HP Deskjet 932C printer
- Garmin Model 48 GPS with external antenna
- Peet Brothers Ultimeter 2000 weather station
- High Sierra 1500 foldover mounted antenna
- Alinco DM-330 power supply
- 2000-W ac power inverter
- Vehicle batteries (500 Ah) and three 75-W solar panels
- Winbook XL laptop computer with Windows 2000 and two USB-to-serial converters



The station design was to include the following:

- 500-W HF operation, either fixed or mobile
- VHF/UHF operation, either fixed or mobile

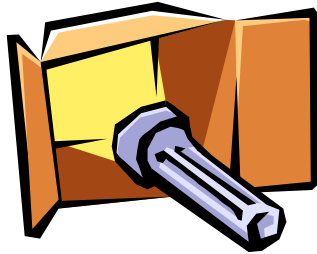
ladder.

The antenna folds down when it's time to roll.

Continued on pg.5

## Meeting Minutes— continued...

Program:  
K9 Search and Rescue or CAE-SAR



Asked for help in communications during rescues which is their biggest problem. They will not do any rescues that would hurt or put anyone in danger. It is an all volunteer group and they are asking for help. They would like a drill sometime in the spring.

Anyone interested contact either Chris KB3A or Tom N3HPR

Motion to adjourn: K3GJK Second: KC2HVX  
Meeting adjourned at 8:45  
Submitted by K3LD

## An Amateur Station on the Move— continued...

*The station consumes two-thirds of the motor home dash. A console was built for the equipment, effectively providing a convenient operating position from the driver's seat. Included in the console are the antenna tuning controls and an RF monitoring meter. A removable table placed on the steering wheel serves as a small desk for the computer when parked. A pedestal was included for a laptop computer convenient to the copilot for GPS travel assistance. The weather station readout is located below the TS-2000 on the beige motor home console.*

*Power for the station is divided into two sections: 120 V ac and 12 V dc supplied equipment. The transceiver and PACTOR controller are powered by the Alinco supply, which in turn is powered from either the 2000-W inverter or shore power. The HF amplifier, GPS and the weather station are powered directly from the 12 V dc*



*battery system. By separating the equipment in this manner, better voltage regulation and some reduction in onboard RFI was achieved. Any power-conversion*

*loss associated with the ac power supply was a viable trade off considering the above.*

*The HF antenna is ladder mounted and grounded through aluminum straps to the motor home aluminum roof. The PVC tube mounted under the ladder houses a simple antenna tuner necessary when the antenna is in the down position. The wind speed/direction sensor folds with the antenna.*

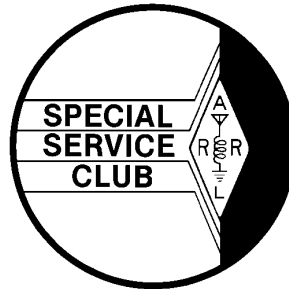
This has been a fun project for the both of us. The installation, although ongoing, has taken us about eight months to complete. Operation has been gratifying. We are in constant contact with our friends both via e-mail and on the air. And last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank Wes, WA4TSC, for all his suggestions and help.

## Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844  
Erie, Pa 16512

[http://  
home.earthlink.net/  
~n3ntj/rae.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~n3ntj/rae.html)

*A Special Service Club*



## Check out what your fellow Hams have to offer!

### *For Sale...*

Yeasu FT-757GX  
9 band HF Rig. with manuals  
and extras----\$475.00

Heathkit SB-1000 (1000 watt)  
linear amplifier with manuals----  
\$600.00

If your interested, please contact  
Joe Ponchak.  
Email: ka3cpvgrmpap@juno.com  
Phone: 836-9829

### *For Sale...*

HEATHKIT DX-100  
For AM use and a nice collect-  
able! Cabinet unassembled still  
in box.

Make an offer to Paul W3QPP  
868-5519

### *I want...*

**The RAE Club is  
looking for a piece of  
equipment that you  
might just have... If  
you have a **220  
Transceiver** we  
would like to hear  
from you!!**

Please contact *Steve LaJohn*.  
Email- slajohn@adelphia.net  
Home- 774-0363  
Pager- 879-7723

### *For Sale...*

Alinco DJ196 2M HT  

- Includes supplied accessories  
& 12V power cord.
- 6 months old

\$90.00  
Marty Fox N3EPU  
881-1668

### *Can we trade?*

If have something that you would  
like to trade, just drop me a note  
at my NEW email account. It's  
rjl191@adelphia.net.

For those that don't have email  
and would like to contribute to  
the ad listings or write an article  
for the QuaRae you can contact  
me by phone. My local phone is:  
897-9872. My pager number is:  
878-6652. Paging me is preferred  
since I am out and about most of  
the day. Just dial the number,  
wait for the tones, then dial your  
home phone number, and I'll call  
you back ASAP.

### *I want...*

12V Car Charger for the  
Kenwood TR2600 HT  
  
Marty Fox N3EPU  
881-1668