

Club Repeaters:  
Erie: 146.610-  
PL 127.3 hz  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Waterford: 146.82-  
PL 186.2 hz

# QUARAE



Volume 3, Issue 11

December 2004

## Hams Quit Tournament of Rose Parade -- Limit Service to ATV

Ham radio will not be a major part of the 2005 Tournament of Roses Parade. Although it was never officially part of the Tournament of Roses, ham radio has been providing a communications link along the Rose Parade route for more than 40 years. And long before there was any official group, people like Tom O'Hara, W6ORG, of P-C Electronics were the early pioneers. In a recent interview by Amateur Radio Newsline O'Hara mentioned, "I first got involved with the Rose Parade communications when I was one of the Emergency Coordinators for Pasadena. They asked us to help out with some longer range stuff than what the CB operators were doing. This was in the middle 1960's."

Using video cameras and Amateur television, the ham radio volunteers were ever alert for any kind of emergency situation that might develop. If they spotted something they would send their pictures back to the parade coordinator who could then take the necessary action. Later on they added more and more ATV and more and more hams. At one time there were an estimated 17 camera positions. Amateur Radio literally pioneered the use of closed circuit television for coordinating large scale events in the Tournament of Roses Parade. At one time hams even had Amateur Television transmitters sending back pictures from helicopters flying overhead. And they did this long before most television stations had cameras equipped news choppers of their own. O Hara mentioned, "I got involved with the helicopter with the first ATV setup in 1968. We installed it in the Sheriff's helicopter. And when I got my own helicopter I put

one in my helicopter and flew around one year."

As the parade grew, so did the Amateur Radio communications effort. By the 1970's TORRA had unofficially been formed. TORRA stands for Tournament of Roses Radio Amateurs and in the 1980's the hams involved formalized as a club and with this came the golden days of ham radio supporting the parade. Today TORRA has more than 300 active members who regularly volunteer their time.

*Continued on Page 7*



## RAE CLUB MEETING

This Thursday – December 2nd

**7 pm at the  
Clubhouse.**

If we get a large snowfall, the meeting will be held at the Red Cross. Listen to the 61 repeater the day of the club meet-

ing to see if the meeting will be held at the Red Cross.



## Officers and Contacts — 2004

### President

Chris Robson, KB3A

### Vice President

Jack Haven, N3RKO

### Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D

### Secretary

Dianne Miller, K3LD

### Chairman of the Board

Robert Fuller, N3LBI

### Board Members

Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX

Ron Prindle, N3BXL

Joe McLain, KB3ALU

### ARES/RACES E.C.

Dave Wellman, WX3E

ucdavid@aol.com

### SKYWARN E.C.

Steve Lajohn, N3SRD

slajohn@adelphia.net

### Membership Chairmen

Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW

bobn3faw@verizon.net

### Clubhouse & Repeater

#### Committee Chairman

Steve LaJohn, N3SRD

slajohn@adelphia.net

### Volunteer Examiner

#### Coordinator

Rob Jacobs, N3OCL

n3ocl@velocity.net

### Webmaster

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX

rlaplaca@adelphia.net

### Newsletter Editor

John Lis, N3NKV

john@jjlis.com

## Upcoming Events

**Sat.. Dec 11– Sun. Dec 12th-** W3GV Club Station on the Air for the 10 Meter Contest

**Tues. Dec 28th-** Board of Directors Meeting— 7 pm  
Clubhouse or Red Cross (Depending on the Weather)

## RAE Holiday Party

Everyone liked last years holiday party despite the snow storm, we thought we would go back to Nunzi's again. The annual holiday party is set for Saturday January 15th at Nunzi's Place at East 38th and McClelland Avenue. Social Hour to start at 6:00 with dinner at 6:30. The cost of the dinner is \$13.00



The Menu will consist of :

Roasted Chicken, Beef or Ham, Roasted Potatoes, Rigatoni, Meatballs, Wedding Soup, Veg/Relish Tray, Antipasto Salad, Fruit Salad, Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Hot Vegetable, Dessert Tray, Assorted bread tray and coffee.

Reservations can will be taken at the December Meeting or via e-mail Debi Robson KB3B @ drobson@robsonco.com or via twisted pair at 474-1211.

### Boy Earns "Ham" License



## Who is this Ham?

- A) Steve Lajohn - N3SRD
- B) Brian Hemmis - K3USC
- C) Bill Marshall - KB3JSN
- D) None of the Above

Find out who this ham is on page 7



## RAE General Membership Meeting Minutes November 4, 2004

RAE Association of Erie  
General Membership Meeting  
November 4, 2004

Board Members Present: KB3A, N3RKO,  
N3LBI, KC2HVX, N3FAW and K3LD

Not present: KD3D, N3BXL and KB3ALU

Meeting brought to order by President KB3A at 7:05, General Membership Meeting at the RAE clubhouse.

Elections: voting on slate for board for 2005 motion NI3Q 2nd WA1YJZ. All in favor

President: KB3A Chris Robson

VP: N3ZNP Neal Shea

Trea: KD3D Frank Graziano

Sec: N3NKV John Lis

Board: KB3JSN Bill Marshall

Secretary's report- K3LD: motion to accept the minutes that were printed in the QuaRae for October Motion: N3LBI Second: N3RKO

Treasurer's report- K3LD gave report

Board of Directors report-N3LBI –election committee, website, repeater, Garage sale, Christmas party, PA QSO in October, and JOTA.

Membership- N3FAW: ARRL is reactivating the discounts for renewals and memberships. For new members \$15.00 and renewals \$2.00 for the RAE club.

Make sure if renewing or new get the ARRL memberships to Bob. This is also Bob's last year as membership chairman anyone interested con-

tact Bob.

QuaRae: N3NKV – John will be posting the QuaRae onto the website. If you have any old pictures send them to John.

Website: KC2HVX- John will be posting the QuaRae, KC2HVX and N3NKV and N3FAW have been working on the database, with John doing the QuaRae this will give KC2HVX more time to work on the website.

ARES: WX3E- simulated emergency test was excellent and learned a lot and thanked all who participated. Erie had more traffic than any other area.

Channel 24 had good coverage and has asked if they can do a ½ hour segment on Amateur radio as a public service angle. KB3A wants use of packet and echo link included.

Repeater: N3SRD- did a tower climb and readjusted tower for link. Working on new ideas for wave files.

Contest- KB3A: PA QSO – October 9th & 10th Chris has results for the RAE club. 10 meter contest Dec 11 & 12 at the EOC anyone interested come out to the EOC and try it. Dec 4th is Skywarn recognition of National Weather Stations contest.

WW3JC is going to have M-Com (Level I) classes at the EOC anyone interested contact Lee. It will cost \$45.00 for ARRL members and \$95.00 for nonmembers and when you pass you get the \$45.00 back if you are a member. Classes will be November 20-21 from 8 to 4.

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## November Minutes Continued

Silent Keys: Clarence W3RJL and Rich N3XYE have to contact Rob (N3OCL) cell phone # 814-881-5238 or email at N3OCL@verizon.net so that we can make sure to have the test at the RAE clubhouse.

Christmas Party set for January 15 at Nunzi's anyone interested contact KB3A. More details to follow.

Motion to get a book for the Maritime School "Now your talking" WW3JC 2nd N3LBI all in favor

VE: K3LD- If anyone is interested to test you

50/50: KB3A

Motion to adjourn: N3LBI Second: WW3JC

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by K3LD

## Early Radio in Erie

Erie has played a leading role in the advancement of radio in the state. The first local radio signal transmitted from the Gem City was in 1907 and the self assigned call letters were KRE. The KR being the initials of the operator Kenneth Richardson and the E stood for Erie. Richardson's station was located at the old waterworks with a radio pattern of 2000 feet. In 1971, Richardson was awarded the Marconi Gold Medal of Honor. Richardson became a silent key on October 31, 1979 at the age of 85 in Lynbrook, NY. In 1909, A station was located at the coal docks and was used for communication with the coal and ore carriers on Lake Erie. The transmitter, of course, was a spark gap .

Erie's first commercial broadcast station was operated by the Pennsylvania National Guard from the armory at Sixth and Parade Streets, but like the several to follow, it was short lived. The call sign for the first am station was WOAV and it operated at 1240 khz with an output power of 100 watts. Near the mid 20s, a station was in the Aerial Building on the northeast corner of Eighth and State (The site of the Highmark Blue Cross

Building on State ST). Also, WEDH went on the air from what used to be the Terrace Gardens at 20<sup>th</sup> and State. This station was complete with an auditorium and owned by the Erie Dispatch Herald.

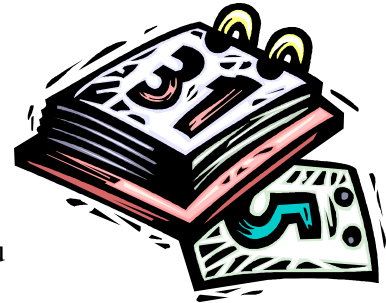
In a 1922 news publication, there were listings for two radio stations. WJT which was owned by Electric Equipment Co. and WSX owned by Erie Radio Company. In the early 1930s WLBW was on the air from the sixth floor of the Lawrence Hotel. This station fell victim to the depression and it was not until 1936 that WLEU went on the air from the second floor of the Commerce Building which was located on the Northeast Corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and State.

-Information Courtesy of Erie Times Ham Radio Columns November 1979



## It's Membership Renewal Time!

2005 is just about around the corner. Membership dues for 2005 are now due. Membership dues for 2005 remain the same as in the past 10 or more years: Full: \$20. Associate: \$16, Student: \$8. Family Members 50% Discount. As before, newly licensed hams can receive free membership for their first year as Amateur Radio Operators. If you can attend the RAE meeting Thursday, please if possible bring in your dues payment for 2005. If your not able to make it to the meeting, you can send your membership dues to:



Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW  
129 E Arlington Rd.  
Erie, PA 16509

✂

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Callsign:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ARRL Member?** Yes No

If you'd like to pay dues with a credit card, please write Card Number, Exp. Date, Amount to Pay, and Sign below.

**Name on Card** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amt.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign** \_\_\_\_\_ (Charge will be from Robson Company)

### Renew your ARRL Membership through the RAE

For each New or Lapsed Membership (over 2 years), the RAE receives \$15.00 back from the ARRL. For renewals, the RAE receives \$2.

**All that you need to do is complete the application on page 6 and make your check for the ARRL dues payable to the Radio Association of Erie. For credit card payment, you can contact call Debbie or Diane at 774-5914.**



## Hams Quit Tournament of Rose Parade -- Limit Service to ATV Continued from Page 1

At least that's the way it had been until an incident that occurred last year. That's when an incident took place that apparently caused things to go sour. According to an article in the Pasadena Star News, a pair of ham radio operators were carrying equipment onto the grounds of Tournament House in preparation for the last parade. They were stopped by a senior Tournament official and their presence challenged. The unnamed official even went so far as to accuse the ham radio volunteers of lying to get on the grounds.

Now enter Nextel. The same Nextel that has patented the words push-to-talk. Nextel is a corporate sponsor of the 2005 parade, and reportedly has donated a number of phones to the event. This means that most Tournament of Roses officials will have a Nextel phone with direct walkie-talkie service in their pockets. Bill Flinn is the Tournament's chief operating officer. Talking about Amateur Radio's departure he was quoted by Pasadena Star News as saying: "I think it's come to the end of a run. We are sorry to see them go." But depending on the Nextel walkie-talkie phones as a primary form of communications it could turn out to be a mistake for the parade and those that run it. Unlike hams, parade officials and their corps of volunteers are not trained communicators. Rather they have been used to handing a message to a ham radio operator and having an answer appear. Most are likely unaware that they will have to contend with nu-

merous people calling at the same time. All with priority traffic and all demanding immediate answers. With their years of experience, the hams were the buffers who learned how to work around these problems. But the cell phone provider is coming in cold with no experience in this specialized communications area. There will likely be no experienced net control stations and no way to prioritize needs.



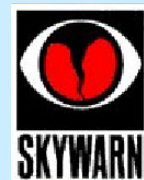
On Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, a report was in being prepared by TORRA Chair Jeanne Nordland, WD6BWN, that confirmed that hams will not be providing voice communications in 2005, but that ATV assistance to the parade will continue as it has in years past.

But ATV is only one part of the equation. the question still remains as to whether or not the Nextel phones can take the place of the hams and a structured voice communications network. This is something that nobody will really know until January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005. That's when the drama will be played out live to the world on their living-room TV screens—on New Years Day. And likely, 10's of millions of people will be watching.

-Story Courtesy Amateur Radio Newsline



**Make sure to Check into the  
Erie County ARES/RACES/Skywarn Net  
each Sunday at 9pm  
on the 146.610, 146.82, and 146.70 repeaters.**



The Ham on page 2 is KB3JSN—Bill Marshall.

**Radio Association of Erie**  
**P.O. Box 844**  
**Erie, Pa 16512**

### Swap and Shop

**For Sale**— Yaseu FT 817, with rechargeable battery pack. Asking \$500.00. Never been used, mint condition. Contact Thomas Keenan KB3TAK at 814-763-2330 or via e-mail at [keenan@alltel.net](mailto:keenan@alltel.net)

**For Sale** from the Estate of W3RLJ (Clarence Moser) — Ten-Tec OMNI-V1 Model #563 Transceiver with Matching Power Supply #936; MINI-QUAD Antenna and Rotator (You Take Down) ; MFJ—T-Tuner Model 986; #986 ; MFJ- Artificial Ground Unit; Yeasu Dual Bander FT-530 w/ Drop in Charger; MFJ # 422B Keyer; Miscellaneous test equipment, filters, microphones, noise bridges, etc. Too many to list. No reasonable offer on any item will be refused. For more information contact Bob Dziubkowski K3SBU at 814-899-2107 or e-mail: [k3sbu-1@juno.com](mailto:k3sbu-1@juno.com)

Due to a change to Dish Network, I have the antenna (LNB) and control box for DirecTV available to anyone that has a use for it. Contact Jim Ferguson KZ3C at 838 7279.

*Just a Note: Ads are run if space is available.*



**From the**  
**Radio Association of**  
**Erie**