

Club Repeaters:
Erie:
146.610-
PL 127.3 hz

Waterford:
146.82-
PL 186.2 hz

QUARAE



Volume 4, Issue 12

Web Site: www.raerie.org

December 2005

League pushes FCC for “meaningful” entry level privileges

The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if the Commission doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants. "Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments were due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed eliminating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes--especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder. "The elimination of Morse telegraphy, absent a more thorough review of operating privileges in the Amateur Service, will not address the ascertained flaws in the only entry-level license class," the ARRL asserted, referring to

the Technician license. "That license class is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration, and it needs fixing right now." The ARRL argued that if the FCC will not create a new Novice class license as the League had suggested in its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) in the proceeding, it should modify Technician operating privileges instead. The present licensing regime limits Technicians to VHF bands and above, "leaving newcomers to the Amateur Service isolated from their peers holding higher class licenses," the ARRL said. "The Technician class is, for too many, a 'dead end' to what might otherwise be an active, progressive interest in Amateur Radio, technical self-training and incentive-based educational progress in the many facets of the avocation."

The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support of the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR). Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants "creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the General class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely."

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RAE Club Meeting

Thursday December 1st at 7pm

NEW LOCATION: Erie Red Cross

4961 Pittsburgh Ave, off of W. Grandview Blvd.

Program: Laura DiPasqua, Emergency Services Director for the Red Cross

Officers and Contacts — 2005

President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. December 1st - General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: Red Cross 4961 Pittsburgh Ave, off of West Grandview Blvd.

Tues. - December 27th - Board of Directors Meeting for Old & New Board Members — Time: 7 pm

Location: Red Cross 4961 Pittsburgh Ave, off of West Grandview Blvd.

RAE Holiday Party

Enjoy great food and friendship at the RAE's Annual Holiday Party on Saturday January 14th at Nunzi's Place located at East 38th and McClelland Avenue. **Social Hour will start at 6 pm with Dinner at 6:30 pm.**

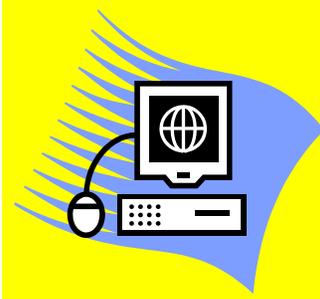
The cost of the dinner is \$13.00.

The Buffet will consist of : Roasted Chicken, Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Rigatoni, Meatballs, Eggplant Parmesan, Veg/Relish Tray, Antipasto Salad, Fruit Salad, Hot Vegetable, Dessert Tray, Assorted bread tray and coffee.

Reservations can be e-mailed to Neil Shea at twosheas@velocity.net or via twisted pair at 474-2346.



WEB SITE UPDATE



The RAE website (www.raerie.org) is presently offline due to problems beyond our control. We hope to be back online by mid December.

RAE General Membership Meeting Minutes

General Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Neil N3ZNP.

Board Members Present: N3NKV, KD3D, N3ZNP, N3LBI

N3ZNP turned the meeting over to the election committee to conduct elections for 2006.

K3GJK made a motion that we accept the following nominations:

President: KE3V

Vice President: N3ZNP

Secretary: N3NKV

Treasurer: KD3D

Seconded by WB3DOM. Motion Carried.

An election was held for 2 board of directors positions.

The winners for the two positions were WB3DOM and K3LD.

Secretary's Report: N3SRD made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the QUARAE. Seconded by KE3V.

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided the treasurer's report.

Board of Directors Report: N3LBI mentioned that there was no meeting

Upgrades: None

Silent Keys: None

Committees:

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that the clubhouse has not been winterized as present. KD3D mentioned that we received a bill for the equipment insurance.

Webpage: N3NKV mentioned that KC2HVX is working with Surferie and Penn State Behrend to

restore service on the web server.

QUARAE: N3NKV mentioned that he needs articles for the QUARAE.

Repeater: N3SRD mentioned that another individual has decided to buy the 440 repeater for the same amount. N3SRD also mentioned the 82 controller is in and that the audio levels need to be adjusted on the 61 end. Steve also mentioned that the voter receiver at St. Vincent is having major problems due to recent roof leak issues.

ARES: N3SRD mentioned that the SET would be held on Saturday Nov 5th

Membership: KE3V mentioned that there was no change in the number of members. N3NKV mentioned that the membership mailing would be going out within 1-2 weeks.

Public Service: N3LBI that mentioned that there were no upcoming public service events planned.

New Business:

N3LBI mentioned that we should have a ham in a day class.

N3SRD mentioned that the club may want to check to see if there are any special ADA Compliance requirements that we need to meet for the clubhouse.

N3FAW made a motion to Adjourn Seconded by N3LBI at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis

RAE Secretary

Trivia Question:

In what month was the RAE Communications Truck coming out of the paint shop and having radio equipment installed in it? A) July 1958
B) December 1955 C) April 1956

League pushes FCC for “meaningful” entry level privileges continued

Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges. Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W. These recommended privileges take into account the FCC's proposal to adopt the ARRL's so-called "Novice reformatting" plan in WT Docket 04-140. The ARRL had earlier proposed the same privileges for a reconstituted Novice license.

The time is right to take a look at the operating privileges of Amateur Radio license classes, the ARRL said in its filing, "because the entry-level license class is demonstrably neither attractive to newcomers nor encouraging in terms of retaining the interest of license holders." To back up its assertions, the League

pointed to surveys it conducted in 1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not currently active in Amateur Radio--up 30 percent from the earlier survey. "The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent," the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of Technicians responding in 2003 said they'd never even been on the air.

The League pointed out that the FCC's proposed across-the-board elimination of the Morse requirement eliminates a simple mechanism for current Technician licensees to obtain HF operating privileges--passing the 5 WPM code exam. If the FCC does nothing other than eliminate the Morse requirement for the General license, the ARRL commented, it would make no sense to continue to deprive Technician licensees the HF operating privileges that Tech Plus licensees now enjoy. "To do otherwise is to draw a distinction that is entirely arbitrary," the League concluded.

VE Report

October brought some new hams to West County. The RAE would like to Congratulate the following on passing the Technician Class License test:

Justin Sargent, KB3MSW, of Lake City; Gary VanMeter, KB3MSC of Lake City; Jon Papson, KB3MSX of Girard; William Heiden, KB3MTF of Girard; Richard Heiden, KB3MTG of Girard; Nicholas Decker, KB3MTH of Girard. Jon Papson KB3MSX of Girard earned a partial upgrade for element 3. Many of the new hams are members of Boy Scout Troop #53. Brian Wedekind N3KQE was instrumental in organizing the class sessions and test sessions.

Swap and Shop

From the Estate of KA3EZL Len Czajkowski:
Johnson Low Pass Filter= \$20.00; Vista XXR 15 Amp.-12 Volt Power Supply= \$30.00
No Reasonable offer refused. Call Bob -K3SBU at 814-899-2107 or E-mail—k3sbu-1@juno.com

Channel Master Antenna Rotator Model 9537, for light weight antenna, digital control and display. Includes about 50 ft control cable. Like new \$35. Also Roof Tripod, 5 feet high, \$10. Bob N3FAW, 866-3027, bobn3faw@verizon.net



From the
Radio Association of Erie

Tips for driving a Ground Rod

I have heard many different ideas on how to drive a ground rod into the ground. And I assure you there is several different ways to accomplish this task as well. But being the sort of fellow I am I always like to find the easy way out. Ok so I can hear you now easy way pay some kid to do this. Well that probably is the simple thing but i want suggest a few ways for the do it your self types here.

The first method.

I call the barbarian method. Please let me explain.

We take ground rod in hand and place it in the location of are picking and then with are free hand we strike it with a hammer or other blunt instrument. Results? Well usually you never get that ground clamp on. Secondly you probably have several banged up parts all over your upper appendages. And finally you'll get disgusted and saw it off long before you have it deep enough to do any real benefit. This is the hard and wrong method.

The second method.

is simply an improved version of the above where we fashion a covering device such as section of iron pipe with a cap screw on. And pound it in the same fashion. End result about same as above.

The third method.

Now this will get you all wet that I promise you. But here we go. We construct are own piece of machinery here folks. So get ready to visit your local hardware store. You will need a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch steel conduit 10 feet long if you doing an 8-foot rod add 3 feet for 12-foot rods. I like EMT for this. You'll need 1 bronze hose adapter and lastly a garden hose. Now to assemble are parts. You need to have the conduit thread with national standard pipe thread on one end. This is where you screw the bronze adapter on.

Connect water hose and insert rod in to conduit. Place the unit over where you want the rod and turn on the water. You may want to install a ball cock valve on conduit between bronze adapter and conduit to start and stop water flow. Now

you simply what the water rushing out the pipe dig your hole for you. I like this method it is not fast and don't work in rocks. But hey you have the tool left for whom ever May want use it. And they think your pretty darned smart to have made this gizmo.



My fourth and final method.

I like this the best. Now we need to take a trip to our local tool rental center. What we want is an electric jackhammer around a 30 pponder is perfect.

Now before we get to far a point I must raise if you tell the guys your going drive ground rods with this they may frown and not rent it. So get a bit any bit tell them your bust block wall with it.

Now you have the jackhammer what you need is to place the ground clam loosely over the ground rod so it will slide to bottom easily. Place jack hammer over the ground rod and drive it home. This method works in rock soil darned near any place. It is fast simple. And cost around \$20.00 to rent the hammer all day. Best part is no sweat no bumps or bruises. And you'll have the rod down faster then our beer. Not that I would dare think a ham would drink beer during work oh no. Well again as always folks I like to thanks you and the great staff of eham for permitting me to do this little how to thing. God bless and good dx. Jeff/N3JBH

- Courtesy of E-ham

Trivia Question: Answer:

The RAE Communications left the paint shop and was had radio installed in December 1956.

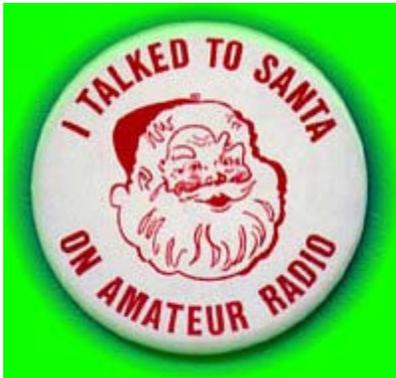
Using Water Pipe & Service Joints for RF Grounding –Please Don't

It's probably done most often for the simple convenience of time and effort, but there's little to be gained and frequently a lot to lose by using cold water pipes, gas pipes, and electrical outlet box connections as RF or lightning protection grounds. Good grounding is a critical and integral part of good telecommunication station design. Whether the application is receive only, transceiving, data delivery, or otherwise modern solid state equipment is internally delicate, and good grounding is a key factor in maintaining clean spectrum operating and overvoltage protection. Unfortunately, it is seen as a quick ten minute afterthought to many installations. In their haste to finish ground connections are commonly made with a piece of "off the shelf" wire connecting radio equipment chassis to whatever is nearby that may eventually reach ground. But the most important factor in good neutral connections is length of lead from chassis to earth entry point — not the specific materials of wire sizes used. Here are a few guidelines to follow when installing ground connection systems:

- 1) Cold water pipes make poor grounds in most cases because the length of copper pipe to earth is often very long. Any lead over ten feet probably should be avoided for most applications. Additionally, pipes of this type connect through numerous solder—sweated joints, bends, and possibly even conversion to plastic pipe (a good insulator) before reaching ground. The fact that the pipe may have water inside is irrelevant. When such systems are used in transmitting service the piping becomes part of the radiating structure and ground level radiation will often be severe, causing interference to other services or neighbors.
- 2) Never, ever, ever use natural gas pipes for ground connections. In a lightning event a seam crack or rupture of a gas line can be explosive. Hot water lines used in conjunction with gas water heaters should be avoided for the same reason. Be sensible—stay well away from dangerous ignition sources!
- 3) When designing a telecommunication installation keep equipment at or below ground level if at all possible. Locate the equipment close to an outside wall where short grounding connections can be made. Or drive a ground rod through the floor downward into a crawl space if present where short distance ground can be found. Borrow or rent a hammer drill to drill a hole through concrete slabs or floors where a ground rod may be inserted. Ground underneath such places is nearly always moist and very conductive. If drilling through a slab be sure to avoid pipes that may be in the concrete! Consult the builder or house plans.
- 4) If the facility must be elevated off the ground run ground wire straight down to keep the distance as short as possible, and be sure to route all antenna leads, rotator wires, etc. to ground first (where lightning protection devices are installed), and then up to the equipment.
- 5) Electrical service box connections generally make poor grounds for the same reason as cold water pipes. The leads are lengthy, the wire size small, and the integrity of the earth connection is often compromised by age, poor initial installation, corrosion, dissimilar metal conversion, loose screws, etc.

The moral is simple — put some effort in good grounding. Keep leads short, wire size large, connections tight and weatherproof, and grounding electrodes wet. It will probably save you from more headaches than aspirin! (Article Courtesy of Industrial Communication Engineers, LTD)

The Night Before Christmas Ham Radio Style



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
 The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
 The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
 I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
 The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
 While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
 The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
 I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
 The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
 Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
 He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
 When he ended transmission with the words,
 "Old St. Nick".
 I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
 If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
 We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
 Then he came back and said,
 "I've emergency traffic!"
 His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
 If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
 I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
 Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
 As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
 He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
 "Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
 Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
 You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
 Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
 So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
 St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
 Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
 "Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
 As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
 Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
 His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
 "Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
 The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
 And he handed me a card that read,
 "QSL Via Bureau".
 His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
 I felt like a novice taking his test.
 His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
 This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
 I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
 I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
 Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
 He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
 He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
 And placed in it a large present for me.
 When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
 Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
 But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
 "Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"
 Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844

Erie, Pa 16512

Local HF/VHF/VHF Nets

DAY	TIME	BAND	FREQ	MODE	COMMENT
SUN	7:00 PM	6 METER	50.190	USB	SIMPLEX
SUN	9:00 PM	2 METER	146.610	FM	- OFFSET 127.3 PL ARES/RACES NET
SUN	9:00 PM	2 METER	146.820	FM	- OFFSET 186.2 PL ARES/RACES NET
SUN	9:00 PM	2 METER	146.700	FM	- OFFSET 186.2 PL ARES/RACES NET
MON	8:00 PM	2 METER	144.450	AM	SIMPLEX
TUES	8:30 PM	70 CM	446.100	FM	SIMPLEX
WEDS	7:00 PM	6 METER	50.520	AM	SIMPLEX
FRID	8:00 PM	2 METER	144.210	USB	SIMPLEX
SAT	8:00 PM	2 METER	146.550	FM	SIMPLEX
MON-FRI	8:00 PM	2 METER	146.700	FM	- OFFSET 186.2 PL "Erie Mailbag Net"
			LOCAL HF NETS		
DAILY	8:00 AM		14.340	USB	FORT PIERCE CONNECTION CT. CONNECTION NET FOLLOWS SNOWBIRD NET
DAILY	7:20 PM		7.230	LSB	
WEDS	20:30		28.400	USB	NOVICE TECH NET
SUNDAY	8:00 PM		29.000	USB	LAKE ERIE EMERGENCY NET