

The QUARAE

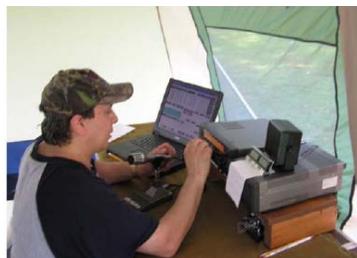


Less Than 1 Month to
Field Day 2006!!!



See You at
Field Day at the
RAE Club House!

Saturday June 24 at
2pm until Sunday
June 25th at 2 pm



If you would like to help out
with contact Doug AD4UL at
453-2915

Or e-mail ad4ul@arrl.net

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2006

Club Repeaters

- Erie
146.610–
PL 186.2
- Waterford
146.820–
PL 186.2

Club Website:

www.raerie.org

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Radio Association of Erie Club meeting this Thursday at
the RAE Club House on Wagner Road.

The Program for this month is
Amateur Television.

Hope to See You There!

Officers and Contacts — 2006

President

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Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D
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Robert Fuller, N3LBI
n3lbi@adelphia.net

Board Members

Bob LaPlaca, KC2HVX
Bill Marshall, KB3JSN
Dianne Miller, K3LD
Ron Seyboldt, WB3DOM

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Clubhouse & Repeater

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Steve Lajohn, N3SRD
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Calendar of Events

Thurs. - June 2nd — General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm

**Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99 in McKean**

Saturday June 24th Through Sunday June 25th

At 2 pm— Field Day

**Location: RAE Club House on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99 in McKean**

Tues. - June 28th —Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 7 pm

**Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99 in McKean**

Public Service News

Last Sunday morning, May 21st, a bunch of Ham operators gathered at McDonalds on State St. hoping that the rain would stay away and the

temperature would warm up. Well we got half of our wishes, the sun came out and the rain stopped, so off we went to support the MS Walk. It was cold and windy but we had a good turnout of walkers to support the effort.



Pam Massi from the MS Society and I would like to thank the following operators who bundled up and did our duty: Frank KD3D, Bob N3LBI, Frank KB3NAT, Ron N3BXL, Kathy N3MHQ, Jim KZ3C, John N3DBC, Sam KB3DAF, Cecil NM3L, and Ron WB3DOM. We had a couple of minor radio problems but this is a good way to check out your radio so we will be ready for any emergency call out that may come up.

73,
Doug AD4UL

Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting
Saturday May 6th, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by President KE3V at the RAE Club House.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3NKV, KD3D, N3LBI, WB3DOM
Not Present: N3ZNP, KB3JSN, KC2HVX, K3LD

New Calls: None

Silent Keys: None

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2006 meeting as printed in the QUARAE. N3LBI made a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the QUARAE. Seconded by KB3CAT. Motion Carried.

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

Board of Director's Report: N3LBI provided an overview of the board of director's meeting. Topics discussed included: status of capital funds and need for a new capital fund trustee, Saturday meeting, tri-bander repair, gravel for clubhouse driveway, clubhouse security, Ciano Estate sale. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Board of Director's Minutes made by WB3DOM. Seconded by K3SBU. Motion carried.

Membership: KE3V reported that there are presently 109 members.

Committee Reports:

Repeater: N3APP gave an update of the status of the repeaters. He reported that the voters need to be reworked. There is an interference problem at the Wagner Road site and the St. Vincent site. Lee

mentioned that the backup batteries for the 82 Repeater are getting overcharged. N3APP reported that K3UFG volunteered to do battery maintenance. The North East voter antenna needs to be repositioned back toward the Wagner Road site. The 61 Repeater now has remote base capabilities. Presently, it can only link to 443.375. A circuit needs to be made to be able to change the memories remotely. Long-Tone Zero paging and Two-Tone paging are now available on 61. Lee would like to know what is the most common in radios.

Skywarn: Nothing

RACES: WX3E reported that the VA Hospital was going to put the antenna back up at the station. Dave also discussed a memo that he received from Joe Weindorf about a 501c3 that would involve Erie County RACES.

WB3DOM mentioned that the VA Station TS-430 is at N2LXD's getting repaired.

Public Service: AD4UL mentioned the next Public Service event is the MS Walk on May 21st. AD4UL made a motion that the club provide emergency communications for the MS Walk, MS Bike Ride, and the Caring Place Triathlon. Seconded by N3FAW. Motion Carried.

QUARAE. N3NKV mentioned that QUARAE was redesigned this month. He is also in need of articles.

Website. N3NKV reported that KC2HVX is in the process of getting the raerie.org domain name transferred.

Clubhouse: Doug AD4UL reported that the grass is cut and the water is on. N3NKV mentioned that the club now has a 40 foot tower in the basement.

Continued on PG 4

Meeting Minutes Continued

Old Business:

N3LBI mentioned that he was going to be dropping off the photo for the N3RKO memorial station plaque.

held there the Monday after Dayton Hamvention.

50/50 Winner: Lee N3APP \$16.00

New Business:

N3LBI mentioned that there were various items for sale at the clubhouse. If they did not sell they would be going to Ripley Hamfest tomorrow.

Other Drawings:

KB3NAT won tickets to a Seawolves Games. KE3V won a Prize Ticket to the Breezeshooters Hamfest. KD3D won a Prize Ticket to the Breezeshooters Hamfest.

AD4UL made a motion that club purchase a membership in the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society. The Cost is \$25 for the first year then \$20 the second year. Seconded by N3LBI. Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjourn made by NI3Q. Seconded by K3SBU.

Field Day Chair- AD4UL volunteered to be chair for the 2006 Field Day

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 pm

K3UFG mentioned that there is presently a Technician Class going on at the Red Cross. VE exams would be

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary

Time Capsule

1956

- The First Week of June—The RAE changed its club callsign from W3LTK to W3GV.
- An article appeared in the Dispatch-Herald that Dick Bainbridge W3GZO just got his ticket. He was stationed in Africa with the Army. His first contact was a patch back home to his parents in Kearsarge and a qso with his girlfriend.
- New officers of the RAE were installed.
- The Lake Erie East Winds Radio Club was being formed. They were going to be similar to the Breezeshooters in Pittsburgh.
- Field Day was held on Donation Road.

ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 10-12th

Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 0300 UTC Monday

Object: To work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees by 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz.



FCC still mum on Morse code ruling

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC might act on either Amateur Radio proceeding. "They're at different points in the process," an FCC staffer said, refraining from saying anything that might suggest a commitment. "One is farther along in the review chain than the other." The staff member indicated that the "omnibus" proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse proceeding in the WTB pipeline.

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," one staff member demurred. Neither would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006. "They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

Earlier this year an WTB staffer, speaking without at-

tribution, told ARRL, "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention." Bill Cross, W3TN, the FCC Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division staff member who typically addresses Amateur Radio-related proceedings during Dayton Hamvention's FCC forum, won't be attending this year's show. When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class. Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the FCC drops the Morse requirement.

The "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, released in April 2004, consolidated a dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001. The Commission has proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). Among other things, the FCC also proposed to essentially do away with its rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters. And it further proposed to adopt a rule to limit the number of applications a licensee mayfile on a given day for the same vanity call sign.

- ARRL

Coming Soon ... A New Tower at the Clubhouse!



A big thanks goes out to the tower preparation crew: Ron WB3DOM, Doug AD4UL, Jerry W2FD, and also to John N3NKV and Neil N3ZNP who helped with the delivery of the tower.

Attention Packet Users:

The Erie Area now has a packet net.
**The Packet Net meets on Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM
on 145.010 on the W3GV-7 Cluster.**

A map of the Erie Area Packet Network is located at
www.raerie.org



Three Easy Project for a Lazy Afternoon

I enjoy building things. Back in the middle 1960's, friend introduced me to short wave radio via a Knight-Kit OceanHopper regenerative receiver. I scraped together the \$25 from my paper route and a week later I had my own to build. I was pleased and amazed that it actually worked. I discovered a whole world out there thanks to the magic of radio and my interest in electronics had begun. Since then, I have built several kits. Although Knight-Kits and Heathkits are a thing of the past, there are several companies today that provide their products in kit form. A search on Google for radio kits brought up several pages of offerings. One site in particular, <http://www.ac6v.com/kits.htm> has a page full of Ham Radio and Electronic Kits with links.

Elecraft (www.elecraft.com) sells a line of mini-module kits. I recently purchased their 20 Watt Dummy Load, XG1 Receiver Test Oscillator, and the NGen Wideband Noise Generator. These kits fit on small circuit boards and are self contained.

The first kit is a 20 Watt Dummy Load. This was the easiest of the three as it consisted of eight large resistors, a diode, a capacitor and a couple of jumpers. This dummy load can be used up to 225 MHz with a SWR of 1.3:1 or less. A diode and capacitor provide an RF detector which can be used to measure/ calculate power output.



The XG-1 is a Receiver Test Oscillator and S-Meter Calibrator. The XG-1 outputs a signal at 7.040 MHz at 1 microvolt and 50 microvolt levels. The kit comes with a 3 volt battery to power the oscillator. I purchased this unit because I am thinking of installing a roofing filter in my Yaesu Mark V Field transceiver and will need to adjust the IF gain afterward. This device will provide me with a useful reference oscillator. The XG-1 is crystal controlled and the output frequency can be adjusted if you need it to be right on the money. You could also use this unit on 20 meters, 15 meters and 10 meters by tuning your receiver to the appropriate harmonic frequency. The XG-1 has limited transmit protection, so you want to be careful when connecting this module to a transceiver. The kit took about an hour and a half to build.

The last module is the N-gen. The N-gen is a wide band noise generator providing a signal from 100 kHz to 500 MHz. I bought this unit to use as a noise source to align receivers and more specifically to align the Elecraft K-2 filters. The N-gen is powered by a 9V battery which you provide. Construction time was about 30 minutes.



Today's parts are much smaller than back in the 60's, which can present a challenge to the aging ham population. Given the proper tools and aids, even older eyes can master the current kits. Having lots of light seems to be an important factor for me, especially when trying to decode resistor color codes. I also use a handheld magnifying glass to help read values. Lighted magnifiers using florescent or incandescent lamps are also useful. They provide both light and magnification while leaving both hands free. Magnifying headsets can also be helpful. Some models have their own lighting. The set that I have allows me to wear my glasses while using the headset. If you Google "Magnifier Headset" you can find several models. Craft stores and web sites also sell these types of products. Even with magnifiers, the resistor color codes colors of today do not seem to be as vivid as older resistors in my junk box. Maybe it is aging eyes or the light colored resistor bodies, but I occasionally have trouble differentiating some of the colors. If I am not sure of the colors, I just use a Volt-Ohm-Meter or Digital Multimeter to double check the value before mounting it on a board.

I hope that you will give kit building a try and that you find it to be an enjoyable part of your hobby. Perhaps one or more of these kits can be a useful addition to your shack.

73, Bob W4ZY

Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844

Erie, Pa 16512

Swap and Shop

- My 19" CRT monitor is great with lots of screen space. It's too heavy to move to California. \$35.
- Yaesu FT-530 dual band HT with good NiMH battery is only \$50 or best offer.
- Manual Data Switch - 4 25 pin serial ports, new \$5
- Dual Band RF Concepts Linear Amplifier brick 5 in 30 out (approx), little used, was \$220 new. \$45
- Automatic Data Switch - 4 25 pin serial ports, new \$10
- Printer Cable 6' 25 male pins both ends IEEE 1284, new \$3
- Centronics printer cable with right angle plug on printer end \$3

AND lastly, Betty's 2003 Old Alero 4D Sedan GLS V6, Power Driver Seat, Leather 4W ABS, **8,100 Miles**, perfect except where it got slightly sideswiped by the garage on the LF fender. 2 years remaining on the extended GM warranty. \$9,500. See it at 129 E Arlington. (Also too heavy to move to Calif.)

Contact Bob N3FAW at 866-3027 or via email at bobn3faw@verizon.net

*If you have something an article or items for swap and shop for the QUARAE, please contact John Lis N3NKV via e-mail at john@jllis.com or via twisted pair at 825-5565.
The deadline for submissions is the last Thursday of each month.*