

QUARAE

DECEMBER 2008 EDITION



Our Next Spectrum Challenges...

Our spectrum defense and enhancement efforts have enjoyed many successes over the years. Despite exponential growth in the variety and number of radio frequency devices in the hands of consumers and businesses, we have managed to protect our bands and to add several new ones. Even our most disappointing defeat -- the loss of the bottom 40% of the 220-MHz band some two decades ago -- gave us upgraded status, from shared to exclusive, in the remaining 60% of the band.

Next March 29 we will celebrate the full implementation of one of our greatest victories: the removal of high-powered international broadcasting stations from the heart of the 40-meter band. We are working with the broadcasters to make

sure the change takes place as agreed at the 2003 World Radio communication Conference (WRC). While it's probably too much to expect 100% instant compliance, we know that the responsible broadcasters are preparing to move out of the 7100-7200 kHz segment -- doubling the size of the worldwide 40-meter band and making this popular band more useful than it's been in 70 years!

Just as we were planning this celebration came word of a new threat to the 40-meter band in the form of an experimental license grant by the FCC. Under the WE2XRH license issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART), transmitters in Alaska radiating up to 660 kilowatts of digital emission, with 20-kHz

bandwidth, would be permitted to operate in the 7.1-7.3 MHz band! Of course the ARRL has filed a strong protest. The only possible explanation is that the license grant was made in error; the only reasonable step for the FCC to take is to correct its error immediately, either by cancelling the license or by amending the frequency ranges to delete 7.1-7.3 MHz. Error or not, this should serve to remind us that we can take nothing for granted and must be constantly vigilant to protect our spectrum access.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

Club Repeaters	
146.6100	PL: 186.2
146.8200	PL: 186.2

- ANNOUNCEMENTS BOARD**
- RAE Club Meeting THR DEC 4 at 7PM. Location is the Red Cross Building.
 - Have a good holiday everyone
 - Anyone up for being editor of the QUARAE? Email me! I will be stepping down following this issue.
 - Thanks to all our readers!
Nick - KB3RDO

**Volume 08
Issue 12**

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Our Next Spectrum Challenges... (cont'd)

At the WRC in 2007 the Amateur Radio Service earned its first low-frequency (LF) allocation, 135.7-137.8 kHz. However, here in the United States we will *not* gain access to this new band automatically when the Final Acts of the conference take effect on January 1, 2009. We must petition the FCC to implement the allocation, and we know the petition will not be granted without an argument -- because we've been down this road before. Twice in the past, the ARRL has sought an LF allocation. Both times our request was opposed by the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) -- the same organization that has opposed our efforts to protect radio services from Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) interference.

Speaking of BPL interference, our battle to give this problem the attention it deserves has been going on for six years. Last year, in the wake of Federal Communications Commission decisions that did not adequately protect licensed radio-communication services from interference from BPL systems, the ARRL even went to court to challenge the FCC. As you may have heard, we won! On April 25 the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit confirmed what the ARRL has been saying for years about how the FCC was

handling the BPL interference issue: FCC prejudice tainted the rulemaking process.

On July 9 the Court went one step further, ordering the FCC to pay the ARRL more than \$6,000 toward our costs in pursuing the appeal (the check arrived in September). While this is a tiny fraction of our total investment, the award affirmed that -- contrary to the "spin" the FCC had been trying to give to the Court's decision -- the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal.

The Court's decision was a tremendous victory for radio amateurs and other licensed users of the radio spectrum -- indeed, for anyone who cares about the federal administrative process. Yet, the remand does not guarantee that the FCC will correct its errors. We face another round of technical arguments. No doubt the FCC's technical staff, many of whom want to do the right thing, will remain under heavy pressure to ignore the laws of physics and give preference to wishful thinking once again. When the FCC re-opens the BPL proceeding as the Court has ordered, we must leave no room for these technical issues to be settled on anything other than technical grounds. There's more work to do!

Another challenge lies ahead in 2011, when another WRC is scheduled. Preparations are already underway. The key WRC-11 issues for Amateur Radio are:

- A possible allocation near 500 kHz. This would provide our first access to the lower part of the medium frequency (MF) band. A "600 meter" band offers exciting possibilities for reliable groundwave communication through the application of digital signal processing techniques to a portion of the spectrum that is as old as radio itself!
- Defense against a push to allocate spectrum between 3 and 50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
- Support of an initiative to provide better protection for radio services against interference from short-range radio devices.
- Consideration of regulatory measures for software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems, which offer both opportunities and threats to existing radio services.
- Selection of agenda items for the WRC to follow, tentatively planned for 2015.

Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting
Thursday November 6th, 2008

The meeting was called to order by KE3V at 7:00 pm.
New Calls: KB3RUC and KB3RUB

Upgrades: KB3RIT- General, KB3RIP- General, KB3PPH-General

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

Not Present: AD4UL, KD3D, KB3CAT, K3LD

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the amended minutes. Motion made by N3LBI, Seconded by N3DBC

Board Report by KB3BAM: discussed insurance and itemized replacement costs and repeater status

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: KB3BAM mentioned that the new controller is now installed. There are no major bugs in the controller as of yet. There are a few minor audio issues that have to be dealt with. New hard-line needs to be installed on the St. Vincent's Tower.

Education: K3UFG mentioned that a CW class would be starting on January 9th. Also, the price for VE exams is now \$15.00

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that oil is at 1/8 of tank full. The building is now winterized. Pipe for railings has been acquired.

ARES: KB3NAT mentioned that he has been in contact with various officials in regards to the wrapup of the Airport Drill. Various problems took place.

Old Business

Insurance: N3NKV reported that the cost for the equipment insurance will be \$307 per year. This expenditure was approved last year.

New Business

Holiday Party: N3ZNP mentioned that the Holiday party will be held on Friday January 16th at the Shrine Club. Cost is \$15.00. To make reservations contact, please contact Neil Shea at **474-2346** or via e-mail at **twosheas@velocity.net**.

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Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Declare as surplus: N3NKV would like to make a motion that the club declare one Glen Martin tripod from the Haven Estate as surplus. The main reason is that the club does not want to poke holes clubhouse roof. Seconded by N3LBI. Motion Carried. Said item will be advertised for 5 days on the RAE listserv for 5 days. KE3V wanted it listed on the listserv to see if there was anyone else interested. As of present, there is one interested party in placing a bid on the tripod.

Elections:

The election of officers for 2009 took place.

New Officers:

President: John Lis N3NKV

Vice President: Kevin McKenna KE3V

Secretary: Laura Dewart KB3PPH

Treasurer: Al Platz N3JOC

New Board Members include:

John Churchill N3DBC

Craig Hill K3PLV

A big thanks goes to our outgoing board members – Dianne Miller K3LD and Doug Sweet AD4UL!

Bylaws: A second reading took place. Discussion about ARRL membership for Board Membership for board members took place. K3UFG made a motion that the clause requiring ARRL membership for board members be read. Seconded by N3LBI. 11 Years ad 3 Days. Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15 made by N3EPU and Seconded by KB3BAM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary*

JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

- **The SkyWarn Recognition Day will be held at Golden Coral on Peach Street.**
- **Congratulations to our new board members at the RAE! Keep up the great work!**
- **Try to participate on our local nets! The more check-ins, the better for all of us.**

- **HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY EVERYONE! From everyone at the RAE.**

December 2008 Area Events						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 RAE CLUB MEETING	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 UCWA Club Meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31	HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY!		

Contact the Editor: KB3RDO@yahoo.com

Schedule of Events

- Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting on the 4th of December at 7 PM. Hope to see you there!
- The Wattsburg Wireless Association has it's monthly Radio Examinations for obtaining or upgrading a license. Exams start at 9 AM.
- UCWA Club Meeting. THR DEC 11.
- Schedule is subject to change.

Letter from the Editor...

Dear readers,

Since June 2008, I have taken the responsibility of the Radio Association of Erie Newsletter Editor position. It's been a pleasure working hands-on with one of the RAEs features.

However, in great disappointment, it's time for me to step down. I've been so busy lately that I don't even have time to sit down and browse the World Wide Web for articles. What also disappoints me is that these articles I receive can di-

rectly be read from their web source.

In total throughout my 6 Months, I received 4 local news articles which I truly support and enjoy. A special great thanks goes to all who took their time and wrote an article or two for our newsletter.

There seems to be a lack of participation in this department, and I don't have time on my hands for this much more...

So, the position is back up once again. Following

this issue, I will step down from the editor of the Radio Association of Erie. If you think you got the skills or want to work on the newsletter, feel free to email either me, or, soon-to-be club president, John Lis.

Thanks to all who have read our newsletter. I hope everyone learned something new in the issues released. With this, farewell Quarae! Good luck to all. I'll catch you on the air sometime.

John Lis—
jjlis@roadrunner.com



Become a RAE Member Today!

Dear Amateur Radio Operator,

It's time again for the Radio Association of Erie to ask you to support the premier amateur radio club of Northwestern Pennsylvania. For 2009, we have decided to continue to keep our dues at a special low price for you. For 2009, full membership is only **\$15.00**. During 2008, the Radio Association of Erie has been very active in furthering and promoting Amateur Radio.

The Radio Association of Erie has:

- Assisted in providing emergency communications at various community events;
- Held various activities at our clubhouse on Wagner Road in McKean such as Monthly Club Meetings, a summer picnic, Field Day, PA QSO Party, and other activities;
- Completed the installation of a new controller on the 146.610 repeater;
- Upgraded all of the computers and monitors at the clubhouse;
- And the list goes on and on!

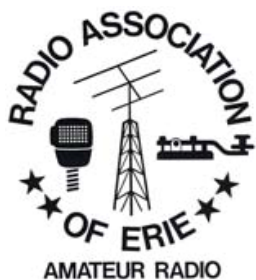
If you have been a member and have read the QUARAE newsletter or visited our website at www.w3gv.org, you will have knowledge of our numerous activities. If not, we ask you to join and share in our enjoyment and participation in Ham Radio and visit one of our meetings. If already a member, please rejoin!

By helping the RAE, you will also help non-hams know about the hobby and assist in preserving the amateur radio hobby for many years to come. Please don't delay, please complete the enclosed RAE Membership Form and mail it to me with your check with whatever level of membership you wish.

If you have any questions, please call me at 449-2309 or e-mail me at kd3dfrank@hotmail.com or contact any club officer. We need you now!

73 from the members and officers,

Frank Graziano, KD3D
RAE Membership Chairman



RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / NEW APPLICATION

Name:	
Callsign:	
Address:	
City State Zip:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	
License Class:	Expiration:
Birth Date:	

ARRL Member? Yes___No___ Send ARRL Member Form

Send QuaRAE as Email Attachment_____, No:UsePostal____

Membership Type Requested _____(See Below)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Dues are shown below)

Membership Classes

Full Member	\$15.00 Full Voting Privileges
Associate Member	\$11.50 All Privileges Except Voting
2nd Family Member	50% off--Immediate Family, No QuaRAE (Same privileges as Full Family Member)
Full Time Student	\$8.00 All Privileges Except Voting
New Ham	First Year No Charge-- All Privileges Except Voting
Life Membership	\$225.00 - Full Voting Privileges

(See bylaws for complete membership privileges.)
Contact Frank Graziano at 449-2309 or kd3dfrank@hotmail.com
Please mail this form with check payment to
RAE
PO BOX 844
Erie, PA 16512

**DECEMBER 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**

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