



The QUARAE

The Newsletter of the Radio Association of Erie

Vol 8 Issue 3

March 2008

Isle of Man and Jersey

From March 19th through March 21st, K8PT and I will be operating from the Isle of Man at the contest station of GD6IA

<http://www.gd6ia.com/> . We will use the calls MD/K3PLV and MD/K8PT. We will then fly to the island country of Jersey to operate from March 22nd through March 27th. This will be my first visit to the Isle of Man and my 10th to Jersey. We will operate on all bands, 160 through 6 meters. The Isle of Man is located in the Irish Sea between Ireland and Scotland. Jersey is located in the English Channel, 14 miles off the coast of France and 100 miles south of England. Both are independent countries, with their own currency, postage stamps, and government,

We will operate SSB, CW, and RTTY and will put an emphasis on operating the lower bands. I would like to work as many of the local Erie area hams as possible. To find what frequency we are on at a particular time is easy if you have Internet access. A very useful site is <http://www.dxer.org> . Under DX Clusters you will see DX Summit, DXScape, DXspots, and Ham Radio Deluxe. Any of these should work, but you may like Ham Radio Deluxe best. Various people around the world enter the call and the frequency of a station they think you may be interested in working. This year we will have DSL Internet access from both the Isle of Man and Jersey

and we can also enter our own spots. You can also use telnet. I use the

K3LR telnet cluster. Various logging programs can access this and other clusters. But you can also do it on your PC. Connect to the Internet. Where the address window is, type in `telnet://dx.k3lr.com` . You will be asked to enter your call and if this is your first time using this cluster, some other information (this information is not required for use). If you are using a computer with IE7, go to "start", "run", and type in `telnet://dx.k3lr.com` and hit "ok". There are various commands you can use in the DX clusters, but the one that would be especially useful would be `sh/dx md` and `sh/dx mj` (there is a space between `sh/dx` and `md` or `mj`). This command would list the last several MD and MJ spots. Microsoft has not fixed the Telnet problem with Internet Explorer 7 yet. But Firefox and the older Internet Explorer versions will work and you can get around the problem in IE7 by using the command line as shown above. Also you can use many of the logging programs with telnet regardless of the version of Internet Explorer. Our website is <http://home.roadrunner.com/~crahill/> .

73, and we'll hope to work you from the Isle of Man and Jersey, Craig - K3PLV



Just a Reminder....

RAE Club Meeting Thursday March 6th
Time: 7 pm at the Red Cross on Pittsburgh Avenue

Radio Association of Erie February 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President KE3V at 7:03 PM.

Board members Present: KE3V, KD3D, N3ZNP, KD3D

Board Members Not Present: KB3BAM, KB3CAT, KB3NAT, K3LD, AD4UL

Visitors: Bob Beck WB3BHY

New Hams: Doug Richards WB3BHY

Silent Keys: A moment of silence was taken in memory of W3RX

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion made by N3LBI. Seconded by N3BXL. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided report. Frank mentioned that the K3IVG estate had been paid for the equipment that was purchased by the RAE.

Membership: KD3D mentioned that there are presently 99 members with 20 life members.

Education: K3UFG reported that the Extra class is going well. Another technician class will be coming up soon.

Board Report: N3NKV reported that the board meeting that took place in January. Major topics discussed included insurance issues, holiday party, club directory, audit, field day, Yaesu Ft-101 problems.

Repeater: N3SRD reported that all of the control ops met recently for control op training. As for the repeaters themselves: 82 is ok. On 61 there is a noise problem when winds come from a certain direction. Work was done on the tower and things were tightened down. The guy wires are not

bonded. There were also some controller updates and id/courtesy tone changes.

Directories: A discussion took place as to what the club wanted to do in regards to publishing directories. N3NKV presented the club with various prices in regards to printing costs. N3NKV is working with N3DBC to get the information on the existing database updated. Also brought up does the club want to ask the other county clubs for their membership lists. It was decided that members would be in the listing and those whom are "active" on various nets or on the air a lot would be in the directory. It was decided to table a final decision for a later meeting and let the board of directors look at all of the various alternatives.

Clubhouse: KB3JZL mentioned that he needed pipe for the railings on the stairs. WX3E mentioned that he has some pipe that he would donate.

ARES/RACES: WX3E mentioned that equipment was to be delivered to the New County EOC.

New Business:

Repair of Yaesu Ft-100: N3NKV mentioned that he has been using the FT-100 from the clubhouse. He mentioned that there is an issue with the radio's tuner and the receiver was very "stingy". N3NKV made a motion that the club send the radio back to Yaesu Service for repair. Seconded by WA1YJZ. KB3NRA asked what the replacement cost was and mentioned if the repair cost is over 50% that the club consider not to repair it. N3NKV mentioned that he would give the radio to KD3D to use and check out.

Old Business:

Bylaw Revision Second Reading: N3NKV conducted the second reading of the proposed bylaw revision to be made to Section G Part 15 of the bylaws under

Repeater Committee:

Repeater Committee: The Repeater Committee shall operate, maintain and improve the repeaters owned by the RAE. The Chairman of the Committee must be an Active Member. The Chairman or an appointed assistant will handle all frequency coordination issues, may appoint assistants with board approval, may appoint control operators with board approval, may make expenditures up to a \$300.00 per incident with the approval of 3 board members provided such expenditures are for the repair of the repeaters. The station trustee shall serve on this committee.

50/50 Winner: KB3JZL \$12.00

Motion to Adjourn: KA3CPV, N3SRD at 8:15 pm

Program: Packet Updates by N3BXL

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis

Radio Association of Erie Secretary



Skywarn News

Erie County Skywarn would announce that training will take place on April 22nd at 6:30 at Hamot Hospital Auditorium. To register,

please visit:

<http://eriecountyskywarn.raerie.org/training.htm>

Computers for the Clubhouse

The RAE is looking for 3 newer computers for the clubhouse that can run Windows XP and have USB. Our present systems are not capable of being upgraded to Windows XP. Windows XP is needed to operate some of the newer software and ham radio applications. At the present time, we are not in need of monitors. If you would like to donate your old unused Windows XP machine, please contact John Lis N3NKV at 825-5565 or via e-mail: jjlis@roadrunner.com. We would like to have them ready for contesting season



Club Directories

The RAE membership committee is in the process of updating information for the updated directory which should be coming out later this year. If there have been any changes in your information since the last directory was published, please fill out the form located at

<http://directory.w3gv.org>

FCC Denies Petitions to Bring Back Morse Code Testing from ARRL Web News 2/28/08

In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO)* released today, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

Background

The *R&O* amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the *R&O* that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy."

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The

Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

In the wake of the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235, , two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, requested the FCC reconsider their decision for "'strictly procedural'" reasons.

Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM

Gordon asserts that "'the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.'" Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as "a 'strategic reserve,'" because there is "no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments."

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. "We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission's decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency."

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that "an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate

individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition."

Russell D. Ward, W4NI

In the *MOO*, Ward states that he "encountered difficulty" in submitting his comments and reply comments to the NPRM electronically and that his filings were not posted on the ECFS (the Commission's electronic filing system) until after the deadlines had passed. He asserts that "there is no certainty that the Commission considered his comments and reply comments, that the late posting of his comments prevented others from replying to them, and that it is 'quite likely that other comments were treated improperly.'" As a result, Ward requested that the FCC "stay the proceeding, reopen the record and reconsider the NPRM after the close of the extended comment period."

The FCC claims that all comments in the ECFS "were considered before the Commission adopted the *Report and Order*, regardless of the how or when they were filed. Moreover, many of the 3900 comments and reply comments expressed the same view as Mr. Ward, so the substance of his views unquestionably was replied to and considered. Finally, he provides no evidence that ECFS mishandled other comments. No other party has complained that his or her comments were not received. We conclude, therefore, that reopening the proceeding for additional comments is not justified, and we deny the petition."

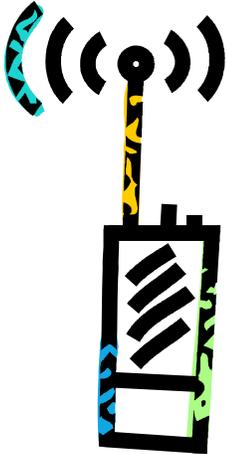
No Grounds for Reconsideration

In summary, the FCC said, neither petition asserted "any grounds for reconsidering" the decision in the *Report and Order*. "We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees."

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Ripley Hamfest

Bring Your Ham Radio, Computer Gear, and Electronics leftovers to Ripley and make a few bucks! Meets lots of old and new friends and have a good time!



Sunday May 4th, 2008

7:30 am to 11 am

Ripley Fire Hall, Ripley, NY

1500 feet south of the only traffic light in Ripley at Rts 20 & 76

Prizes: Cash

Breakfast will be available

Admission: \$3.00 --- Tables: \$3.00

For more Information Call or E-mail:

Joe Lis N3MLX at 814-825-5565 or
n3mlx@roadrunner.com

Fred Krause N2LXD at 716-736-4688 or
emily2@cecomet.net

For More Information Visit Us Online at:

<http://ripleyhamfest08.tripod.com>

KOSOVO AND DXCC

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, setting off new speculations on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically, to the DXCC program. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of Kosovo, especially concerning whether or not the new state will be added to the DXCC list.

Moore said the DXCC rules, modified in 2000 to better handle inclusion to DXCC, are clear on how additions can be made: "For inclusion in the DXCC List, certain conditions must be met. Gaining entry on the DXCC List is not contingent upon whether operation has occurred or will occur, but only upon the qualifications of the Entity."

According to Moore, adding Kosovo to the DXCC List would be considered under the "Political Entity" DXCC guidelines. The DXCC rules state that "Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. They generally contain an indigenous population which is not predominantly composed of military or scientific personnel."

Kosovo, according to the DXCC rules, would then be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

* The entity is a UN Member State.

* The entity has been assigned a call sign prefix block by the ITU. (The exceptions to this rule are international organizations, such as the UN and ICAO. These Entities are classified under Special Areas, 3.a; and Ineligible Areas, 4.b.) A provisional prefix bloc assignment may be made by the Secretary General of ITU. Should such provisional assignments not be ratified later by the full ITU, the Entity will be removed from the DXCC List.

* The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the US Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

"New Entities satisfying one or more of the conditions above will be added to the DXCC List by administrative action as of their 'Event Date.' Kosovo will be added to the DXCC list if it becomes a member of the UN, or if it receives a prefix bloc from the ITU. The third condition does not apply," Moore said. "The 'Event Date' will be either the date Kosovo became a UN member or it receives its prefix from the ITU. Contacts made before the Event Date will be counted as Serbia."

-ARRL

**Radio Association of Erie
PO Box 844
Erie, PA 16512**

Radio Association of Erie Board of Directors

President	Kevin McKenna KE3V	Kmc5300@yahoo.com
Vice President	Neil Shea N3ZNP	twosheas@velocity.net
Secretary	John Lis N3NKV	jjlis@roadrunner.com
Treasurer	Frank Graziano KD3D	Kd3dfrank@hotmail.com
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Board Member	Jeremy Lobaugh KB3BAM	Jeremy.lobaugh@ipcswirelessinc.com
Board Member	Dianne Miller K3LD	dimiller@robsonco.com
Board Member	Doug Sweet AD4UL	Ad4ul@arrl.net