

QUARAE

OCTOBER 2008 EDITION



The Third Tower (Local HAM News)

Ever since I was first licensed in 1960, I always wanted an antenna farm. I have a log periodic that's been up since 1987. Three years ago a 10 element Yagi for six meters was put on a second tower. On my way home from the Dayton Hamfest three years ago, I stopped in Akron and purchased a TH-7DX. It was sitting in my garage and this was the year to see it up on a third tower.

First my son-in-law, KB3OFD dug the hole for the base. One of his friends welded a base for my Rohn tower. We got a crew together consisting of N3JOC, KB3PYC, KB3OED, WA3LCO, KB3NAT, and KB3OFD. The first evening the concrete was poured and the first section of tower set in place. I had decided to use a Hazer on the Rohn tower so that the antenna could be raised and lowered without climbing. I installed the Hazer and got the

group together again to raise the tower. Walter, KB3PYC did the climbing and bolted the sections of tower in place along with installing the guy wires at the top of the tower.

The next week, I built the antenna on two sawhorses. The TH-7DX is an impressive antenna with a boom length of 24 feet and the longest element of 31 feet. On the third evening we installed the antenna on the Hazer and checked out the antenna with an antenna analyzer. The project was finished except for burying the coax and rotor cable, pushing the antenna up the mast another foot, and installing the earth anchors and guys, which was accomplished on the next evening. The antenna can be winched up and down the tower anytime maintenance needs to be done and worked on from a small stepladder. So after just 48 years of amateur radio, I had my

antenna farm. By the way, rounding out my antenna farm is two Alpha Delta 160, 80, 40 wire antennas, an R7 vertical, and a two meter vertical. If you are wondering how I got my wife to agree on letting me put in three towers, the stipulation was that the last two could not be seen from the road (actually they can be – oops). I think antenna farming should be passed down to the younger generation, so we then put up a home made tower that holds a CushCraft, A3S tri-band beam and a two meter beam at my son-in-law's house. Now if only we had some sunspots...

*Submitted by,
Craig Hill
K3PLV*

Club Repeaters

146.6100 PL: 186.2
146.8200 PL: 186.2

ANNOUNCEMENTS BOARD

- Technician / General Classes are still on! Details are on page 5.
- Please make note, bylaw revisions at the RAE. See page 4.
- Ideas for the newsletter? A swap-meet section maybe? Submit your ideas to the editor: KB3RDO@hotmail.com

Volume 08
Issue 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

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Montana HAM Assists in Rescue 600 Miles Away

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had

his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try

and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

*From the ARRL Newsletter
ARRL.org*

Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting
September 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President KE3V at 7 pm.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3ZNP, N3NKV, KD3D, KB3NAT, KB3BAM, KB3CAT, AD4UL

Board Members Not Present: K3LD.

Visitors: Bill ?

Upgrades: None

Silent Keys: None

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

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

Board of Director's Meeting Report: N3NKV gave overview of board of directors meeting. Topics discussed included: Repeater and Controller Status, Ham Club Software, Insurance, Railings for Stairs, Bylaws, membership cards for 2009, Election Committee,

Committee Reports

Membership: KD3D reported that the club has 115 member + 20 life members.

Repeater Update: KB3BAM gave update on the repeaters

146.820 Repeater: OK

146.610 Repeater:

1. Controller has been delivered. KB3BAM is in the process of programming it. Needs just a few connectors. He will have a show and tell after the next club meeting.
2. Wagner Road Voter: Still down because it is off frequency. The Doug Hall Voter Controller at Saint Vincent's may come out of line. To get the voter system up and running properly, the club will need to purchase 2 Motorola Mitrek mobiles or similar.
3. KB3BAM did some more testing on the repeater with N3APP. The Micor as a whole is very healthy.
4. Cables and other audio jumpers for inside the repeater need to be replaced because of age.
5. Water was found leaking onto the repeater cabinet and into the feedline. Repeater has been moved away from leak.

Public Service: AD4UL mentioned that the next event is the Presque Isle Triathlon on Saturday September 6th. We will be meeting at McDonalds at 7 am.

...MORE ON PAGE 4

Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Stairs: KB3JZL reported that he has not received any material for the railings for the stairs.

Website: N3NKV reported that the website will be getting a new look. This new look will allow board members to do more of the editing.

Contesting: AD4UL reported that the next contest coming up is the PA QSO party coming up in October.

Education: KB3RIT reported that the technician classes that K3UFG are temporarily on hold.

Old Business: None

New Business:

N3NKV mentioned that elections are coming up and that we need some new blood for the board. Nomination forms can be given to any board member or at the next meeting. At the October meeting, nominations are taken from the floor.

Motion to Adjourn made by N3LBI, Seconded by KB3CAT at 7:25 PM.

Program after meeting: New ARCOMM Repeater Controller.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Lis - N3NKV*

Radio Association of Erie Bylaw Revisions...

Over the past month and a half, the Radio Association of Erie Board of Directors has been working on revising the current bylaws. On September 15th, the board unanimously approved that the revised bylaws be presented to the membership for a first reading at the next general membership meeting. As per the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the first reading of the proposed bylaw changes will take place at the Radio Association of Erie monthly meeting which will be held on Thursday October 2nd, 2008 at 7 pm at the Radio Association of Erie Clubhouse located at 3940 Wagner Road located in McKean, PA.

A copy of the bylaws with the proposed changes is available at www.w3gv.org

For those without internet access, please contact:

John Lis

Radio Association of Erie Secretary

Phone: 814-825-5565

October 2008 Area Events						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>"Have a great month of October everyone!"</i>			1	2 Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Class License Exams at 11AM
12	13	14 WWA Club Meeting	15	16 UCWA Club Meeting	17	18 License Exams at WWA—9AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 2008	

Contact the Editor: KB3RDO@hotmail.com

Tech/General Classes are still on!

The General Upgrade class originally scheduled to begin at 6 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the Red Cross Chapter will STILL begin on that date.

Tech Class will be run simultaneously, beginning next Monday, Sept. 22 on Mondays and Thursdays through Oct. 9 with the exam set for Saturday Oct. 11 at 10 AM. Anyone needing a book can contact me and I'll try to get them for the first class.

Again, your assistance in spreading the word is greatly appreciated!

Dan Miller, K3UFG
 Ass't Director Emergency Services
 Greater Erie County Red Cross Chapter
 (814) 434-0798 (Nextel)
 189*100*9062 (Direct Connect)
 (814) 464-3664 (C)
 (814) 823-8250 (Pager)

Schedule of Events

- Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting on the 2nd of Thursday at 7 PM. Nominations are starting here at the RAE and will be taken on the floor at this meeting. Hope to see you all there!
- Exams for the Tech/General Classes being hosted will be held on SAT OCT 11th at 11AM. See insert below calendar for info.
- Also, exams for obtaining an amateur radio license can be taken at the Wattsburg Wireless Association. Exams start at 9AM.
- **MAKE NOTE!** The Union City Wireless Association club meeting will be on the **THIRD** Thursday of this month.
- Make sure to listen to all local nets for more events in our area.
- Schedule is subject to change.

Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting on October 2nd at 7PM. Location: Clubhouse Hope to see you there!

OCTOBER 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

Radio Association of Erie Monthly Newsletter

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