



# The QUARAE

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December 2014

## Prez Says.....

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, lots of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberries and of course green bean casserole. I always enjoy Thanksgiving for the food and family gatherings.



Thanksgiving is the start of the "Holiday Season" which means Christmas is just around the corner. Lots of new radios and computers are on the wish list so I hope everyone is on their best behavior and get what they want.

I recently received an Email and pictures from Adam KB3THU regarding the new windows being installed at the clubhouse. They really look good and should help keep the winter weather out of the building. A big THANKS to Adam for taking on the project and getting it completed before the bad weather set in.

I also received a note saying we have the OK from the county to install a pellet stove at the clubhouse. This should keep the heating bill down as we won't be using very much if any heating oil this winter. There are also plans to install an antenna line and rotor control cables to the "Box" next to the garage. The AC has been installed THANKS to Rick WA3MKT and Joe KA3CPV. It has a heater and A/C Unit built in so we should be able to use it year round.

I have been talking to Ed KIZIK concerning the D-star 440 Repeater that the club received. He obtained the necessary programs to configure the controller and now has it running at his house. Now we are looking for a location that has access to the Internet so we can install the repeater and get it tied into the D-star network. We plan on converting the 440 repeater at the clubhouse to D-star. THANKS to Ed for taking on this project.

I would like to THANK everyone for another good year supporting the Public Service Events we do and the various projects that we take on at the clubhouse. Keep up the good work and support for the RAE.



## Club Meeting Thursday

At the Red Cross Building  
4961 Pittsburgh Avenue  
December 4, at 7 PM

Program: TBA

## WPA Section Manager Election Results



Tim Duffy K3LR

I am privileged to announce that Tim Duffy, K3LR, has been elected **Section Manager** of the Western Pennsylvania Section of the ARRL Atlantic Division for 2015 & 2016.

The League individually notified each candidate this afternoon of the following election results:

Tim Duffy, K3LR, West Middlesex, PA **545 votes**

Cynthia Rushton, WB3CNJ, Conneautville, PA **83 votes**

Paul Plant, W3PLP, Washington, PA **62 votes**

Congratulations, Tim, and best wishes for a highly successful term of office.

## 3916 Santa Nets Kick Off Nov 28



For the 9th consecutive year, the 3.916 Nets will be giving good boys and girls a chance to talk to Santa Claus via the magic of ham radio. The '3916 Santa Nets' will be held at 7:30 PM every night from November 28 through December 24th.

The Santa Nets are open to all licensed amateur radio operators who wish to invite kids to their shack to talk to Santa. Third party rules will apply.

For 2014, The 3916 Santa Net will be on the air nightly during the Christmas season. The net time is changing from 8:30 PM Central to 7:30 PM Central. Pete Thomson (KE5GGY), commented on The 3916 Santa Nets. He said, "Christmas is our favorite time of year on The 3916 Nets. Each year on the Santa Nets we are blown away by the response. It's incredible to hear the excitement in

an hour so kids won't have to stay up too late."

Thomson added that The Santa Nets are a great way to let kids experience both the magic of Christmas and amateur radio. He said, "We encourage hams to get their kids, grand kids and even neighbor kids into their shacks to participate in the Santa Net. The kids love talking to Santa and we get an opportunity to show a young person how amateur radio works."

Each evening, The 3916 Santa Net will start at 7:30 PM (Central) on 3.916 MHz. Pre-net check-ins will be taken on the air starting at 7:15 PM. You can also do a pre-net check in by emailing ke5ggy@gmail.com.

For more information on The 3916 Nets or The Santa Net, contact Pete Thomson, KE5GGY at ke5ggy@gmail.com.

## November General Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Radio Association of Erie was held on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Erie Chapter of the American Red Cross. President AD4UL present via Skype, the secretary present, a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 1900.

Presentation –Messe Friedrichshafen Hamfest in Germany brought in by K3PLV.

<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php>.

Secretary- KB3THU motioned to accept the minutes as published in the QUERAE. It was seconded and accepted, motion approved.

Treasurer's report- Given by AD4UL sent by KB3ZSF. It was added that incomes and expenses should be given in our monthly report, not just a total.

Board- no business

Membership- 67. Post cards were sent out

to the membership about renewing.

Repeaters- Echolink is working well. 61 audio needed to be measured. The link with the 70 repeater on our system didn't sound like it was working very well. The D-STAR repeater was going to be picked up.

Public Service- none

Clubhouse- windows quote was \$780. Half payment was sent and contractor was going to call to install. Pellet stove for the clubhouse was discussed. Cost would be about \$1000 for the stove, not including the chimney and pellets. JOTA and the scouts worked several stations including W1AW and other scout groups. Scouts also get involved with some CW. The media showed up and did an interview on WJET. Video is posted on the RAE Facebook page.

Contesting- CQ WW CW Contest, KY Contest Unfinished-Best Buy gave the group a 10% discount. They also gave us a 20% discount on a printer, fax, scanner or a monitor.

New business- a motion was made to purchase a new monitor for the clubhouse. It was seconded and approved, motion carried. The TS2000 was sent back out for repairs. In the meantime, they will use the Icom that was donated to the club.

Motion made by WA3MKT to spend a maximum of \$200 to make improvements to the basement room. It was seconded and approved, motion carried.

Elections- nominations and elections were as follows:

President- AD4UL Vice President-N3LBI  
Board: KB3ZVH, K3PLV & WA3MKT  
Secretary- KB3THU Treasurer- N8WXQ

Good of the order- It was further discussed about the price of the pellet stove. The county was to be notified about the windows and pellet stove.

### **December Is Youngsters on the Air Month (ARRL)**

The International Amateur Radio Union is promoting December as its first Youngsters on the Air month. It is encouraging hams and wanna-

be hams 25 and younger to take to the air.

## **Carved Wooden Signs and Clocks**

For many years now, I have offered these items at local hamfest's here in the New Jersey / Pennsylvania area where they have been very popular. I kept getting the same question do I have a website? The answer was always no, that has been fixed.

I recently opened a shop on ETSY.COM, a website devoted to hand made items, <http://www.etsy.com/shop/TheWoodenHam> where I offer my hand made items, geared to the ham radio operator and the ham shack. Many times I've been asked if I take credit cards at the shows, where I have had to tell the potential customer no and they walk away. On Etsy I can accept CC payments through Etsy at checkout or with Paypal.

Many times the XYL's or YL's are not hams and don't know what to get their hubby or significant other, for their birthday, anniversary, or special holiday.

Problem solved, get him a desk call sign or clock with his call sign in it. Each one is truly one of a kind and custom hand crafted for them.

Sometimes both are hams then it's easy again his and hers desk call signs or a pair of clocks with their respective call sign on them.

If anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. Please feel free to :fwd this email to your club members as appropriate.

TNX, 73  
Ray K2RJK  
TheWoodenHam

## Are Knobs and Buttons Toast?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



In a recent column on EETimes ([http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc\\_id=1324283](http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283)), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out.

Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that "as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait."

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and

handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation...."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both – experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

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When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

Blessed are the Internet junkies, for their time shalt be a net loss.  
Blessed are those who build bridges, for they shalt get over it.  
Blessed are those who recycle motor oil, for they shall be refined.  
Blessed is the TV weatherman, for he shalt talk up a storm.  
Blessed are the undertakers, for they shalt be the last to let you down.  
Blessed are they who knit their own hosiery, for they shalt not get a run for their money.  
Blessed are the auctioneers, for they shall look forbidding.  
Blessed are the bakers, for they shalt rise to the occasion.

## December Ham Calendar

December 1—31 During December, special event stations around the world are taking part in the first worldwide Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)) activity. Stations using YOTA-suffix call signs are expected to be active from all three International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) regions. Although most YOTA stations are in Region 1, one YOTA station will be on the air from St Lucia in the Caribbean (Region 2), and another will be active from the Philippines (Region 3). IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group Chair Lisa Leenders, PA2LS, said YOTA Month is an opportunity to give individuals aged 25 and younger a chance to make contact via Amateur Radio in all available modes. "With this event we are trying to get more youth activity on the air," Leenders told ARRL. "In addition to licensed younger radio amateurs, unlicensed young people will be able to get behind the mic together with a [control operator] to experience a possible new hobby. YOTA month is not a contest, but a friendly way of making radio contacts." She suggested that, in addition to names and signal reports, participants exchange other information, including age, location, and additional interests. A Youngsters On The Air Award will be available. [Additional information](#) is available in the most recent YOTA Month bulletin. Read [more](#).

December 4 - Radio Association of Erie Club meeting at Red Cross. 7 PM

December 13 - Christmas Party at Greene Township Building. This year the Wattsburg Wireless Association will celebrate Christmas Dinner. ALL AMATEURS ARE INVITED. The more the merrier. This means the RAE is invited also. If you make a reservation and do not show you will still have to pay for your dinner. Cost is \$18.00 per person. The dinner will be from 5 PM till 8 PM. Food will be served at 6 PM. The dinner party will be held at 9333 Tate Rd, the Greene Township Building. There will be a Chinese auction and door prizes. HOPE YOU CAN COME AND ENJOY GREAT COMPANY AND FOOD. SEE YOU THERE!!

**December 13—Pearl Harbor Rememberance Special Event. 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250; PSK31 14.070 D-STAR REF1C. QSL. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.**

December 13— ARRL 10 meter contest. See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

**December 19- Memorial Station for the Victims of Flight MH17 Malaysian Airlines 1200Z-1600Z, PD17MH, Boskoop, NETHERLANDS. VERON . 28.400 14.200 7.080. QSL. Mark Voskuilen, Rietkraag 10, Boskoop 2771 KX, NETHERLANDS. [www.qrz.com/db/pd17mh](http://www.qrz.com/db/pd17mh)**

December 20 - VE Exams at Greene Township Building

December 24 - Christmas Eve

December 25 - Christmas

Radio Association  
of Erie  
PO BOX 8931  
Erie, PA 16506

**We're on the web!**  
**w3gv.org**



*The Radio Association of Erie (RAE) was formed over 60 years ago by a radio enthusiast called Frank Dawson Bliley. It was his intent to form a group of individuals interested in the development and advancement of two-way communications. He devoted his entire life to his work and hobby. After his death, his family at his request donated a large sum of money to the RAE. The Federal Communications Commission call sign of W3GV was also reissued to the club in remembrance of the founder.*

*Over the years the club has become affiliated with a few amateur radio organizations and programs. One such organizations is the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The ARRL is a governing non-profit organization that supports the efforts of amateur radio operators. The club has been recognized by the ARRL for providing training sessions, testing sessions, public service event support, etc. Two programs that the club supports are ARES-RACES and SKYWARN. The ARES-RACES program is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide emergency communication in times of need. The SKYWARN program is sponsored by the National Weather Service to assist in the collection and reporting of weather conditions, both during and after severe weather.*

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