

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

APRIL 2014

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 8

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2014, OUR 66th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH
Vice President – Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH
Club Webmaster – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Club Call Trustee – Dex Wheeler, W1TUM
QRA Equipment Manager – Dave Libby, N1SJB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2012-2014
Bill Watt, W1HN 2012-2014
Barbara Day, KA1EDV 2012-2014
Phil Maguire, WA1HTP 2013-2015
Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ 2013-2015
Jim Fisk, W1HL 2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M

QRA MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The March QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm on March 20, 2014 by club president Jeff Hollis, W1CKH. After all had a chance to introduce themselves to the group, president Jeff introduced our speaker of the evening, patrolman Amy Toothaker of the Wakefield, Mass police department. Ms. Toothaker gave a fine talk about protecting oneself from different types of fraud and scams. Many questions were asked from the floor. There is a short list of precautions elsewhere in this issue of QRS News.

At 8:05 pm, coffee, donuts and soft drinks were offered through the efforts of member Larry Keegan, WA1PII.

Jim Fisk, W1HL offered a Morse Code key and a speaker for auction. The auction raised the QRA treasury by \$30.00.

The appointment of a nominating committee was discussed and will be brought up again at the April membership meeting.

There was no interest shown in having a QRA field day this year. President Jeff asked all to think the subject over for the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.. (Respectfully submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M QRA secretary)

QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The QRA holds its membership meetings at the Reading, MA Senior Citizen Center at 49 Pleasant Street in the old fire house. All are invited and holding an Amateur Radio license is not required. Meetings begin around 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. â April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014. "This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov. **APRIL FOOLS APRIL FOOLS APRIL FOOLS APRIL FOOLS**

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.

KDA Custom Embroidery is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For 18 years, Paul and Kathleen have been providing customized embroidery and screen-printing from their shop on Pearl Street in Reading. Names, monograms, call signs, logos and designs (stock or customized) can be stitched on hats, shirts, sweatshirts, polo-shirts and more. Purchase garments from them or provide your own.

Visit: www.kdaembroidery.com, email to kdace@aol.com or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

**NEXT QRA
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2014**

AND WILL START AT

7:00 PM

**OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS WILL BE
MICKIE AND DALE
THEY WILL GIVE A TALK ON ANTENNAS
(THE LAST TIME THEY SPOKE ON THE SUBJECT AT QRA, THE
GROUP WAS ENTIRELY ENGROSSED)**

EMAIL RECEIVED

Bob;

That was quite a surprise to see one of my articles of so long ago!

It would probably be a surprise to anyone who remembers the QRA "Professional Loafer" Group which used to meet at 8:15 AM Fridays to know that the tradition is still being carried on each Friday on 3825 at 8:30 AM by W1MGP, W1TPB and Ted's friend "Ed" N1WY.

Some of the original members were Don, W1MDH, Jack, W1CTS, Russ, W1EYZ. The original 8:15 time was established to allow Russ to watch the morning news on TV.

Through the years there have been many other QRA members check in regularly and sometimes bringing in a friend. One by one we have lost them.

I don't recall that Ted was ever a member of QRA but he worked at National and knew all the Hams there some of whom did belong.

Thanks again for reprinting the old "Sam Sez".

PS If you want to see me look on QRZ this month. I change the pic each month. April should show my AM gear and in May my HF station.

ARRL PUBLIC SERVICE

Amateur Radio Played Role in Missing Airliner Response

Following the mysterious disappearance on March 8 of the Malaysian Airline Boeing 777-200ER jetliner with 239 passengers aboard, the airline's Emergency Management Centre (EMC) at Kuala Lumpur Airport provided hotel accommodations for passengers' next of kin. Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society ([MARTS](#)) President Mohd Aris Bernawi, 9M2IR, said his organization was asked to provide a link between the airport and the hotel.

MARTS quickly set up a station, led by Zanirul Akhmal Zanirun, 9M2PRO, with Azizi Samsuri, 9W2ZZE, as the airline's team leader. The Negeri Sembilan Amateur Radio Club ([NESRAC](#)) provided volunteers for the station at the EMC. MARTS set up a cross-band VHF/UHF link to avoid any unnecessary interference to and from public service communications, and later added an HF link.

During the callout, 11 Amateur Radio volunteers were at the EMC, and 23 volunteers were at the hotel. 9M2IR, who oversaw the entire process, said MARTS -- an IARU member-society -- was pleased to be able provide the communication link as the search for flight MH370 continues. -- *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committ* ([arrl letter, 03-13-2014](#))

Feature: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

As the US edged ever closer to entering World War II, more restrictions were placed on hams. They were still allowed to operate, but only to make contacts within the country -- no DX!

There was strong evidence of subversive activities and clandestine radio stations in America. The FCC ordered all radio licensees, both commercial operators and hams, to furnish a full set of fingerprints, a passport-type photo, and proof of US citizenship by October 15, 1940.

It was necessary for the FCC to ramp up its monitoring activities, and the September 1940 issue of *QST* put out a call for amateurs to fill 500 new positions as FCC monitoring operators. Those 500 positions were quickly filled, almost entirely by hams. FCC's well-known Radio Intelligence Division was thus supervised and staffed mainly by hams, under the direction of George Sterling, W3DF.

The Navy Communications Reserve and the Army stepped up their recruitment of amateurs to enlist as radio operators and repairmen, and hams again responded in great numbers. In addition, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration recruited hams to serve as radio instructors. During this period, ARRL inaugurated its code proficiency program, with more than 900 hams submitting W1AW copy of the first certificate run.

Our nation was still in the phase of "positive neutrality," but there were many efforts in which US hams helped the war effort before we entered the fray. One of those efforts was the Civilian Technical Corps, which maintained and operated British radars, then operating in the upper HF and lower VHF range. One of those early radars was quite important -- Britain's [Chain Home](#) radar system, an early warning system to detect incoming German bombers early enough to scramble fighters to meet the enemy at altitude over the English Channel. Chain Home operated at 22 to 25 MHz. Although that frequency range presented problems, it could be built and put into service quickly, using existing technology and equipment.

Sets of three or four 360-foot towers were built at various locations on the English Channel's coast to support the very large wire antenna arrays. Some of those towers still exist, now supporting commercial antennas.

Thanks to Al Brogdon, W1AB ([arrl letter, 03-13-2014](#))

**COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS
WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON
147.075**

DUES ARE DUE NOW

STILL ONLY \$15.00

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer at the next meeting or sent to him at:
QRA c/o Jeff Hollis, WICKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

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Wolf

781-368-3413

Web, <http://www.shamelesswolf.com>

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QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention this ad, compliments of Brian, WOIVES

FRAUD AND SCAM PREVENTION TIPS FOR SENIORS

In Your Home

- Locks for doors and windows. Don't hide keys.
- Make sure your house number is displayed.
- Keep exterior well lit at night, always keep car locked.
- Don't leave a note on your door when not home.

When You're Out.

- Don't leave valuables in car. Always keep it locked.
- Keep your purse close.
- Don't carry excess credit cards or cash.

Con Artists

- If it is too good to be true, it is! (Vacation, Sweepstakes, Car)
- Never give CC, SSN, Bank# to anyone over the phone.

Examples in Wakefield

- Tree work, chimney work, paving schemes.
- Family member needs bail.
- Take your time to shop around.
- Ask for info in writing by mail, get a second opinion.
- Never pay with cash.
- Call Better Business Bureau or National Consumers League info center 800-876-7060
- Shred discarded docs-bank statements, pre-approved CC offers, insurance forms w/financial info.
- Don't carry your SS card or Passport unless necessary.
- Don't write your SS number on checks.
- Order a credit report once a year (free to do so)

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WEB AT:
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