

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

APRIL 2017

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**QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948
IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
1948-2016, OUR 68th YEAR**

CLUB OFFICERS

President – VACANCY
Vice President – Mike Rioux, W1USN
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
Nominating Committee- Barbara Day, KA1EDY
QRA 2-Meter Net- Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Education Committee- Jim Fisk, W1HL
Tom Cefalo Jr.- W1EX
Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Field Day Committee- Walter Callahan, KC1ENI
Jim Powers, KC1ENJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Watt, W1HN 2016-2018
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Fred DeVries, KC1FIZ 2016-2018
Phil Maguire, WA1HTP(SK) 2015-2017
Mike Rioux, W1USN 2015-2017
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2015-2017
Membership committee - VACANCY
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Christmas Committee - Jim Fisk, W1HL
Speaker Committee - Mike Rioux, W1USN
John Carrick, KB1YEF
Banquet Committee- John Carrick, KB1YEF
Barbara Day, KA1EDY
Jim Fisk, W1HL

NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY – MAY 6th AND 7th

The NEQP is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

We're working to make sure that all of the New England counties are active again this year and would appreciate your help. Get on for at least an hour or two and join in on the fun. Please let me know if you can put in any time at all so we can work on activity from the rarest counties. **Will you be QRV? Let us know which county you'll be on from with a message to info@neqp.org**

Oh yes, the NEQP is also lots of fun when mobile. Every time you cross a county line the action starts over again. It's amazing what a 100w radio and mobile whip can do.

The QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep Saturday night. It goes from 4pm Saturday until 1am Sunday, then 9am Sunday until 8pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who makes 25 QSOs and sends in a log will get a certificate.

Last year we had logs from 179 New England stations and 300 more from around the country and world.

The full rules are here -> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>.

The 2016 results were posted over the weekend and the results since 2002 are also available -

> <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>.

It's just under a month until the 2017 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log. Thanks! 73 Tom/K1KI

INTERESTING GADGETS I WISH I HAD TIME FOR

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

Android antenna analyzer

On Reddit

(https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time/), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer

(<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CW-USB-Interface-Cable-WINKEYER-compatible-3-5mm-plug-/132121085623?hash=item1ec307c6b7:g:up8AAOSw241YeTei>). Its frequency range is 1 – 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software (http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm) and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots. See <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mini60-ant-analyzer.jpg> for a photo of the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

Multi-functional component tester

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture – a smart component tester

(http://www.banggood.com/3_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes **NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.**

This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzwWg>.

Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC (https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=). The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (upto 1TB)
- Real Time Clock to keep track of time
- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

When he's not drooling over electronic gadgets, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

THE

Shameless Wolf

781-368-3413

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

Email: brian@shamelesswolf.com

Your Local Technology Specialist

Brian and the Shameless Wolf know technology. He can help you with your Computers, Networking, Printers, Home Theater, and even gadgets. Whether you're having problems with a virus, need a new hard drive, or just need to figure out which connector to plug your new DVD player into. The Shameless Wolf is here for you. So give the Wolf a call today for quick, affordable, and reliable technology services.

QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention.

this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES

**QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.W1EKT.ORG And WWW.W1EKT.COM**

QRA MARCH 2017 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The March 2017 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by club V.P. Mike Rioux, W1USN.

Club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M noted he will be looking into reserving the Hilltop in Burlington for the ARRL Field Day to be held the last weekend in June 2017.

We are looking for a volunteer to set up both our annual Banquet and a Nominating Committee.

Treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH sent out delinquent letters to all members who are late with their dues.

A slide show on a minidxpedition to Panama was presented by Mike Rioux, HP8/W1USN and Bob Reiser, HP8/AA1M who operated from Panama during February.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. (submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M club secretary)

KDA Custom Embroidery is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For 20 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.

IS IT TIME TO PAY
YOUR DUES ?
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, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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, September through June. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY

APRIL 20, 2017

AND WILL BEGIN AT

*** * * 7:00 PM * * ***

**OUR SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING WILL BE
A SALES REP FROM HRO IN SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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