

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

DECEMBER 2014

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 4

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2014, OUR 66th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Vice President – Ray Sylvester, NR1R
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

John Carrick, KB1YEF	2014-2016
Tom Cefalo Jr., W1EX	2014-2016
Barbara Day, KA1EDV	2014-2016
Phil Maguire, WA1HTP	2013-2015
Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ	2013-2015
Jim Fisk, W1HL	2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M	

"Frequency" TV Series Would Reprise Amateur Radio-Themed Movie

Mike Baxter, KA0XTT -- Tim Allen's character in the "Last Man Standing" TV show on ABC -- may be getting some competition on the ham bands, as NBC appears poised to launch a television series based on the 2000 movie *Frequency*, in which ham radio -- aided by some spectacular solar phenomena -- plays a central role in the sci-fi thriller.

According to a November 13 [article](#) in *The Hollywood Reporter*, NBC has already committed to the series. Jeremy Carver is writing the script for Warner Brothers Television and will be the series' executive producer. Toby Emmerich, who wrote the movie, will be a co-producer.

While Amateur Radio has made only fleeting appearances in "Last Man Standing," it is an essential plot device in *Frequency*. In the movie, a New York City fireman, Frank Sullivan, played by Dennis Quaid, re-connects via a bizarre ham radio link with his son, John, 30 years in the future. Jim Caviezel, now a star in the CBS drama, "Person of Interest," portrayed John Sullivan, an NYPD detective.

John Sullivan comes across his late father's 1960's-era Heathkit transceiver, through which -- with the help of a quirk of nature and some Hollywood magic -- he is able to communicate with his father through time and space. -- *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire - The ARRL Letter for November 20, 2014*

FREE STUFF!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a sucker for free stuff. Below, you'll find links to a free transistor amplifier design program, a free printed circuit board design program, and a free tutorial on antennas. All of these look to be worth a look.

TransistorAmp 1.1

This is free software for designing bipolar transistor amplifiers. I found the link to this software (<http://en.transistoramp.de/>) on the AMRAD mailing list. Phil, M1GWZ, who posted the link, says, "A transistor circuit that I'm developing needed a 5x voltage gain stage. I could have thrown in a single op amp with split power rails and all that DIL8 real estate, but a single transistor stage would suffice. Trouble is, I'm an EE by inclination, not training, and all those calculations - working out those capacitor reactance values - well, I don't do them often enough for them to be easy. And I want voltage gain, not current. And then I found Transistor Amp 1.1."

"It's a nice piece of software," says Phil, "It installs easily and did the job for me quickly and easily. Oh, and when I built the circuit for real - voltage gain of 5x!"

[[NOTE: A screen shot of the software that you can use for the article can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/specify-common-base-circuit.png.....Dan>]]

Altium CircuitMaker

CircuitMaker (<http://www.circuitmaker.com>) is a free printed circuit board design tool for hobbyists, people like you and me. Maxfield Parrish of EETimes says, "one key aspect of CircuitMaker is its intuitive and easy-to-use interface -- all of the important "stuff" is presented in an easily accessible manner in a ribbon at the top of the display. Another major consideration is that Altium has decided to make CircuitMaker all about "Community," so users can easily share ideas and designs, comment on designs and offer suggestions for improvement, and generally help each other along the way."

Free antenna tutorial

For a limited time, Rohde & Schwartz and the IEEE Communications Society are offering a free tutorial on Antenna Basics (<http://www.comsoc.org/form/tutorial-registration-antenna-basics>). This tutorial explains the basic functionality of an antenna, starting with Hertz's antenna model. It also includes a short introduction to the fundamentals of wave propagation, the important general characteristics of an antenna and parameters, such as antenna gain, radiation pattern, bandwidth or VSWR. A more detailed explanation of the functionality of some selected antenna types (e.g. dipole or monopole) is also given.

Maik Reckeweg, Product Manager Antennas, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH, Munich, Germany, who is responsible for all the company's monitoring, measurement and communications antennas is the tutorial's.

The video is kind of dry, but I think Reckeweg does a pretty good job of discussing antenna basics. The video is also accompanied by a white paper that delves into these topics a little more completely. Overall, there's a bit more math than in most amateur radio discussions of antennas, but this makes the discussion a little more comprehensive.

When not scouring the Internet for free stuff, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, working CW on 40m, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

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.

QRA NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The November 20, 2014 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by club president Tim McNulty, K1TIM. After all introduced themselves to the group, president Tim apologized for cancelling the scheduled BOD meeting at the last minute.

President Tim introduced one of his neighbors Stewart Lazarus. Stewart gave a remarkable power-point talk on 3D printers.

As usual, member Larry Keegan, WA1PII served us with his coffee and donuts during a short break.

Club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M congratulated Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES on a great job setting up the new QRA website.

President Tim announced that the club now has 50 members and he needs at least 37 to volunteer for different club projects. Among these are a banquet chairman and someone to set up for Field Day.

There was no unfinished business brought up.

The subject of our December holiday meeting was brought up. It was decided to have our customary Yankee Swap with each present wrapped and not costing more than \$10. Chinese food will be served and each member is allowed one guest to attend. The holiday meeting will be held on December 18 and will begin at 6:30 pm. An amount of \$250 was allotted to be spent for the meeting

VP Ray Sylvester NR1R, made a motion to have 2 pots of coffee for before and during the club meetings. All members present agreed.

Brian WO1VES invited all to pass by his house and enjoy his Christmas light display and to find the light that is blinking in Morse code.

Brian will set up a schedule for net controls for the QRA Tuesday evening 2-meter net. Those volunteering are Brian WO1VES, Larry WA1PII, and Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ.

An auction was held for a 2-meter rig with an amplifier donated by Barbara Day, KA1EDV and a 33 ft. telescoping fiberglass pole offered by Dex Wheeler, W1TUM.

Dex Wheeler W1TUM is helping president Tim with getting speakers for the QRA meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. There were 20 members and guests attending.

(Respectfully submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M, club secretary)

Followup info from November meeting speaker

Hi Tim,

I forgot to make this suggestion

if you wish, put my e-mail address in your newsletter so your members can contact me if they have any questions. **My email address is slazares@gmail.com.**

I just saw where Home Depot is selling Makerbots in their stores, so maybe the future is already now.

http://3dprintingindustry.com/2014/11/21/makerbot-home-depot/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=3DPI%2BFacebook.

Stewart

Editor note: Other 3D spots to GOOGLE are SKETCHUP and TINKERCAD or BLENDER.

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. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

NOW THIS IS A REAL EDUCATION

Us older people need to learn something new every day. Just to keep the grey matter tuned up.

Where did "Piss Poor" come from? Interesting Story.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot. And then once it was full it was taken and sold to the tannery... If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor". But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot... They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500's

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, And they still smelled pretty good by June..

However, since they were starting to smell, Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, Then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing..

As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, It would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a threshold.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon, "They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter.

Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death.

This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle,

And guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky.

The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days.. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom; "holding a wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "saved by the bell" or was "considered a dead ringer." And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring!!! So get out there and educate someone!

Share these facts with a friend.

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, "What the heck happened?"

We'll be friends until we are old and senile. Then we'll be new friends. Smile, it gives your face something to do!

(Thanks to Kevin Sawyer, W1GEN)

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

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, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY**

DECEMBER 18, 2014

AND WILL START AT

*** * * 6:30 PM * * ***

**THIS WILL BE OUR ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY WITH
CHINESE FOOD AND A
YANKEE SWAP**

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

**QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION
6 SAVIN STREET
BURLINGTON, MA. 01803-2210**

**EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET
CLUB CALL - W1EKT**

FIRST CLASS MAIL TO:

**QRA WEBSITE:
WWW.W1EKT.ORG**

