

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

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CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 5

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
Rob Woltag, W1AFP	2016-2018
Fred DeVries, KC1FIZ	2016-2018
VACANCY	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	

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.

NOISE FLOOR REPORT DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last June, the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee asked licensed and unlicensed users of the electromagnetic spectrum to answer some questions about the noise they were experiencing and whether or not it was affecting their services. Specifically, they asked:

- * Is there a noise floor problem?
- * Where does the problem exist? Spectrally? Spatially? Temporally?
- * Is there quantitative evidence of the overall increase in the total integrated noise floor across various segments of the radio frequency spectrum?
- * How should a noise study be performed?

Well, the results are in, and Radio World recently published a summary of the responses that the FCC received (<http://www.radioworld.com/business-and-law/0009/noise-floor-where-do-we-go-from-here/338242>). The FCC received 93 replies from 73 (great number, eh?) different people or organizations, including:

- * 23 companies/industry organizations
- * 39 RF professionals (broadcast and wireless)
- * 31 licensed radio amateurs
- * 9 responders did not reply to the questions asked

Respondents included the ARRL, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, ATT, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I found especially interesting comments from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. They include:

- * Increased cooperation is needed between manufacturers of Part 15 devices and users of radio spectrum to identify noise sources and take appropriate remedial action.
- * Radiated emission limits below 30 MHz in the FCC Part 15 rules for unintentional emitters should be enacted. There are presently no radiated emission limits below 30 MHz for most unintentional emitters.
- * Reduced Part 15 limits for LED lights should be enacted to be harmonized with the Part 18 lower limits for fluorescent bulbs.
- * Better labeling on packaging for Part 18 fluorescent bulbs and ballasts to better inform consumers of potential interference to radio, TV and cellphone reception in the residential environment.
- * Specific radiated and/or conducted emission limits for incidental emitters, such as motors or power lines, should be enacted.
- * Conducted emission limits on pulse-width motor controllers used in appliances should be enacted.
- * Substantially increase the visibility of enforcement in power line interference cases.

Other organizations made similar comments.

While the report is encouraging, it won't mean a thing if no action is taken on these issues. Given that the FCC is cutting back on its field offices, and our president-elect has said that he plans to reduce the number of governmental regulations, I'm not optimistic that we'll see the noise situation get better before it gets worse. What do you all think?

When he's not battling the noise floor at his QTH, 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.

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

NEW LICENSEE

Got word that one of the people who took the exams at North Andover in October received his license. Sanjay, KC1GNF passed his Tech and General exam. Congratulations to Sanjay. Hope he can make the next QRA meeting so we can all congratulate him.

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.

QRA DECEMBER 2016 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The December QRA membership meeting and Christmas Party was called to order by QRA VP Mike Rioux, W1USN at 7:05 pm.

Club treasurer Jeff Hollis rose to apologize for the very late change of dates for this meeting. The town of Reading decided to paint the room we had scheduled to use for the meeting and we were notified the Wednesday before the meeting was to be held. Not much time to adapt but we managed to get the word out. It is a shame that many members had already made [plans for our new meeting date. We ended up with just 17 members and guests attending.

The main features of the meeting were the food and the Yankee Swap.

The food as usual was Chinese and delicious thanks to the effort of John Carrick, KB1YEF. Some of the gifts in the Yankee Swap were a bottle of wine, a hammer, batteries, Bit set, ear plugs, large flashlight, DD gift card and wrenches.

Member Fred DeVries, KC1FIZ was congratulated on passing his extra exam.

Dex Wheeler, W1TUM told all he had entered the ARRL 10-10 contest and had a very enjoyable time with the great band opening.

Member Don Melanson, KA1MAP thanked all for the get well card he received this past month.

Mike Rioux, W1USN announced to the group that he and Bob Reiser, AA1M will be operating from the Central American country of Panama, as HP8/W1USN and HP8/AA1M from February 10 to February 22, 2017. They will be using CW, SSB and a few digital modes while there.

The get-together broke up around 8:40 pm. (Club secretary, Bob Reiser, AA1M)

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QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention.

this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES

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

JANUARY 19, 2017

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

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