

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 5

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2018, OUR 70th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Don Melanson, KA1MAP
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, KA1EDV
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
John Carrick, KB1YEF	2017-2019
Tim McNulty, K1TIM	2017-2019
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES	2017-2019
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, KA1EDV	
Jim Fisk, W1HL	

JAMES MORRIS, K1UGM (SK)

Morris, James C. of Wakefield, Dec 21, Winter Solstice, 2017. Beloved husband of Rhoda U. (Krey) Morris. Beloved father / father-in-law of Steven J. Morris & wife Alice Turner of Newton, Kathleen M. Morris & husband Bruce Musicus of Lexington, Roxanne M. Tosi & husband Paul Tosi of Sterling, and Athena M. Morris of Montague. Also much loved by his seven grandchildren: Marina Musicus, Michael Tosi, Aviva Musicus, Brodie Morris, T. Brough Morris, Emily Manson, and Christina Manson. Donations in Mr. Morris' name may be made to Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, MGH Development Office, Attn: Trisha Keck Director of Development, 125 Nashua St., Suite 5407, Boston, MA 02114. Interment and a Celebration of Jim's Life will be held in the Spring when flowers are blooming.

Jim had been involved with QRA for quite some time. He and his wife Rhoda were speakers at our meetings. A very knowledgeable and likeable person. RIP Jim, 73.

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

WHAT THE HECK IS THE ARRL BOARD THINKING?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. At first, I didn't think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, "What heck are these guys thinking?"

What the minutes document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for "criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct[sic] and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." I won't quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? Its official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf).

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA's censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won't quote the entire section here, but basically what it says is an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, "Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization's members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization's rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. @arrrl board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body." Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place?

What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be "short, non-aggressive, and to the point." He suggested the following:

Dear [your director's name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the "Code of Conduct") and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

1. Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.
2. Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

(CONTINUES NEXT PAGE)

ARRL BOARD CONTINUED

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted "the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations." Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am sorry to announce that Jim Morris K1UGM became a silent key on January 21, 2017. As you know Jim was a member of the QRA. Our Deepest sympathy is extended to his family. For a link to his obituary go to the QRA Facebook page or the www.w1ekt.org web page. As posted, a celebration of his life will be held in the spring. Jim will be dearly missed at the meetings and on the air.

As a reminder both Mike W1USN and Bob AA1M will be traveling back to Panama next month.

They will be in Panama from Feb 1-14th as HP8/W1USN and HP8/AA1M. More info can be seen at www.dxnews.com search Panama. Both Mike and Bob work very hard in keeping Ham Radio alive and active giving up their time to travel different places just for Ham Radio. Please try and work them on any and all modes you can. Also if you do work them please spot them as soon as you can. I will be spotting on www.dxwatch.com

Also don't forget about the Professionals net every Friday morning on 3.825 at 8:30am hosted by our club member Scott WB1HKY. Stop by and say Hello to Scott and others.

Don't forget about the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island the most remote Island on earth. Planned dates 20 January - 28 February 2018 (will be determined by vessel schedule).

They will operate on 160 - 10m and also 6 and 2m EME.

Please visit www.bouvetdx.com or www.dxnews.com/3y0z for more info.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced the release of the 2018-2022 Amateur Radio Element 2 Technician class license question pool to the public domain consisting of 428 questions. It will become effective on July 1, 2018.

Practice Exams Reviews are free to anyone including non-members at www.arrlexamreview.appspot.com, this includes all 3 classes. Hope to see you all at this months meeting. Bring a friend or another ham or a future ham.

Above all Be Safe in everything you do.

73, Your president, Don Melanson KA1MAP

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

WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WINTERFEST

To be held at the K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA on January 20, 2018, starting at 9am and running till 1pm with VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra, Refreshments.

There is a \$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes to be drawn at noon, Table cost: \$15. Vendors call: [781-523-5010](tel:781-523-5010) Or Visit: www.WA1NPO.org, 1195 Bedford St, Rt 18, Whitman, MA 02382

Talk-In on the Whitman club repeater: 147.225Mhz +pl67

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

ARRL INTERNATIONAL GRID CHASE 2018

The ARRL International Grid Chase 2018 (IGC) will begin on January 1, 2018. The event will run the whole of 2018 and end December 31. The idea is to work as many amateurs as you can on all the HF bands with the exception of the 60 meter band. Both contacting stations need to upload and match the QSO on LoTW and the info must contain the 4 digit Maidenhead as in FN42. Grid Square Chase reminder that KM1CC will activate Grid FN51 next week. They have gotten some good coverage by various DX newsletters and expect a lot of activity as they activate FN51. Watch for them on the bands and be sure to spot them on the Packet Cluster so that others can find them.

Also, Bob and Mike will be offering Grid EJ98 from Panama during their stay during February.

NEW INFORMATION

QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.W1EKT.ORG

and

<http://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/>

COMPLETE HF STATION FOR SALE - \$500

Bill - K1WN has a complete HF station available for sale. It consists of a Kenwood TS-440-AT with 35 amp Anstron Power Sully. The rig is in fine working shape and has both CW and SSB filters installed. Also comes with matching Kenwood speaker and MC-60 desk mike. Just add an antenna and you are ready to get on the HF bands!

Contact Bill at k1wn@aol.com

THE

781-368-3413

Shameless

Wolf

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 ON FACEBOOK

Join us on our combined Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/> and keep up to date with information about QRA and the Wolf Pack Repeater System. Both are being run by Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.

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

DECEMBER 2017 QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The last QRA membership meeting of the 2017 calendar year was held on December 21 at the Reading Senior Center. 26 members and guests attended. After a short business meeting, president Don Melanson, KA1MAP asked for the business meeting to be suspended so the festivities could begin.

A delicious buffet prepared by Lester's in Burlington and delivered by John Carrick, KB1YEF, including ribs, mashed potatoes, spare ribs, macaroni and cheese and an assortment of soft drinks.

A Yankee swap was held with 16 people involved. Some of the gifts were 2 screw driver sets, a soldering iron, packages of AA and AAA batteries a checker/chess set and a few bottled of wine.

The event ended around 8:30 with cleanup by a few of the members including Tim McNulty, K1TIM.

Submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M QRA secretary

LEARN CW TRAINING NET

The Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA) will be conducting a "Learn CW Training Net" on the Club Repeater W1BIM on 146.97 PL 114.8 on Monday Nights at 7:30 PM starting January 15. Greg WA1JXR will be your Net Control Operator and CW Instructor. The purpose of the Net is to teach Ham Radio Operators new and old how to send and receive CW. The net will be a combination of FM voice as well as modulated CW (MCW) transmissions over the repeater. CMARA members as a club project have built an MCW interface for their 2M FM radios which will allow them to send CW. If others are interested in obtaining a MCW Interface Kit you can contact Greg WA1JXR at wa1jxr@comcast.net and I will start an interested list. If we get a minimum of 10 kit orders I will do a bulk buy of parts and circuit board and assemble more kits.

So check it off on your calendar and check into the "Learn CW Training Net" on Monday nights and learn and have fun with the Original Digital Mode, CW.

73's Greg Algieri WA1JXR
wa1jxr@comcast.net

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.

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HP8/W1USN AND HP8/AA1M

Just a reminder that QRA members Mike Rioux, W1USN and Bob Reiser, AA1M will be QRV from Panama from February 1 till February 14, 2018. They will be at the same location as last year and will be operating on all HF bands with SSB, CW and some digital modes. Anyone wishing to make a sked can email them at BOB @AA1M. NET after they have arrived in Panama. Contacts will be posted on LoTW and cards will be sent via the BURO or direct if requested to home call with SASE.

**COME JOIN US AT OUR
NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TO BE HELD AT THE
READING SENIOR CENTER
ON PLEASANT STREET
THURSDAY EVENING**

JANUARY 18, 2018

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

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