

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

MARCH 2017

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 7

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
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

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.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY TECHS?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was.

Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, 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.

FRAMINGHAM FLEA MARKET

This year's Framingham Flea Market will be held at the KEEFE TECH SCHOOL (keefetech.org), 750 Winter St., Framingham, MA from 9am to 12 Noon on Sunday, April 23, 2017.

Entrance fee for buyers is \$5.00, under 12 free with adult.

Sellers info at Andy, (508) 310-5913. Sellers fee \$20 advance, \$25 at the door, setup -7:30 am, with free coffee and donut, AC power and load/unload assistance available.

Ham license exams will be held. For info call Jim (508) 904-6188.

Talk-in on 147.15

DOOR PRIZES-GRAND PRIZE: NEW 2m/440 HT

MORE INFO At fara.org/flea

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

CRUISING THE NET

While cruising the net, I found a very nice DX site. Check it out at <http://www.dx-world.net/>. It has some great pictures of DX QSL cards and all kinds of information about both upcoming and past DXpeditions.

Also, if you're interested in DX, try NG3K Amateur Radio Contest page and DXWatch. These are a few of the better ones.

QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.W1EKT.ORG And WWW.W1EKT.COM

ARE YOUR DUES DUE
STILL ONLY \$15.00

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY RADIOCLUB NEWS

Hi Bob,

Could you, please, put this link to the Contoocook Valley Radio Club Flea Market Flyer on your Radio Club Reflector? It will be held on March 19 at the Henniker Community School. We will have a VE Session, three speakers, lots of Door Prizes, and a Yaesu FTM-3200 Fusion Radio for the main Raffle Prize. There will be homemade refreshments, and a hidden Transmitter Hunt is planned.

Thank you. We hope to see you there!

73

Mickie, W1MKY

Tables will be \$10. This year we have a new organizer and will open reservations 4 weeks before event, and tables will be first come on day of event (no reserving of actual spots, this year with a better system for next year!)

Entry is \$3 or 2/\$5, there will be a 50/50 and door prizes throughout the day.

More Info at <http://www.k1bke.org/flyer2017final.pdf>

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.

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY

MARCH 16, 2017

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

OUR SPEAKERS FOR THE EVENING WILL BE

MIKE RIOUX, W1USN AND

BOB REISER, AA1M

They will provide a slide show with witty comments

About their recent trip to Panama (HP8)

The talk title is

“The bands stink but the pool is warn and the beer is cool”

INTERESTING

It appears that in September of 2016, the ARRL formed a committee, looking into the possibility of petitioning the FCC to create a new entry level Amateur Radio license. At this point, they are looking for membership input.

So if you're a member of the ARRL, please log in to their Web site and take a survey, by clicking here.

Personally, some of the best times I have had in Amateur Radio occurred when I was a Novice. I learned so much, most of it by the Amateur Radio School of Hard Knocks. So, I was very saddened when the FCC ditched the Novice license. I thought this was an excellent way to enter the Amateur Radio world, with the focus on operating in the HF bands, not just VHF/UHF. Not that there's anything wrong with VHF/UHF, but I think opening up the world of the HF bands is the way to go, keeping interests piqued and offering endless possibilities.

It will be interesting to see how this all pans out and if anything comes of it.

72 de Larry W2LJ, QRP - When you care to send the very least! (From the w2lj.blogspot.com)

60 METERS, A BRIEF HISTORY FROM THE ARRL

In May, 2003, a long-awaited FCC *Report and Order (R&O)* in ET Docket 02-98 granted US amateurs secondary access to five discrete channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz. The atypical amateur allocation became available to US amateurs on July 3, 2003. The limited spectrum and stringent operating requirements mean amateurs must demonstrate their best behavior and operating skills if the Amateur Service ever hopes to get an actual band segment at 60 meters.

As ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, put it: "In terms of Amateur Radio spectrum, we usually say, 'Use it or lose it.' The watchword for 60-meter operators should be, 'Misuse it and lose it.'" Sumner predicted that, over time, amateurs "will develop a record of disciplined, responsible use of the five channels in the public interest that will justify another look at these rather severe initial restrictions."

The FCC grant followed a period of experimental operation on 5 MHz under the WA2XSY Part 5 license granted to ARRL. The channelized scheme is similar to the 5-MHz experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom.

The FCC changed one frequency effective March 5, 2012 and now grants amateurs access to channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5358.5, 5373, and 5405 kHz. The last channel is common to the UK amateur 5-MHz experimental band plan.

This new allocation presents some new twists in amateur HF operation as well as some unfamiliar technical demands. The channelized format was the result of a compromise between the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), which administers spectrum occupied by government users--the band's primary occupants--and the FCC. The channels are available to General and higher class licensees.

Originally, amateurs could only operate upper-sideband voice (emission 2K8J3E) at a maximum of 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) and an audio bandwidth not exceeding 2.8 kHz. The power level changed to 100 W PEP ERP and permissible emission types changed effective March 5, 2012.

You will find the latest information and the ARRL's Recommended Practices useful.

How come the FCC gave us channels instead of a band? -

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which administers spectrum regulated by the federal government, raised eleventh-hour opposition to ARRL's request and the FCC's proposal that would have given amateurs a 150-kHz wide band at 5 MHz (5250 to 5400 kHz). The NTIA's opposition, expressed after the period for comments already had expired, cited ongoing spectrum requirements of federal government licensees having homeland security responsibilities. Following some give and take between the FCC and the NTIA, the latter agency reviewed its assignments in the vicinity of 5 MHz and found five "lightly used" channels it felt could be shared. Contrary to speculation elsewhere, the channels are no harbinger of a new trend in Amateur Radio allocations in general. This is a special case.

ARE YOUR DUES DUE **STILL ONLY \$15.00**

DEERFIELD FESTIVAL (NEAR-FEST XXI)

For the eleventh year, The New England Amateur Radio Festival will be held in Deerfield, NH on May 5th and 6th, 2017. Gates open at 9:00 AM sharp. Admission is still \$10.00 per person and \$10.00 per vehicle imtp the flea market.

The Deerfield Fairgrounds is located on Route 43 approximately 15 miles NE of Manchester, NH. Full details are available on the official NEAR-FEST Site: www.near-fest.com.

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
WWW.W1EKT.NET**

