

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 2018

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 7

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 – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES

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

PLANNED MOTION FOR MARCH QRA MEETING

“The QRA Board of Directors has voted to take the following actions to ensure the financial viability of the club:

1. Dues will be raised from the current \$15 per year to \$20 per year effective with the 2018-2019 membership year.
2. All members and their guests will be charged a nominal fee to cover expenses for special club events such as the Christmas and Annual Banquet.”

Talking points for club leadership:

The dues have been set at \$15 per year for many years while expenses incurred by the club have risen. Club subsidies for meals and activities consume all of the current dues leaving no reserve for emergencies.

The nominal fee for events will be based on the cost that the club has to pay for the event. For example, if the club pays \$300 for food for an event, and there are 25 club members present, a fee of \$10 per person may be levied with the club paying the remaining \$50. The Officers of the Association will determine the club's contribution to the event.

All QRA members are requested to attend the meeting and join in the discussion and vote.

COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075

FM/FUSIO * PL Tone 151.4

Echolink: WO1VES-R (813502)

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

FROM THE INTERNET

A Hundred Watts and a Wire

I moved down to 40m this evening since 20m was closing and tuned around a bit. Very crowded, but I pulled a few out and gave on a call. Well, my doorbell rang. Ugh. So I turn down the volume, go open the door and nobody there.

I get back to operating, make the contact and move on. Next contact and again doorbell. I was getting angry and figured someone was messing with me and this was not the time. I go look and again, nobody. Now I'm angry and cursing because it's a contest weekend and so much DX is workable.

So the third time it happened I notice that I just happened to be keying up and calling at the exact moment it rang. BAM! My brain put two and two together, I was keying up the doorbell. So for the last hour and a half, I've been calling and making contacts with the damn doorbell ringing in the background. FEELING SILLY. (Author unknown)

QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.W1EKT.ORG

and

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

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well, after reading the QRA Story I am truly impressed in the birth and history of the QRA.

It tells the story of how a few dedicated Ham Radio Operators wanted more and with a few new ideas and help from a lot of other dedicated Hams made and built the Quannapowitt Radio Association. I have made copies of the story for members and will pass them out at the March meeting. I will also supply an electronic copy to the Secretary and if approved by the membership have it posted on the web page and our Facebook Page.

It is also the time for RE-Elections. Yes it does come fast so if you are thinking of running for any office I will ask the election committee for guidance and input. Just to let everyone know I do plan on running for President again if you are willing to put up with me for another year.

At this month's meeting (March) I would like to further discuss the finances we face going forward and some of the suggestions to make us a more healthy and financially stable association. I need your help and input to make this possible. Please remember this is OUR club so it's up to us.

Field Day Field Day yes Field Day. It's coming fast. Things to discuss are Location, Stations, Operators, Modes of operations, and advertisements. I would like to advertise and invite the public. I believe it's a great opportunity to advertise Ham Radio and maybe help out a future ham operator and or member.

Please have a happy and healthy month and as always be safe in everything you do.

Hope to see you all at this month's meeting. 73s, Your President, Don Melanson KA1MAP, KA1MAP@ARRL.NET

RESISTANCE IS NOT FUTILE
IT IS VOLTAGE DIVIDED BY CURRENT

WHICH WAY DOES CURRENT REALLY FLOW?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I was recently taken to task by one of my blog readers regarding my description of current flow in my *No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide*. He wrote: You casually say that current flows from Positive to Negative (with cool accompanying directional arrows), without any accompanying qualifying statement. Over the years I have looked at ALL the views on the subject. Positive to Negative is NOT what I was taught 48 years ago, and I have never seen a good reason to change my view.

In a subsequent email, he pointed me to a Nuts 'n Volts article, "Which Way Does Current Really Flow?" and asked my opinion. In the article, the author, who is a ham by the way, does a good job of explaining the various types of current flow.

I agree that in electronic circuits electrons flow from negative to positive, but it really doesn't matter. I agree with one of the article's commenters who says,

This is a silly argument. It's like comparing apples and oranges and challenging people to take sides.

Electron flow is not current flow. Electron flow is easy to understand, an actual physical property, and a real help in understanding vacuum tube operation. But it falls apart when one needs to understand complex electronic systems.

[Conventional] current flow is a mathematical abstraction. It is defined as a net flow of positive charge, irrespective of the polarity of the physical charge carriers — whether electrons, holes, positive or negative ions, or whatever.

When looking at any circuit containing a resistance with a voltage across it, conventional current through that resistor says that the voltage drop occurs as the current through it meets resistance. On the other hand, in negative (electron) flow, a voltage INCREASE will correspond to the 'current' flow through it, clearly violating physical laws. Conventional current flow is consistent with the laws of physics and those of other engineering disciplines.

You are correct that engineers, professors and scientists use conventional current flow. That is not because they are too obtuse to understand electron flow; I assure you they fully understand it. It is because in their world they have to solve more general problems involving complex math and science, and, again, conventional current flow is consistent with physical laws.

It is unfortunate that electron flow and current flow are so often confused. They both have their place.

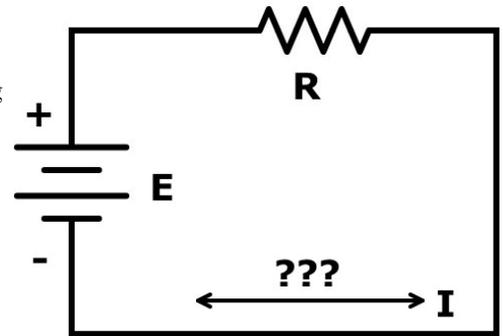
After reading that article, I thought I'd see what the ARRL Handbook has to say about current. In the 1963 edition, they don't mention electron flow at all. They have one diagram showing the direction of current flow in both series and parallel circuits, but the voltage source has no polarity. It's simply labelled "Source of E.M.F." Diagrams giving practical examples of series and parallel circuits do include a battery, and if the reader were to mash up the two diagrams, they would conclude that current flows from the positive terminal to the negative terminal.

The most recent edition of the Handbook that I have is the 2005 edition (it might be time to get another copy!). It says, Electrons move from the negative to the positive side of the voltage, or EMF, source. Conventional current has the opposite direction, from positive to negative. This comes from an arbitrary decision made by Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century. The conventional current direction is important in establishing the proper polarity sign for many electronics calculations. Conventional current is used in much of the technical literature. The arrows in schematic symbols point in the direction of conventional current, for example.

Having said all that, I really don't see that there's much of a controversy here. I did learn to think of current as conventional current in college, although it was mentioned that electrons actually flow in the opposite direction. Using the concept of conventional current has never seemed to hold me back. I've been able to design circuits and repair electronic equipment thinking that current flows from positive to negative.

Although it's a departure from my "no nonsense" style, I am thinking of including a sidebar, similar to the paragraph above from the 2005 Handbook explaining the two ways of looking at current flow. What do you think?

When he's not trying to figure out which way current flows, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



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.

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.

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

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Q: HOW MANY HAMS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB ON FACEBOOK?

1 to change the lightbulb and to post that the lightbulb has been changed.

14 to share similar experiences of changing lightbulbs and how the lightbulb could have been changed differently.

7 to caution about the dangers of changing lightbulbs.

6 to argue over whether it's 'lightbulb or light bulb'.

Another 6 to condemn those 6 as stupid.

2 industry professionals to inform the group that the proper term is 'lamp'.

15 know-it-alls who claim they were in the industry, and that 'lightbulb' is perfectly correct.

19 to post that this is not about lightbulbs and to take this discussion to light bulb page.

11 to defend the posting of this page saying we all use lightbulbs and therefore the posts are relevant here.

36 to debate which method of changing lightbulbs is superior, where to buy the best lightbulb, what brand of lightbulbs work best for this technique and what brands are faulty.

5 people to post pics of their own lightbulbs.

15 people to post "I can't see S\$%!" and use their own lightbulbs.

7 to post the URL's where one can see examples of different lightbulbs.

4 to post that the URL's were posted incorrectly and then post the corrected URL's.

13 to comment 'Me too'.

5 to post to the page that they will no longer post because they can not handle the lightbulb controversy.

4 to say "Didn't we go through this already a short time ago?"

13 to say "Do a search on lightbulbs before posting questions about lightbulbs".

1 to bring politics into the discussion by adding that (insert politician of choice) isn't the brightest bulb.

4 more to get into personal attacks over their political views.

1 admin to ban the lightbulb posters for inserting political discussion and close the thread.

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**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY**

MARCH 15, 2018

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

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