

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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MARCH 2014

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QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2014, OUR 65th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH
Vice President – Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH
Club Webmaster – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Club Call Trustee – Dex Wheeler, WITUM
QRA Equipment Manager – Dave Libby, N1SJB

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Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ 2013-2015
Jim Fisk, W1HL 2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M

QRA FEBRUARY 2014 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The February 20, 2014 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by club president Jeff Hollis, W1CKH. After all introduced themselves to the group, member Tim McNulty, K1TIM introduced our speakers of the evening. Blair Sutherland, who is Communications Director of the Massachusetts State Police and John Ruggiero, N2YHK, who is an Electrical Engineer for the Massachusetts State Police gave a talk with slides on the challenges of coordinating the communications of the Mass. State Police. Included in the talk, were slides and audio tapes taken during the apprehension and capture of the alleged perpetrators of the Boston Marathon bombings. The speakers went into great detail about the preparations being made for next year's Boston Marathon and the many changes being made because of the lessons learned last year.

Coffee and donuts and cold drinks were served by member Larry Keegan, WA1PII.

When the meeting resumed, president Jeff reminded all that dues are due by the end of this month and that reminders will be mailed out to those who are behind in their membership.

The auction to be held by member Jim Fisk, W1HL was postponed until a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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

ARRL MEMBERSHIP: IS 25% ASKING TOO MUCH?

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership. What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me. (Dan Romanchik, KB6NU)

When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@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.

HAVING A BAD DAY?

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez Oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000.00. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

Still think you are having a Bad Day?

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

Are Ya OK Now? - No?

Two animal rights defenders were protesting the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn, Germany. Suddenly, all two thousand pigs broke loose and escaped through a broken fence, stampeding madly. The two helpless protesters were trampled to death.

What? STILL having a Bad Day?

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with 'Return to Sender' stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb; he opened it and was blown to bits. God is good!

“Sam Sez”
FROM NORTH HAVEN ISLAND
OFF THE COAST OF MAINE

March 1, 1994

February was a short month but it has been long on cold, ice and snow! A few days reprieve then, BLAM! Another charge of ice and snow. Boy, was the groundhog ever right! Hard to keep up with Mike, NW1J isn't it? Just got through reading about his being in P4 land and now we find it is EA7! And what's this? He's "inside" and antenna array! Fear of being affected by stray RF apparently has not set in there yet. Maybe it's not like NAA, Cutler, where one does not step on or out of a vehicle but jumps or gets sparked!

Glad to hear from Norm, W1HX was active in his favorite contest, the FOC. Thanks Les, W1PL, for the report on Tel. QSO with Norn. Wonder if that was all Fiber-Optics? Hard to say how telephone signals reach us now isn't it! When one calls here from off the island it always includes microwave link from the mainland to a terminal on Vinalhaven and then over here by Fiber-Optics. The only interference to the microwave comes now and then when ospreys try to build their nest on or in the dish! If in a non critical place the Companies lets them stay.

Big discussion on the recent Friday Edition, QRA Prof. Loafers Net where we heard that Herb, NS1P is a cane and walking stick collector and has quite an assortment of fine and unusual specimens. We heard that some are even hollow with special containers, flash-lights etc. We suggested that a hollow cane with a 2 meter antenna inside and using a Pocket Walkie should make a good "Fox hunt" hidden station. Who would suspect a gentleman strolling down the avenue with a cane? How this all came about was that I mentioned my vintage Scout staff that had been up a number of mountains but now used around here when everything is encased in ice, like now, as it has a sharp spike embedded in the business end of it.

The 3Y0 DX-pedition is past and what a struggle it was and what a surprise to work then on 10 meters with an honest to goodness S9 signal on SSB. 10 was the least likely place we expected to hear them the strongest! Actually they were quite good on 15, 20 and 40 here but weak on 17 and not spotted on 12 but they were covering all bands and most modes and really did a great job despite the gale winds, heavy snow and all the usual intentional QRM. Makes you wonder why the same fellows are willing to go to those dangerous places under such adverse conditions doesn't it? They certainly deserve a lot of credit and support.

By the way, did you know that this one was a triple counter if worked on 10? New country, new IOTA no. and if Ralph or Tony were operating, a new 10-10 country! Probably there are a few other credits one could count as well like a new WPX prefix and does anyone know the grid-square?

Speaking of "Islands on the Air" have you noticed how that where one contact with any island in a certain group of islands only counts as one, whereas in IOTA a number of

islands count individually, for example, E. Carolines = 1 DXCC Country but 5 IOTA Islands!

These past several weeks while the Winter Olympics were on we tried to locate some of the LI1-2-3-4OWG Special Event Stations but at this location it was difficult to hear any part of Europe for most of the period, then on almost the last day something broke loose and we heard every country in Scandinavia really coming in! And there was LI4OWG! We attempted to make a contact with the special Olympic Station each Olympic year. We still prize the QSL from Sarajevo, 1984, and really feel bad about what has happened over there.

We have sort of lost track of Dex, W1TUM/MM but suppose he must be heading through the Okeechobee Waterway to Stuart according to his schedule and eventually North to bring some warm WX to us maybe? Wally, WA1GWO has joined the rest of us keyboard tappers with a compatible WP. Carl, get ready to receive some input from Boothbay sometime in the future!

Herb, NS1P introduced his old friend John, WA1PFC to the QRA 75 Meter Prof. Loafers Net. He is an avid DXer and so had lots of notes to compare with Joe, W1EED and yours truly.

A nostalgic event is scheduled to take place this Spring when the WW1 Liberty Ship, Jeremiah O'Brien along with other vintage ships set sail for D-Day Commemoration at Normandy Beachhead. The Training Ship, "State of Maine" will also be making it's last voyage for the Maine Maritime Academy of Castine. On the return voyage the O'Brien will visit S. Portland where it was built in 1943. Its Radio Call Sign is KXCH. There has been some regular Ham operation during local cruises in and out of San Francisco Bay but we haven't heard if there will be any during the Transatlantic cruise or not. Keep tuned.

Those of us who received the new, 1st Edition "The DXCC Yearbook 1993" are really enjoying it. A real collectors item for DX Hams! The final results of the Annual DDD Round-up and Election was W0EXG, K0DCF and W0ANX in that order. K0DCF is ex W1ZLM and W0ANX is ex W1MMO. By the time you read this it should be Spring! Can Summer be far behind? 73, Sam, W1MGP

MARITIME ACADEMY MAY CLOSE

More Maritime bad news was received when VP Al Gore's report reducing the cost of the government was released last month. In the report prepared and issued by the VP, it was suggested that since the US no longer has a Merchant Marine of any size, it was no longer necessary to maintain an expensive Maritime Officer Academy at King's Point. NY nor would the Federal Government need to support any of the several state run maritime colleges such as the one located in Vallejo, CA. The closing of King's Point will save the Government several million dollars per year. Cutting funds for the state maritime colleges will also make some savings. *VWOA News Winter 1994*

I hope the boys down in Washington Know what they are doing

MARS AT OPPOSITION, IT'S CLOSEST APPROACH TO EARTH

"We're entering the best season we've had for observing Mars in seven years. That's not saying much. Mars comes to opposition every two years and two months, and the oppositions themselves go through a 15 year cycle of close and distant ones. This year the planet is at opposition on April 8th. In the middle two weeks of April, when it's closest to Earth, it will appear 15.1 arc seconds wide. That's bigger than it became during its last two apparitions, but far short of the 24.3" we can expect in July 2018."

See <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/> for more information. AELC is also online at <http://www.aelc.us/>.

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THE

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**QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention
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FRAMINGHAM ARC FLEE MARKET

Hi Bob: Nice seeing you today at Best Buy. The Framingham ARA flea market will be held on Sunday, April 6 at the Keefe Technical School in Framingham (same place we have been using for years). Doors open at 9:00 AM to the public (buyers) and 7:30 AM for sellers. Admission is \$5. If you need any more info, please let me know.

Tnx and 73, Gordy K1GB

NAVAL HUMOR

THE CHIEF AND THE GUNNY

An old Chief and an old Gunny were sitting at the VFW arguing about who'd had the tougher career. "I did 30 years in the Corps," the Gunny declared proudly, "and fought in three of my country's wars. Fresh out of boot camp I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade. "As a sergeant, I fought in Korea alongside General Mac Arthur. We pushed back the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small arms fire. "Finally, as a gunny sergeant, I did three consecutive combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razor grass for 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire all day and mortar fire all night. In a fire fight, we'd fire until our arms ached and our guns were empty, then we'd charge the enemy with bayonets!" "Ah," said the Chief with a dismissive wave of his hand, "all shore duty, huh?"

(Thanks to Tim McNulty, K1TUM)

T18 COSTA RICA

It's that time of the year again. QRA members Mike Rioux and Bob Reiser, AA1M will be off to the orchid-scented and pleasantly warm evening trade-wind breezes wafting through the open windows with their bamboo-slat curtains, and the fronds of coconut palms rustling in the gentle breeze outside, rubber-stamp five-by-nines from a huge pileup of stations desperate to work them. They leave for Costa Rica on March 21 and maybe return by April 1. Mike plans on operating SSB and PSK31. Bob will clutter the bands with his CW and some PSK31. (Bob, AA1M)

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2014

**(THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING)
AND WILL START AT**

7:00 PM

**OUR SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING WILL BE
WAKEFIELD MASS. PATROLMAN**

AMY TOOTHAKER

**SHE WILL GIVE A TALK ON
FRAUD**

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.

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

COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET

ON TUESDAY EVENINGS ON

WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON
147.075

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