

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

MAY 2014

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 9

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2014, OUR 66th 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2012-2014
Bill Watt, W1HN 2012-2014
Barbara Day, KA1EDV 2012-2014
Phil Maguire, WA1HTP 2013-2015
Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ 2013-2015
Jim Fisk, W1HL 2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M

QRA APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The April QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by club president Jeff Hollis, W1CKH. After all introduced themselves to the group, president Jeff introduced our speakers of the evening Dale, AF1T and Mickie, W1MKY Clement. Dale gave a great talk with the help of Mickie and a couple of volunteers on the whys and hows of antennas. All agreed it was a very informative presentation. It should be noted that Dale and Mickie came all the way down from Hooksett, New Hampshire to give the talk.

After coffee and extras served by our chef Larry Keegan, WA1PII and enjoyed by the crowd, the meeting resumed at 8:40 pm. President Jeff announced that the May QRA membership meeting will begin at 7:30 instead of the normal time of 7:00 pm due to a previously planned function by another group at the Senior Center.

President Jeff noted he will be trying to set up a nominating committee for this years upcoming election. He asked for volunteers for office and received none. Jeff also announced he will not be running for re-election for club president this year and we will need at least three nominees for two year terms as Directors.

Member Jim Fisk, W1HL volunteered to set up our annual banquet with the Hillview Country Club in North Reading and will report at the May meeting. Jim plans to schedule the banquet for a Friday evening, either June 20 or 27. A \$200.00 amount was voted on to be used for door prizes for the banquet and QRA will subsidize the meal at an amount to be determined at the May membership meeting.

Member Larry, WA1PII won the auction for an external audio DSP unit for \$5.00 and a Tech and Extra license study book was given away to anyone who wanted them.

The club webmaster Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES announced he was redoing the club web site and showed off the new front page that is in the design phase.

There were 20 members and guests at the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm. (respectfully submitted by QRA secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M)

HELP FOR NEW HAMS

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a box of stuff recently donated to WA2HOM, our amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, there was a book W1FB's Help for New Hams by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. This book hits on just about all the topics that a new ham in the late 1980s would want to know about, and W1FB does a great job of walking the new ham through these topics.

Of course, being 25 years old, some of it, is out-of-date, and it doesn't cover some questions that a new ham today would ask. For example, there's nothing in this book about digital modes or using a computer in the shack.

So, I'm thinking of writing my own Help for New Hams. Mine would probably be a little less HF-centric and include advice on joining clubs and how to use a computer in the shack. I am also thinking that maybe I should write two separate versions: an HF version and a VHF version.

At any rate, I've listed the chapters of the W1FB version below. If you have any comments about what I should include in my version, I'd love to hear from you.

* The Newly Licensed Amateur. This chapter talks mainly about how to choose equipment, but also covers some of the modes that amateur radio operators can use.

* Your New Equipment—Getting Acquainted. This chapter discusses how to use the features of modern transceivers, amplifiers, and antenna tuners. It also talks a little bit about antennas and SWR.

* Constructing and Using Antennas. This chapter goes into greater depth on antennas. It discusses the different types of antennas, how to feed them, and how to bring feedlines into the shack.

* Station Layout and Safety. This chapter covers the practical aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, including desk and chair selection and station wiring.

* TVI and RFI—Strange Bedfellows. TVI and RFI are less of a problem these days than back in the 80s, but it's still something new hams need to know about.

* Operating Problems and Fears. This chapter discusses some of the operating problems new hams face, including honesty in signal reporting, how to operate split and how to work DX.

* On-the-Air Conduct and Procedures. This chapter discusses more operating procedures, including calling CQ, how to operate via a repeater, and how to ID.

* Station Accessories—What to Buy? This chapter discusses a variety of station accessories including keys and keyers, microphones, antenna tuners, phone patches (!), and antenna switches.

* DX and Contest Operating. This chapter not only discusses operating procedures, but how certain equipment features will help the new ham work more DX and score better in contests.

* Logging, QSL Cards, and Record Keeping. This chapter discusses why it is important to keep logs and how to QSL.

* Obtaining Accurate Information. This chapter is basically an ad for the ARRL, counseling the new ham to join the ARRL and buy ARRL books.

I am especially interested in hearing from new hams about these topics. What about amateur radio confused you at first? What information would have helped you have more fun with amateur radio? What do you know now that you wish you had known when you got started?

When he's not writing about amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys Elmering new hams and working CW on the HF bands. 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.

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.

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

Dead Penguins - I never knew this!

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica ? Where do they go? Wonder no more!!!!!! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow." "Freeze a jolly good fellow." (Blame Bill Hooper, W1QEC again)

THE

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Wolf**

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QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention this ad, compliments of Brian, WOIVES

DUES ARE DUE NOW

STILL ONLY \$15.00

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer ay 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
WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON
147.075**

**NEXT QRA
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY
MAY 15, 2014**

AND WILL START AT

*** * * 7:30 PM * * ***

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