

# QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: [AA1M@ARRL.NET](mailto:AA1M@ARRL.NET)

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

**ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.W1EKT.ORG](http://WWW.W1EKT.ORG)**

MAY 2018

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**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, AC1BN 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

**IS IT TIME TO PAY**

**YOUR DUES ?**

**STILL ONLY \$15.00**

**SOON TO BE RAISED TO \$20.00**

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.

# Eugene H. Hastings, W1VRK (SK)

MARBLEHEAD — Eugene Horace Hastings, 88, of Marblehead and beloved husband of Clara Brichze Hastings, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 after suffering a massive stroke six weeks earlier. He was born on Jan. 27, 1930 in Salem to the late Abner and Florence Hastings. Gene graduated Swampscott High School followed by a degree from Boston University in Business Administration. In 1961 he married Clara Brichze and they settled in Marblehead. Gene spent his entire career at the Lynn Daily Evening Item as a photographer and later in advertising. He was a lifelong storyteller and enjoyed meeting and interacting with people all over the world. A longtime amateur radio ham operator his call sign was W1VRK. Gene was very active in the ham radio community both locally and beyond, serving local and national organizations. He served on the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Foundation Board of directors from 1993 to 2014 and was honored as a Director Emeritus. For many years he led one of the largest ham radio conventions in the country, out of Swampscott and Boxboro. Active in the long distance, DX communications, Gene gathered 333 contacts in the ARRL DXCC listings including countries, principalities, and outposts world-wide; at one point talking with the space shuttle. Locally he was a member and director of the North Shore Radio Association. Gene was a member of the Lynn Rotary Club for more than 38 years, beginning in July 1975 representing the Lynn Item. Over the years he participated in Rotary at the local, district, and international levels, serving as the Lynn Club President in 1986 and the Rotary District 7930 Governor for the 1996-1997 program year. He was a Paul Harris Fellow multiple times and received the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. Gene served on the Camp Rotary Board of Directors for the Lynn Rotary Club and helped manage the day to day operation of Camp Rotary in Boxford. Gene is predeceased by his brother, Robert and survived by his brother Wilmot; his wife Clara of 56 years; their son Edwin and his wife Connie of Westborough; daughter Leslie and her husband Tom Miller of Hamilton, N.J., and son Laurence Hastings of Haverhill, grandchildren Catherine and Zachary Roebuck of Arlington, Texas, Elizabeth Hastings, Nathaniel Hastings, and Daniel Hastings, all of Westborough.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at Swampscott Cemetery.

*THE*

**Shameless  
Wolf**

**781-368-3413**

Web, <http://www.shamelesswolf.com>

Email: [brian@shamelesswolf.com](mailto:brian@shamelesswolf.com)

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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 IS**

**ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG**

**and**

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

## **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.

## “Alexa, help me with ham radio” By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an Amazon Alexa (<https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Echo-And-Alexa-Devices/b?ie=UTF8&node=9818047011>) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300 (<https://www.kb6nu.com/use-alexa-amateur-radio/>). I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called Continuous Wave ([https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B07C7HS47J/?ref=skill\\_dsk\\_skb\\_sr\\_0](https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B07C7HS47J/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_0)). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code. To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, "Alexa, open Continuous Wave." This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt... • Learn • Practice • Alphabet • Common words • Random words • Words • Sentences • Call signs • Contest • Quick Brown Fox • QSO • Help • Stop - To end your session. I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only. Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command "learn," it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed. Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill. Other ham radio skills While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found: • Ham Exam ([https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B01N7NQ3JE/?ref=skill\\_dsk\\_skb\\_sr\\_6&qid=1524602919](https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B01N7NQ3JE/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_6&qid=1524602919)). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool. • Ham Lookup ([https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073YL88SL/?ref=skill\\_dsk\\_pnps\\_dp\\_1](https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073YL88SL/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_1)). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database. • Ham Radio Propagation Forecast ([https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073THV6ZP/?ref=skill\\_dsk\\_pnps\\_dp\\_0](https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073THV6ZP/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_0)). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH). • ARRL Audio News ([https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B078Y7NGYT/?ref=skill\\_dsk\\_skb\\_sr\\_1&qid=1524750783](https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B078Y7NGYT/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_1&qid=1524750783)). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing. Building your own voice app The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at VoiceApps.Com. Two other websites—Pullstring (<https://pullstring.com>) and StoryLine (<https://getstoryline.com>)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier. Since I'm currently in the process of updating my No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide, it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, 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 about the voice apps that you like at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**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)**

**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](http://www.kdaembroidery.com), email to [kdace@aol.com](mailto:kdace@aol.com) or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY**

**MAY 17, 2018**

**AND WILL BEGIN AT**

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

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING, WILL INCLUDE ELECTION OF QRA CLUB OFFICERS  
AND BOD, PLUS PLANNING THE ARRL FIELD DAY AND THE JUNE BANQUET**

**- ATLAS AERIAL IMAGING -**

*Residential & Commercial Real Estate Imaging - Bridge Inspections - Precision Measuring  
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CLUB CALL - W1EKT**

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