

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2014, OUR 66th YEAR

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Vice President – Ray Sylvester, NR1R
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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Day, KA1EDV	2014-2016
Tom Cefalo Jr. W1EX	2014-2016
John Carrick, KB1YEF	2014-2016
Phil Maguire, WA1HTP	2013-2015
Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ	2013-2015
Jim Fisk, W1HL	2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M	

QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The October 2014 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by club president Tim McNulty, K1TIM. A vote was held to accept the meeting minutes for the September meeting as posted in the QRA News.

Club treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH was not present for the meeting so there was no treasury report.

President Tim asked all to introduce themselves to the group.

It was announced there will be a BOD meeting at 6:30 pm just before the November membership meeting.

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES invited all to visit the new QRA website at www.W1EKT.org.

Inquirees were made on the health of Bob Tadjell, W1PIN and Larry Keegan, WA1PII. (some info elsewhere in this issue).

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

Phil Maguire, WA1HTP again asked for help with running the QRA 2-meter net on Tuesday evening. His reception at his QTH is lacking and it is difficult for him to be net control. No one offered to take over the task, but Brian, WO1VES may be able to take control on one week per month and Matt Gelardi, KB1YRQ may be in the position to occasionally give a hand.

Ray Sylvester, NR1R stood to say that Walmart is having a sale on 60w LED light bulbs.

Jim Fisk, W1HL has been able to sell some of the estate of Mike Riordan, W1HFR (SK) at HRO in Salem, New Hampshire.

Barbara Day, KA1EDV will be bringing a 2-meter rig with amplifier for sale at the November meeting. Jim W1HL will also bring some equipment for sale.

President Tim, K1TIM is attempting to get speakers for the club meetings and any info or leads would be greatly appreciated.

The December meeting Yankee swap and meal will be discussed at the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. (respectfully submitted by QRA secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M)

SATELLITE CARRYING HAM RADIO PAYLOAD LOST IN LAUNCH EXPLOSION

The RACE and GOMX-2 CubeSats, both carrying Amateur Radio payloads, were among more than 2 dozen satellites lost after an unmanned Orbital Space Sciences (OSC) Antares 130 vehicle exploded spectacularly shortly after launch at 2222 UTC on Tuesday, October 28, from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The Antares is a new medium-class launch vehicle developed by OSC. The rocket exploded about 6 seconds after launch, sending a huge ball of fire hurtling toward the ground and igniting a massive fire at the NASA launch site. (The ARRL Letter for October 30, 2014)

INDONESIAS NEW NATIONAL LEADERS ARE BOTH HAMS

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, YD2JKW, holds a General class license. Vice President Jusuf Kalla, YC8HYK, is an Advanced class licensee.

Elected in July, Jokowi, 53, and Kalla, 72, were inaugurated on October 20 in Jakarta. Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy, with a population of approximately 250 million. Secretary of State John Kerry represented the US at the inauguration and met with the new president afterward. Jokowi previously served as Governor of Jakarta and as Mayor of Surakarta. (The ARRL Letter for October 30, 2014)

NAVASSA ISLAND TO BE ACTIVATES IN JANUARY 2015

The KP1-5 Project has received word from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) that it may activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015. The DXpedition, using the call sign K1N, will be a maximum of 14 days, and exact dates will be determined by USFWS mission requirements and weather windows.

In other pending-DXpedition news, landing permission has been granted by the Norwegian Polar Institute for a DXpedition on Bouvet (3Y/B). Landing permission covers the period from mid-January to mid-April 2016. (The ARRL Letter for October 30, 2014)

KDA Custom Embroidery is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For 19 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.

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

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.

THE APP I USED TO BREAK INTO MY NEIGHBOR'S HOME

By Andy Greenberg

When I broke into my neighbor's home earlier this week, I didn't use any cat burglar skills. I don't know how to pick locks. I'm not even sure how to use a crowbar. It turns out all anyone needs to invade a friend's apartment is an off switch for their conscience and an iPhone. This was done politely: I even warned him the day before. My neighbor lives on the second floor of a Brooklyn walk-up, so when I came to his front door he tossed me a pair of keys rather than walk down the stairs to let me in. I opened the door, climbed the stairs, and handed his keys back to him. We chatted about our weekends. I drank a glass of water. Then I let him know that I would be back soon to gain unauthorized access to his home. Less than an hour later, I owned a key to his front door. What I didn't tell my neighbor was that I spent about 30 seconds in the stairwell scanning his keys with software that would let me reproduce them with no specialized skills whatsoever. The iPhone app I used wasn't intended for anything so nefarious: KeyMe was designed to let anyone photograph their keys and upload them to the company's servers. Then, they can be 3-D printed and mail-ordered in a variety of novelty shapes, from a bottle opener to Kanye West's head. Or they can be cut from blanks at one of KeyMe's five kiosks in the New York City area. Parking valets suddenly require a ludicrous level of trust. I copied my neighbor's keys at a KeyMe kiosk about a mile from his house, inside a Rite Aid drugstore. After logging in on a fingerprint scanner and choosing my neighbor's keys from all the keys I'd uploaded, I watched on the machine's screen as a grandfatherly cartoon figure with a white mustache and spectacles cut them. Seconds later the keys dropped into a box at the front of the kiosk, still warm to the touch. The next morning I let myself into my neighbor's apartment and interrupted him reading a book about the German battleship Bismarck. Services like KeyMe, along with competitors like KeysDuplicated and the Belgian Keysave, promise to forever solve the problem of lockouts and lost keys using clever combinations of Smartphone scans, automated key-cutting machines and 3D-printing. Like a "forgot my password" function for physical security, they let you upload your coded chunks of metal to the cloud, where you can access and duplicate them, or even email them to a friend staying at your place. Such services also enable jerks like me to steal your keys any time they get a moment alone with them. Leave your ring of cut-brass secrets unattended on your desk at work, at a bar table while you buy another round, or in a hotel room, and any stranger-or friend-can upload your keys to their online collection. The trick is far easier than having them copied at a hardware store. KeyMe says it will even duplicate keys marked "do not duplicate," including some high-security keys sold by Medeco, Mul-T-lock and Schlage. Parking valets suddenly require a ludicrous level of trust: KeyMe already allows some car keys to be scanned and mail-ordered; KeysDuplicated says that feature is on the way. New York-based KeyMe reassures users on its website that "only you can scan your keys" and its "scanning process is designed to strictly prevent any use of flyby pictures." It claims keys can only be scanned when removed from the keychain (Not so; I left my neighbor's on his ring) and must be scanned on both sides against a white back-ground from 4 inches away. None of that posed a problem making my stairwell creep-scans. KeysDuplicated, based in San Francisco, doesn't make any claims about requiring close-ups for its keyshots. But its CEO Ali Rahimi wrote in a statement to WIRED that "we're not a convenient service for anyone who wants to copy keys surreptitiously." The company's site argues thieves have always been able to measure keys with a key gauge or imprint them in clay to create duplicates. But I have no idea how to do either of those, and I nonetheless found breaking into my neighbor's house with a
(Continued on next page)

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

THE APP I USED TO BREAK INTO MY NEIGHBOR'S HOME continued

smartphone scan to be pretty idiot-proof. When I spoke with KeyMe founder and CEO Greg Marsh, he offered another argument: Digitally reproducing keys is safer than other methods because it leaves a digital trail with KeyMe's account information, credit card records, and its kiosk fingerprint scanners. "We have all this accountability and data that doesn't exist when you make keys with traditional methods," Marsh says. "If a key was found to be used maliciously, we have a clear path to find out who was responsible," So if I had actually entered my neighbor's apartment while he was gone and burgled the place without him knowing, how would that accountability have helped? Marsh says that if my neighbor reported the theft and suspected KeyMe was involved, he could scan his keys into KeyMe and discover who had previously copied them. Marsh hedged that by saying the company would be very cautious about handing user data to the police, but the company "would be very enthusiastic about helping any way we could."

Even if KeyMe did help the cops, Marsh's logic is somewhat flawed. My neighbor had never heard of KeyMe or any services like it. If his apartment was robbed, he would have no clue that a little-known app had anything to do with it. "Most of the country has no idea what KeyMe is, and that will hopefully change soon," says Marsh. "We're working really hard to build awareness." Wishful thinking aside, Marsh's best piece of advice is, "People need to be prudent with where they have their keys and store them, similar to a password."

That paranoid approach has long been common sense among the lock picking crowd. "If you lose sight of your keys for the better part of 20 seconds, you should consider them lost," says Jos Weyers, a Dutch lock picking guru and security consultant. "If you find them later, consider them a souvenir." "It only takes seconds to duplicate a key. We lock nerds already knew that." (thanks to Mike Rioux, W1USN)

THE

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781-368-3413

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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**

**COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET
ON TUESDAY EVENINGS**

**WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON
147.075**

ARE KNOBS AND BUTTONS TOAST?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a recent column on EETimes (http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that, as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait.

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation.."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both, experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

QRA MEMBERS NEWS

I contacted member Bob Tadgell, W1PIN on the phone and he is having health problems and is unable to attend the QRA membership meetings. If anyone wishes to contact Bob, his phone number is 978-658-3492 and his email address is rhtadgell@verizon.net.

Larry Keegan, WA1PII was absent last meeting because of an appointment to have a stress test at the hospital. The test results came back ok and Larry will be at the November meeting and will care for our coffee and donut needs.

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

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2014**

AND WILL START AT

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

The QRA Guest Speaker for our November 20th meeting will be Stewart Lazares. Stewart is a volunteer with the Creativity Laboratories at the Peabody Institute Library. The Creativity Lab is a community space located at the Peabody Institute Library in Peabody. Its mission is to provide residents with the space, tools, and learning opportunities they need to become inspired creators and explorers of art, science, and fabrication. The Lab houses tools for: 3D fabrication (including two 3D printers), sound recording, computer programming, graphic design, woodworking, jewelry making, electronics, and sewing. Classes are continually being offered for children, teens and adults to learn new skills. Stewart will discuss developments in 3D and 4D printing. This is a relatively new technology that is quickly evolving.

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