

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

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 2

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

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

RADIO AMATEUR IS AMONG NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY WINNERS

A California radio amateur and ARRL member was among the WE ARE ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG of the Nobel Prize in chemistry. William Moerner, WN6I, of Los Altos, a chemistry professor at Stanford University, will share the prestigious award equally with two other researchers -- Eric Betzig and Stefan Hell -- for their work in high-resolution microscopy, or nanoscopy. For many years scientists had believed that an optical microscope could never yield greater than 0.2 micrometer resolution. The three scientists overcame that limitation through what the the Nobel panel called "the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy."

(ARRL Letter for October 9, 2014)

MEDICAL INSURANCE

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son. "Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best, and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The September membership meeting of the QRA was called to order at 7:10 pm by club president Tim McNulty, K1TIM. After all introduced themselves to the group, member Jim Fisk, W1HL offered some equipment for free and an MFJ 407C Bencher iambic key for auction, the money going to the club treasury. Jeff Hollis, W1CKH won the key for \$30.00. President Tim thanked all for electing him to the presidency and noted that former president Jeff did an excellent job during his terms.

Club treasurer Jeff, W1CKH reported he will give a full report on the club treasury at the next membership meeting. President Tim asked for volunteers to fill the chairperson positions for Field Day, Education and Banquet. Tim then gave a recap on the June QRA banquet.

There wasn't any new business brought up.

There was nothing brought up on Good of the Club.

Tim reminded all about the QRA 2-meter net held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm on 147.075.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm for coffee and donuts brought to the meeting by member Larry Keegan, WA1PII.

When the meeting resumed, Tim, K1TIM showed a cell phone jammer, Mike Rioux, W1USN gave a short talk on a 22 ga. wire antenna, counter poise, balan, 300 ohm ladder line and a 33' collapsible composite pole that he uses on his trips to the Caribbean.

Dex Wheeler, W1TUM stood to share some of his memories of his early days as a member of QRA and showed off his first built radio and some of his 1950's QSL cards.

Barbara Day, KA1EDV talked about her 60 year old foreign car and an award she received at an auto show.

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES drove his Italian 3 wheel motor cycle and Jim Fisk, W1HL told about his trip to France in the 70's and showed off some of the relics he found on the battlefield including a spoon, bullets and a small piece of barbed wire.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. There were 19 members and guests attending.

(Submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M, club secretary)

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

OCTOBER 2014 SECTION NEWS

After serving for nearly four years as your Section Manager, I feel it's time for me to take a break and step down from my duties--especially so that others can have some fun! I'd like to report on the results of the recent call for nominations for the Section Manager position in our section. As of the September 5 deadline date (announced in QST) ARRL Headquarters received a single petition nominating Tom Walsh, K1TW. Accordingly, Tom Walsh was declared elected as the new Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager to serve a two-year term of office beginning January 1, 2015. (Section Manager (SM) - Phil Temples, K9HI)

TWITTER: ANOTHER TOOL IN THE HAM RADIO TOOLBOX

it all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams that are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulkstel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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

THE

Shameless

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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

781-368-3413

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

Email: brian@shamelesswolf.com

ACTOR TIM ALLEN GETS HIS HAM TICKET FOR REAL

Actor and comedian Tim Allen now not only plays an Amateur Radio operator on television, he *is* one! Allen got his Technician ticket on September 4, but did not release the news until this week. In his weekly ABC comedy TV show "Last Man Standing," Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, and the show, which starts its new season October 3, has featured ham radio in some episodes (Allen's wife Mandy Baxter is KF0XIE). "Last Man Standing" producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, told ARRL that the agreement with Allen was that "we would not publicize his license until he approved it." Allen subsequently revealed to Tom Medlin, W5KUB, for one of Medlin's webcasts that he had passed his Technician license test but, per Allen's request, did not mention his call sign, Amodeo said. The call sign has since been disclosed elsewhere. (The ARRL Letter for October 2, 2014)

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.

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY

OCTOBER 16, 2014

AND WILL START AT

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

NOSTALGIA NIGHT

**WE WILL HAVE A TALK BY
PRESIDENT TIM, K1TIM,
DEX WHEELER, W1TUM AND
JIM FISK, W1HL ON QRA DAYS GONE-BY
THERE WILL BE SOME QRA ARTIFACTS ON
DISPLAY ALSO**

SHOULD QSO'S FROM REMOTE STATIONS BE GIVEN DXCC CREDIT?

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby". Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple. This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge and it's not a small sum of money, can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

WISCONSIN HAM DIES IN FALL FROM TOWER

A Wisconsin radio amateur lost his life on September 16 as he was performing maintenance on the 100 foot tower of a fellow ham. Killed in the fall was 59-year-old James G. Linstedt, W9ZUC, of Eau Claire, who succumbed to injuries sustained after he fell 95 feet from a tower owned by Ronald Anderson, W9RMA, in Eagle Point, just outside of Chippewa Falls, on the shores of Lake Wissota. Linstedt was said to have been an experienced climber. Although he had been wearing an over-the-shoulder safety harness, he apparently had failed to secure himself to the tower before the mishap occurred. Anderson, a former Chippewa County Sheriff, called authorities promptly. Chippewa County Sheriff James Kowalczyk told the *Leader-Telegram* newspaper that Linstedt was wearing safety equipment, but did not use it. "When we use it for years, we get a little lax...", the newspaper quoted Kowalczyk as saying. "If he had used it, we wouldn't be investigating an accidental death."

Kowalczyk said Linstedt had been strapped in before moving 10 feet up the tower, apparently without securing himself.

An active radio amateur, Linstedt was a member of the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club and once served as the club's president. -- *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR/Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire*; media accounts

I WAS JUST THINKING

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send by cargo by ship.

Have noses that run and feet that smell. How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique legacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down. In which you fill in a form by filling it out; and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which of course, is not a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And finally, how about when you want to shut down the computer, you have to hit "START" ?????

COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075

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