

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 2

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2016, OUR 69th 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 – Dex Wheeler, W1TUM
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, KC1FIZ	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

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

PATRICK Q. McNULTY, KB1YDY (SK)

Patrick McNulty, KB1YDY became a silent key on September 4, 2017. He was a member of QRA and the son of Karen and Thomas McNulty, KB1YDZ of Stratham, NH and grandson of Ruth and Tim McNulty, K1TIM of Peabody, MA. Patrick was 21 years old and will be missed by all. He was so young, so sad. Our condolences to the family. May he rest in peace.

HAM? HAM RADIO? HAM RADIO? AMATEUR RADIO? AMATEUR RADIO!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard, WB6NAH, who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club—the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club—was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure:

download image from

<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/skagit-arc-768x1024.jpg>

As you can see, the brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators." Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call." That kicked off the discussion.

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

"The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio", both written in normal case. If using "ham radio", it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

"Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

"Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonkers, and should be avoided at all costs."

Ward, NOAX, offered this explanation:

"To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns."

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

"You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this."

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR professionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

"I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?"

I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
IS THURSDAY
OCTOBER 19, 2017**

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

**QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.W1EKT.ORG And WWW.W1EKT.COM**

ST. KITTS V4/HOUSTON, TX

Here is some correspondence concerning the past hurricanes between Mike, W1USN and John Abbruscato, W5JON who lives 35 miles from Houston, TX and owns a residence on St. Kitts in the Caribbean. John followed us around the Caribbean until he found an ideal place to set up a vacation/mini dxpedition location.

I was here in Texas during HARVEY We had 32.8 inches of rain during Harvey here in Hockley in 72 hours, but I am on the geographic highest point in the county. So I was high and dry...

My wife Cathy was at the villa on St Kitts during IRMA, but left a couple of days before MARIA went through:

On Wed, Sep 6, 2017, John Abbruscato wrote:

Cathy said she did not want to leave, and was going to ride IRMA out, she is due home until Sunday 9/10 (but did not get out until 9/17). I just spoke/video with her on SKYPE (it's 3AM), so power and Internet are still fine, she said really a lot of loud wind and a lot of rain but all is fine. She is sleeping on the couch downstairs because of all of the noise from the wind and rain upstairs.... tough old gal. I could hear the loud roar during our entire SKYPE. The forecast shows that it will be past St Kitts about 9am, so she has a few more hours to ride it out. She said she heard a couple of bangs on the roof, so I am sure both verticals antennas are long gone, but no big deal....

On Wed, Sep 6, 2017, John Abbruscato wrote:

The hurricane has passed, and things have calmed down, Cathy is in good spirits. Cathy says everything else looks fine, and still has power and internet.

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, Michael P. Rioux wrote:

Hi John,

I'm glad to see that your place wasn't damaged and that you and your wife were not there!

The island looks like it's going take a while to recover. The Marriott down there must have been crushed. Stay safe!
73, Mike W1USN

MAYDAY

The international distress signal "Mayday" is always repeated three times in a row – "Mayday – Mayday – Mayday" so the situation will be clearly understood as a life threatening emergency. The word was created in 1923 by Frederick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer at London's Croydon Airport. That now closed facility once had many flights to and from Le Bourget Airport in Paris. According to the National Maritime Museum, Mockford coined Mayday from the French word m'aidez which means "help me". (thanks to Barbara Day, KA1EDV)

SEPTEMBER 2017 QRA MEETING MINUTES

The September 21, 2017 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M. After all in attendance introduced themselves to the group, Bob then motion/nominated member Don Melanson, KA1MAP to fill the vacant position of club president for the rest of this fiscal year. Bob then made a motion/nomination for member Mike Rioux, W1USN to fill the position of club VP for the remainder of the fiscal year. Both nominations were accepted by the membership and both nominees accepted the positions.

Newly appointed club president asked who were currently active on the HF bands and received 11 yeses. Don then mentioned our past ARRL field day held last June in Burlington and noted we could have had more participation and that we had a fun time. Don hopes there will be more people involved next year.

Member Ron Draper, WA1QZK spoke on how his antennas and coax were damaged from a secondary lightning strike in his neighborhood. Ron passed around some samples of his burned out coax.

Brian Wolf Gudvezich, W0LVES gave an excellent talk with a video of Fusion Radio which was just installed on the repeater WA1RHN 147.075.

Dex Wheeler, W1TUM donated this year's copies of QST.

Club treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH reminded all that club membership dues is still only \$15.00 per year.

Rob Woltag, W1AFP told of activating a solar station at Bear Brook State Park in New Hampshire over the Summer.

President Don reminded all about the upcoming NEARfest in early October.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm. Submitted by QRA secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M.

THE

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**QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention
this ad, compliments of Brian, W0LVES**

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

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.

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ARECIBO RADIO TELESCOPE IN PUERTO RICO

Built in 1963, the Arecibo Observatory has become a cultural icon, known both for its size and for its science. For most of its 54-year existence, Arecibo was the largest radio telescope in the world, but in 2016, a Chinese telescope called FAST—with a dish measuring 1,600 feet across—surpassed Arecibo in size, although it's not yet fully operational.

The observatory was originally designed for national defense during the Cold War, when the U.S. wanted to see if it could detect Soviet satellites (and maybe missiles and bombs) based on how they alter the portion of Earth's atmosphere called the ionosphere. Later, the telescope became instrumental in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) programs and in other aspects of radio astronomy. Here are some of the significant science highlights from the Arecibo Observatory over the years.

- In 1964, astronomers used the telescope to determine the planet Mercury's rotation period, which proved to be much more complex than imagined.
- In 1974, the telescope provided the first indirect observation of gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of spacetime, which in that case were produced by a pair of pulsars orbiting one another. The observation earned Joe Taylor the 1993 Nobel prize in physics.
- Also in 1974, SETI astronomer Frank Drake (my dad) beamed the "Arecibo Message" toward a star cluster in the constellation Hercules.
- The first detection of planets outside our solar system came in 1992, when Alex Wolszczan used the telescope to find these alien worlds orbiting a pulsar.
- In 2014, astronomers at the observatory detected the first fast radio burst spotted from the Northern Hemisphere. Subsequent observations revealed repeating blasts of radio waves from the same source, an oddity that may help astronomers understand the origins of these mysterious cosmic events.
- The telescope continues to participate in numerous searches for radio signals from extraterrestrial civilizations as part of various SETI programs—including UC Berkeley's popular SETI@home project.
- Arecibo continues to help characterize potentially dangerous asteroids that cross Earth's orbit.
- Current work at the facility also monitors an array of pulsars in an attempt to detect more gravitational waves, this time produced by colliding supermassive black holes.
- In addition to its scientific value, the Arecibo Observatory is a popular tourist destination, and it has been featured in the movies *Contact* and *GoldenEye* and the TV show *The X-Files*, among others. It also provides a much-needed source of income for local communities, who benefit from staff jobs at the facility as well as its tourist draw, which sees more than a hundred thousand visitors come by each year.

(by Nadia Drake in an article partially copied from the NatGeo website October 10, 2017)

THANKS TO RON DRAPER, KA1QZK

A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER READS: We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you.

A SIGN ON A BLINDS AND CURTAIN TRUCK: "Blind man driving."

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, You've come to the right place."

On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee: "Invite us to your next blowout."

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door: "Push. Push. Push."

At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station: "Thank Heaven for little grills."

In a Chicago Radiator Shop: "Best place in town to take a leak."

And the best one for last...;

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck: "Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

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