

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 2018

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 2

**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
Nominating Committee- Barbara Day, KA1EDV
QRA 2-Meter Net- Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
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Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Field Day Committee- Walter Callahan, KC1ENI
Jim Powers, KC1ENJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Watt, W1HN 2018-2019
John Carrick, KB1YEF 2017-2019
Tim McNulty, K1TIM 2017-2019
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2017-2019

Education Committee- Jim Fisk, W1HL
Membership committee - **VACANCY**
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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 \$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.

ARRL PRESIDENT SUGGESTS WE “REBRAND AMATEUR RADIO”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

***** QRA BOD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 20, 2018 *****

Hello Everyone:

I would like to have a board of directors meeting on October 18th at 6pm.

This is the same night as the Monthly QRA meeting at the 49 Pleasant Street, Reading Ma location on the 2nd floor.

I understand the first floor will be occupied until 6:30-7pm. Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

Thank You

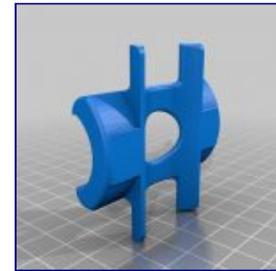
Don Melanson KA1MAP QRA President, 339-203-5166

3D PRINTED PARTS FOR HAM RADIO

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the things that I keep telling myself that I need to learn how to do is 3D printing. This morning, I ran across a couple more 3D printing projects for ham radio that I thought I'd pass along.

The first I found on reddit: 3D Printed Parts for Portable Tape Measure Yagi Designs (https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/963br3/3d_printed_parts_for_portable_tape_measure_yagi/). The summary on Thingiverse (<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3042505>), which is a website where “makers” share their designs, says:



These parts are made for use with 1-in. PVC pipe and 1-in. Harbor Freight tape measure steel. You can use electrical tape to attach the element holders to the side of the pipe, and use the driven element bridge to give structural rigidity across the driven dipole element. I have used this with up to 5 elements on 2m with good success. When not using the antenna, just pinch the elements to remove them from the holders, and store them INSIDE the tube! you can add some end caps to make this ultra portable. Use these parts with any of the multitude of tape measure YAGI design guides online.

Here's a look at an antenna made with these parts:



The element holders are attached to the boom with electrical tape in the photo above. While I haven't tried it, I'd suggest that the antenna might be a bit more robust if you could screw or perhaps glue the holders to the boom.

There are lots of other cool amateur radio 3D printing projects available on Thingiverse (<https://www.thingiverse.com/search?q=ham+radio&dwh=415b6d8da129c3c>). Browsing through the list quickly, here are just two that look like they might be useful to me:

- Soldering Fingers (<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:1725308>). This project looks simple and quick.
- μ Bitx Case (<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:2925336>). I still gotta do something with the μ Bitx I bought. This looks like it might get me started.

Finally getting in gear

Last week, I attended a 3D printing class at our local maker space, All Hands Active (allhandsactive.org), and now I feel like I can finally attempt a 3D printing project. I'm thinking about starting out with the simple Soldering Fingers project. If that goes well, I'll try a Raspberry Pic case and finally start using that in the shack. And, while these projects all seem pretty cool, I feel like I'm only scratching the surface.

Have any of you 3D printed anything cool for your ham radio projects? Is there another source of designs for ham radio 3D printed stuff besides Thingiverse?

When he's not 3D printing enclosures for his ham radio projects, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about your experiences with 3D printing at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

USS CASSIN YOUNG (DD 793) 75th ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, there will be a special Amateur Radio operating event onboard the US destroyer USS Cassin Young (DD793) using the special event call of N1Y.

The event will be held in conjunction with the National Park Service and US Navy to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Commissioning of the USS Cassin Young (DD 793), a World War II Fletcher-class destroyer and the birthday of the United States Navy. The USS Cassin Young is located at the Boston Historical Park (HP 04) in Charlestown, MA.

Planned operations will be from both the Central Radio Room and Emergency Radio using SSB and CW on 14.250, 14.050, 7.225 and 7.050, beginning around 10 am and breaking down operations around 3pm. QSL to USS Cassin Young Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 214, Boxford, MA 01921.

All are invited to attend and operate if they wish. Access to the Park by automobile is limited to those having a permit. Mike, W1USN and Bob, AA1M will make arraignments to meet outside the park and pick up anyone interested in attending the event.

There will also be ceremonies on the pier commemorating the USS Constitution (221st Birthday), Navy Day and CY (75th).

THE

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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, email to kdace@aol.com or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

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.

EARLY WIRELESS SPECULATION

The earliest experimental telegraphs employed multiple connecting wires -- in some cases a wire for each letter of the alphabet -- but over time simpler setups requiring fewer wires were developed. By 1844, Morse's line between Baltimore and Washington consisted of just two wires, one carrying the electrical current for signaling, and the other acting as a return line, to make a complete circuit. However, it turned out that even that could be simplified, and the return wire eliminated, if the sending line was "grounded", i.e. physically connected to a plate buried in the earth. The ability to eliminate the return wire was something of a mystery at the time, and the phenomenon became known under the misnomer of the "ground return", since it was incorrectly thought that the return electrical current was somehow flowing through the ground all the way back to the sending location. Actually, the earth around the grounding point was acting as a sink, so the "return current" was not traveling any significant distance. However, this mistaken belief that "return" currents were traversing the ground for extended distances suggested the idea of signaling without any connecting wires at all. Investigating this possibility, disappointed experimenters quickly found they were unable to send electrical currents through the ground more than a few meters, which they found perplexing, given their mistaken belief that "ground return" currents were somehow readily traveling hundreds of kilometers. In 1860, the Steinheil's Telegraph section of *History, Theory and Practice of the Electric Telegraph* reviewed what was known about the seemingly contradictory phenomenon, finally concluding that "It must be left to the future to decide whether we shall ever succeed in telegraphing at great distances without any metallic communication at all." And in 1910, one of E. J. Edwards' "New News of Yesterday" columns remembered Cyrus W. Field's Prophecy of the Wireless, when in 1878 the man responsible for the Atlantic cable speculated that "I am pretty sure that some day somebody will show how messages can be sent across the Atlantic through the air, without the aid of any wires whatever".

In the end, it turned out that there was in fact no way to send standard electrical currents for long distances through the ground. However, in 1895 Guglielmo Marconi would discover the next best thing -- groundwave radio signals -- which were radio waves that used the earth as a waveguide, traveling across land and sea to the "great distances" envisioned by Steinheil. And Marconi would later also employ "skywave" signals, which could travel "through the air" and across the Atlantic.

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY

OCTOBER 18, 2018

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

**AT THE SENIOR CENTER
PLEASANT STREET
READING MA.**

**Our speaker for the evening will be
Ron Draper, WA1QZK
Ron will give a talk with video on**

PROJECT EQUINOX

**QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION
6 SAVIN STREET
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