

# QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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CLUB CALL: W1EKT

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

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**QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948**

**IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

1948-2016, OUR 69th YEAR

## CLUB OFFICERS

President – VACANCY  
Vice President – VACANCY  
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, KA1EDY  
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 2017-201  
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, KA1EDY  
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

## 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.

## **HAM RESEARCHER TO INVESTIGATE EFFECTS OF SOLAR ECLIPSE**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

August 21 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many in the U.S. to see a total eclipse. It's also an opportunity for a team of Virginia Tech researchers to study the effects of the eclipse on changes in the upper atmosphere that have an impact on HF propagation and the global positioning system (GPS). Backed by research funding from NASA and the National Science foundation, the team is headed by Dr. Greg Earle, W4GDE.

The Virginia Tech team plans to gather data from a variety of sources, including radar systems, transceivers, satellites, ham radio, and GPS receivers, in order to analyze the effects of the solar eclipse on the conductive region of the atmosphere.

"Whether military radar, or consumer GPS signals, the eclipse is going to have effects on the medium that we would like to understand better, so that we can either mitigate them or use them to our advantage," said Earle.

Here are a couple of links to news stories on the research team and the experiments:

\* Virginia Tech team prepares for special project during total solar eclipse (<http://wset.com/news/local/virginia-tech-team-prepares-for-special-project-during-total-solar-eclipse>)

\* Virginia Tech expert to study August solar eclipse effects on radar, ham radio, GPS (<http://wtkr.com/2017/07/17/virginia-tech-expert-to-study-august-solar-eclipse-effects-on-radar-ham-radio-gps/>)

Let's party!

In conjunction with the eclipse, the HamSCI and the ARRL are sponsoring the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (<http://www.hamsci.org/seqp>). (SEQP). According to an article in the August 2017 issue of QST, the goal of the SEQP is to "flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet." Once all the logs are in, researchers will analyze the data to see what effect the eclipse had on radio propagation.

A YouTube video of a presentation at Dayton on the SEQP can be found at <https://youtu.be/3EviY2Cuxpo?list=PLihPo8xWmo8-xDYAtP9BWX9QnhUoT7k4>  
The SEQP will run from 1400Z - 2200Z on Monday, August 21. This is well before the eclipse is due to begin on the West Coast. The reason it starts before the eclipse is to establish a baseline for radio propagation conditions.  
SEQP organizers urge you to make as many contacts as you can on as many bands as you can operate. Like nearly every contest, contacts are not allowed on 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m. CW, RTTY, and PSK31 are the preferred modes because automated receivers can record those contacts, but phone and other digital modes count, too.

An interesting twist to this contest is that, like Field Day, you can earn a number of bonus points, including:

- \* Operating outdoors (100 points)
- \* Operating in a public place (100 points)
- \* Operating a wide-band automated receiver at your station (100 points)

Hams have had a long history of supporting scientific research. They provided communications for some of the early polar explorations and listened for Sputnik as it flew overhead. The Solar Eclipse QSO Party continues this tradition, and it's going to be a lot of fun as well. Visit the HamSCI website (<http://www.hamsci.org/seqp>) for more information.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), and is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun With Morse Code." You can reach him by emailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## **ARRL FINALLY REALIZES STATUS QUO ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

"ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

"The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice."

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

"Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee - Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

"Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

"A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

"From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward."

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, "From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership." That approach is doomed to failure. Any "visioning" or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership "is no longer adequate." That's how we got here in the first place.

## **MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 2017 QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The June 2017 QRA membership meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by club VP Mike Rioux, W1USN. Meeting was suspended to enjoy the club annual banquet which was delivered by member John Carrick, KB1YEF and Wally Callahan, KC1ENI. The food was BBQ from the world famous kitchen at Lester's in Burlington.

After the dinner, it was announced that member Fred DeVries, AC1BN would be moving to the Reno, Nevada area soon. We wish him good luck and good DX, he will be missed.

Field Day plans were spelled out to the group. Member Bob Reiser, AA1M has obtained a permit to use the Overlook Recreation Park in Burlington for Saturday 10 am till sundown. All were invited to attend and join in.

Members Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES, John Carrick, KB1YEF and Tim McNulti, K1TIM were installed as new BOD members with their terms running from 2017 until 2019. Bob Reiser, AA1M and Jeff Hollis, W1CKH return as club secretary and treasurer for one year again.

A short dipole was donated by Fred DeVries, AC1BN to the club for auction. A bid of \$10 won the item. A small computer donated by Trimble Navigation (John Carrick, KB1YEF) was awarded. Meeting and banquet adjourned at 8:05 pm. Bob Reiser, AA1M, club secretary.

## **ARRL ANNUAL CONVENTION BOXBORO 2017**

This year the Annual ARRL New England Amateur Radio Convention was held at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Convention Center on the weekend of September 8,9 and 10 in Boxboro, MA. It was a good showing although not as busy as in past years. The convention committee did a fabulous job setting up and running the show as they usually do. Special thanks to Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF president of FEMARA.

The outdoor flea market was pretty active with almost everything you would want. As for myself, this is the third year in a row I've failed to find a 1978 or 79 US call book. I couldn't believe the amount of old vacuum tubes for sale.

Saturday was very busy in the different halls with forums on SKYWARN, HF Propagation, AMSAT, using SDR, Fox Hunting, YCCC and of course, TECH in a day/VE session. You could learn about all the digital modes, antenna modeling, vintage radio restoration, Spy radios, and listen about the CEOX dxpedition. The ARRL had a booth along with YL's, AMSAT, NEARfest and station W1A was available to be operated.

On Friday night, there were cocktails with the DX dinner to follow. The topic for the evening was the 7O6T dxpedition to Yemen in 2012 given by Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM.

Saturday evening had the Convention Banquet with a talk on Effective DX and Satellite Operation with Minimal Antennas by Paul Stoetzer, N8HM. Plenty to eat and drink with great entertainment on both nights.

During the day, you could sweat the line for hot dogs and hamburgers outside, the weather was perfect Also indoors on the floor, some of the better known manufacturers were present along with sellers for all kinds of stuff you can't live without at the right price. New radios were shown by Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood and Elecraft.

Looking forward to next year already. Info and pics at [Boxboro.org](http://Boxboro.org)

*THE*

# Shameless Wolf

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

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QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention  
this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
IS THURSDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

**There will be a short film and demo by QRA member  
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.  
Brian will show us all about the  
Yaesu Fusion Digital Mode he is using on the 147.075 repeater  
which is now housed at his QTH in Stoneham.**

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

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

## **CALENDAR**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the NEAR-Fest flea market to be held at the Deerfield NH Fairgrounds. Grand prize is an Elecraft KX2.

Information can be found at [WWW.near-fest.com](http://WWW.near-fest.com) and [WWW.forum.near-fest.com](http://WWW.forum.near-fest.com)

Spring dates are May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## **ARRL Field Day 2017 at W1EKT**

Members started to arrive at the Overlook recreation Park in Burlington around Noon to begin equipment setup. There were plenty of tall trees to string our dipoles through and the weather cooperated nicely. We had about 24 members and guests arrive during the day, mostly just to stop by and say hello. There were 4 stations on the air, not at the same time and we made a decent amount of contacts using CW and SSB and one station even tried mobile. The bands weren't in the best of shape as was expected. A special guest, Tom Walsh, K1RW who is the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager. Tom shared a declaration he received from Mass Governor Charles Baker dedicating the weekend to Amateur Radio. We're hoping we can do a better job next year.

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

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6 SAVIN STREET  
BURLINGTON, MA. 01803-2210**

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