

# QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

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

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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
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Jim Fisk, W1HL	2013-2015
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M	

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dex;

I just had a surprise visit by Joe Poges, yes Joe Poges Jr. who was WN1HIQ.

His son Ryan Joe Poges has the call W1EED assigned to him now in NJ.

I didn't have a clue as I hadn't looked up old friend Joe's call since he passed away in 1998 so it was quite a surprise. He has some connection with Sailing and was here with Outward-Bound some years ago. Perhaps you knew all about this?

I found out that Joe's daughter Martha, who used to be at the American University, Cairo and later at Beirut, Lebanon, is now back in the States and at Harvard Univ.

So we had quite a chat about the old days in Wakefield and about WSOAB-WJOAB\* that Joe Sr. promoted.

(\*Worked Sam on all Bands – Worked Joe on all Bands)

73, B Sam, W1MGP

**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](http://www.kdaembroidery.com), email to [kdace@aol.com](mailto:kdace@aol.com) or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

## NEW HAMS ARE DIFFERENT

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) maker space here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses-most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the old amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes; you'll see where they're coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He's also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching.

Another is working on an Internet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it's at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don't have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

I'm finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes. They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we're in the process of installing there.

I'm not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we'll be a good fit for one another. It's going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

when he's not thinking about the future of amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com) or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## 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.**

## **FCC SEEKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL FEE TO \$21.60**

The FCC is requesting to raise the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from its current \$16.10 to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.50 increase would be the largest vanity fee hike in many years. The proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013; and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees," which appeared in *The Federal Register* on July 3

## **UBI'S**

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armor raised their visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy..

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.

For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off.

The letter J does not appear anywhere on the periodic table of the elements.

(Thanks to Paul Allain, KB1YPW)

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

## ARRL SUPPORT FOR CLUBS COULD USE SOME IMPROVEMENT

Often, when you hear ARRL officials speak, they extol the virtues of amateur radio clubs, saying things like, "Clubs are the lifeblood of amateur radio." For example, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, in response to my e-mail congratulating him on his appointment as the new ARRL Great Lakes Division director, said that his "plans are to push to keep things local, club-related, and bottom-up driven."

Of course, that kind of set me off. When it comes to club support, the ARRL is more talk than action.

One example of this lack of support is that there hasn't been an issue of the ARRL Club News newsletter for years. Even so, if you log into the ARRL website and look at your e-mail subscriptions page, you'll see that it says that it's supposed to be a monthly newsletter.

I'll also note that the ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, left this particular newsletter off the list of available newsletters in his June QST column. I don't know who at HQ is responsible for producing this newsletter, but the fact that there hasn't been one for so long speaks volumes to me.

Another example is the club commission program. Under this program, clubs get a \$15 commission when they sign up a new member. That's not bad, but the commission falls to only \$2 for renewing members. According to a former treasurer of ARROW, my club here in Ann Arbor, MI, \$2 just wasn't enough to make it worth his while to process renewals.

To be fair, it's not all bad news. The ARRL website does have a page with information on how to set up and run an active club (<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-resources>). The ARRL also has a club liability insurance program is a decent deal for clubs, but that program probably doesn't require much effort on the ARRL's part. The ARRL is also supposed to refer new hams to clubs, but I'm not sure exactly how they do that, and I don't think ARROW's gained any new members from this recently.

Let me ask you. Is your club getting the support it needs from the ARRL? If so, I'd like to hear about what you think they're doing right. If not, I'd like to know what you think they should be doing to help your club. 73, Dan KB6NU when he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**THE**

**Shameless  
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this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES**

**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

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
IS THURSDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

**AND WILL START AT**

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

**Instead of having a speaker at this meeting, club president Tim NcNulty, K1TIM is planning on having a SHOW AND TELL meeting. All those attending are asked to bring something to the meeting that is of interest to them and to give a short talk to the group on that something. Any subject will be welcome and appreciated.**

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

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

## **Balloons Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Still Circling the Earth**

Three plastic foil-envelope [balloons](#) carrying Amateur Radio payloads and launched from the UK by Leo Bodnar, M0XER, remain aloft and continue to circle the Earth. The oldest, identified as B-63, was released on July 8 and became the second of Bodnar's balloons to circumnavigate the globe. The first to do so, B-64, went up on July 12 and had completed one lap around the Northern Hemisphere by July 31. Air currents have carried the balloon within 9 km of the North Pole and within 10 km of its launch site. The last balloon to make it around the Earth was B-66, which Bodnar released on July 15.

Each balloon carries a tiny 10 mW solar-powered transmitter that can alternate between [APRS](#) and Contestia 64/1000 digital mode on 434.500 MHz (USB). The Amateur Radio payload weighs just 11 grams. As of this week, the B-64 balloon (M0XER-4 on APRS) was north of Moscow, Russia, at an elevation of more than 40,200 feet; the B-63 balloon (M0XER-3 on APRS) appeared to be located nearly 42,000 feet above South Korea, and the B-66 balloon (M0XER-6 on APRS) appeared to be nearly 44,000 feet above Ukraine. Notes on the [M0XER-3](#) and [M0XER-6](#) APRS pages flag their reported trajectories with "Seriously bad path," however, and add, "This station appears to be flying at high altitude and using digipeaters, which causes serious congestion in the APRS network. The tracker should be configured to only use digipeaters when at low altitude."

The numeral following the "B" denotes the number of similar balloons Bodnar has launched (B-65 failed to deploy). The transmitter stores positions during its flight and transmits a log file that can recall 5 days of previous locations in the comments field of its APRS transmissions. If it has been out of radio contact, however, a straight line will appear on the APRS map. (The ARRL Letter for August 28, 2014)

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