

MARCH 1988

QUA RAE

The Official Journal of the Radio Association of Erie

Editor K3UPC

NOTE: Copy deadline is the 15th of the month

SINCE 1945

RAE MARCH '88 MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM. The minutes were approved as printed in the QUA RAE. Jim, KA3PDR, was welcomed to his first meeting. The roll call of the RAE officers and the board members showed KZ3C as being the only one absent. The treasurer's report was given by N3FAW, and approved, as read. The 1988 budget was read by N3FAW. A motion to adopt the budget, as presented, was made by K3IYG and seconded by KC3LY.

The report of the meeting of the board of directors was presented by K3IYG. Discussions were held on various subjects. Jim, KJ3L, stated that the RAE by laws were again in need of revision. KZ3C restated again his position on the RAE public service liability. Fred, KC3YD gave a status report on the Springfest followed by a report of the Repeater committee.

Old Business Jim KJ3L, made a motion that the RAE sponsor a trophy for Field Day, at a cost of \$ 30 now and with \$ 30 later. Seconded by KC3RC, and passed by oral vote. K3UPC made a motion that we reimburse KJ3L for the cost of the new membership cards. Seconded by K3IYG, and was passed by oral vote. Jim, KJ3L made a motion that the RAE pick up the tab for bringing Doug Maddox to the next RAE meeting in order to present the Trophy for winning the PA QSO party contest. Seconded by W3NR, and passed by oral vote. K3IYG reported that there will be a Statewide Disaster Drill at 9:00 AM on March 9. He asked that those wishing to participate stay tuned to the 61 repeater on that day. Frank, W3NR suggested that The Presque Isle Yacht Club be considered for the 1988 Field Day site. Joe, KC3LY, was appointed as the Chairman of Field Day '88. Bob, N3FAW, Dick, W3NFM, and Tom, KA3MJN, were appointed as the fund-raising committee. A motion to provide a sum of \$ 450.00 up-front money for deposits for the Springfest prizes was made by JOE, KC3LY, and seconded by JIM, KJ3L. The motion passed by oral vote. JIM, KJ3L, Dick, W3NFM, Joe, KC3LY, and Bob, N3FAW, were appointed as the committee to audit the books.

Jim, KJ3L reported that we now have a total of 162 paid up members. Barb, KA3JTD asked for an assistant to help out on the public service committee and Don, WA3DNF offered to help. He was promptly appointed to that committee. Fred, KC3YD, then announced that a meeting of the repeater committee will be held on March 7, at 7:00 PM.

A discussion by WB3BHM, relative to a demonstration of radio equipment for a Boy Scout Troop on March 28, at 7:00 PM. Don, WB3DNF, was taking pictures for the new R.A.C.E.S. licenses soon to be issued. The Robot went to WB3BHM. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by Barb, KA3JTD

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

I was alarmed when the deadline for the submission of articles came, with no column from the president. I am saddened to learn that our president, Fred, KC3YD, has tendered his resignation, as a member of the repeater committee, and also as the president of the RAE, effective immediately. I do not know any details, nor his underlying reasons, but I recall his recent fervent pleas for assistance, that mostly went unheeded. Fred may have been a bit contravertial at times, but he certainly worked long and hard for the RAE, and he shall be remembered for his many fine contributions to the club. This brief comment my help to explain why there is no message from the President, nor a repeater committee report this month.

K3UPC, QUA-RAE Editor

VE TEAM ERIE RESULTS

Amateur Extra Class:

KA3MJN Tom Pamula, Erie, PA

WA3LFF Maurice Herbstritt, St. Marys, PA

Advanced Class:

KA3LSK Robert Link, Erie, PA

Technician Class:

Richard Gensheimer, Erie, PA

Clifford Halfast, Spartansburg, PA

VE TEAM CONNEAUT RESULTS

Amateur Extra Class:

W7EKI Lawrence Liljequist, Chesterland, OH

Advanced Class:

WB3CQB Willis Cook, Spartansburg, PA

Technician Class:

Jeffrey Griggs, Conneaut, OH

KA3RIJ Eddie Dye, Cochran, PA

Charles Werblan Girard, OH

Novice Class:

William Bramer, Painesville, OH

Barbara Halfast, Spartansburg, PA

Those passing single elements include: Richard

Gensheimer, Erie; Rebecca O'Connell, Conneaut;

Jeffrey Bennett, Akron; Barbara Balzer, Conneaut..

The VE Team included: KB3P, Chet Kanis; KY3D, Dick

Blasco; KA3GXP, Hank Schultz; NI3Q, Dick Waldinger;

and W3CG, Norma Vanderhoff; with W3HYK, Alan

Keskinen added to the Conneaut team.

The next exams will be held on April 2, at A'Hearn

hall, Villa Maria College in room 107, at 8:00 AM.

For those holding a Technician License issued prior to

3/21/87, be sure to bring THE ORIGINAL when you

attend a test session., in order to get credit for element

3B, General Class Theory. This original will be

returned to you during the session. Without the

original certificate you must repeat the theory exam.

Submitted -W3CG, Norma Vasnderhoff

GUEST EDITORIAL

In past years the RAE has donated \$50 to WQLN as a small gesture to show our appreciation for the station having allowed us the privilege of using their antenna tower facilities.

The RAE is not yet broke, but neither are we very affluent! Instead of making the usual donation this year, I propose that we support WQLN's annual membership drive as a club project. I'm sure that many of us listen and watch, but do enough of us join WQLN as members?

I appreciate that there is a place to retreat when violence, shootouts and tire-squealing auto chases get to be too much (which is whenever they occur). And for listening, how about the fine jazz and pleasing music available every day on WQLN. The in-depth news stories every weekday at 5:00 PM can't be touched by the time-slingy news clips on the networks.

Thanks to WQLN we have not needed cable, although we don't just join WQLN for financial savings. IF YOU ARE NOT PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF WQLN, WHY NOT CALL IN AND JOIN? I think you'll be glad you did; and the RAE can feel that our members are really helping to support those who are helping the RAE! When you do join WQLN, or if you are already a member, please let me know so that we can report to the station that the RAE has really supported them, and not merely through a small donation.

73, Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE TAKE HEED

We want your articles, but they might get printed a month later than you would like, unless certain rules are adhered to.

In order for the deadline that I have established to work out, I must insist that I fully expect MOST articles will be received several days BEFORE the deadline. This month was a total disaster, in that every article except those from W3CG were received within 8 hours of the deadline, and I am still waiting for the Presidents message, along with the repeater report. Even Norma wanted a few more days to get her final article inserted. (She sent word finally not to hold up the presses awaiting that article, as she was having the same problem that I was experiencing)

There is little reason the minutes from the meeting could not be handed over on the close of the meeting, or at least within a very few days. Reports from the repeater committee and the presidents message could all be speeded up, allowing time for LAST MINUTE announcements and short timely articles to be processed. In this way I could take a little more time to prepare the QUA-RAE properly.

When everything hits the fan at the deadline it's totally overwhelming, and in the future I will not be in a great hurry to get the last few articles printed. My deadline is already 5 days later than it was previously, and remember I am visually handicapped which makes everything ten times as difficult for me as for most others. The deadline is not the schedule for articles, it is intended to be the absolute last day for an emergency insertion! Thanks for your assistance and cooperation.

73, John, KZUPC

MOVING UP

Our latest Amateur Extra is Tom Pamula, KA3MJN, and if you recall he just happened to be the Elmer of the last two upgrades, KA3QVY, Karen, and, KA3QWB, Mike.

Tom was born in Erie on April 14, 1950. Received his education at Hamilton High school in Fairview and electronics at The Erie Institute of Technology. He has three brothers and one sister. He recently married KA3QVY, Karen.

His early interest in Ham radio was at the age of 11 when he found an old Short Wave radio in a dump site. He graduated to Citizens Band radio, and then got serious in 1963, when his Novice call was WM3IQZ. His interest was revived in 1984, and his new call was KA3MJN. During the year 1986 he earned his Technician and General class license, followed in May 1967 with the Advanced class license. Tom says Amateur radio is the greatest hobby in the world.

Other interests include collecting antique radios of pre 1925 vintage, carpentry, book reading, TV repair, and he climbs towers and helps with repeater repairs when he can work it in to his busy schedule, besides working full time for General Telephone. He has also served the RAE as a member of the picnic, and the Christmas party committees.

Although he works all bands and all modes, his favorite is CW. He enjoys DX on 15M, and evening QSO's on 160M, and of course two meter FM.

His equipment consists of a Kenwood 430S, AT250 tuner, PS50 power supply, and a SP430 Speaker, with an antenna farm consisting of both an 80M and a 160M dipole, a vertical and a tri-band beam all on a 55 foot tower. Past performance indicates several more of his pupils will be advancing in the near future.

Jim Garnon, KA3PCR, is a new General class Amateur, earning the license on March 5, 1988. Jim resides in Girard with his XYL and two sons, Nathan 5, and Calley 1.

First licensed as a novice in 1985, earned Technician in 1986. His equipment includes a Hammarlund HQ150, and a Heathkit DX40, and a Kenwood 2400 on two Meter FM.

Other hobbies include Astronomy (currently building a 12-1/2 in. Newtonian telescope), photography, and motorcycles, owning a BMW R90/6. He is associated with his father Charles, who founded the Garnon Truck Equipment Co., in various capacities as sales, management, nearly all forms of steel fabrication, and can often be found pushing a broom.

Submitted W3CG, Norma Vanderhoff

April QuARAE

REPEATER MEETINGS SUMMARY
by Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW, Treasurer
March 15, 1988

On March 8th and March 15th a group met to discuss status and future plans for 2 meter repeaters. About 15-20 members were present at the first meeting and about 6 at the second meeting. Dick, WA3USH, was present as an invited guest and advisor.

The following is my interpretation of the interchanges that occurred in these two meetings. This is written with the realization that all information and facts are not yet available to present to the membership, but with the intent to keep you informed, and to utilize the medium of the QuARAE to disseminate the information.

The consensus seems to be that the primary repeater, 146.01-146.61 is not a reliable system, from the standpoint of quality and coverage, as well as problem-free operation.

Although much time and money has been spent to keep the system going, it is still not of commercial quality and reliability.

Discussions were held at length regarding alternatives, especially including a so-called voting system which would put receivers at dispersed locations for the central transmitter. However, after prolonged discussion, it was dismissed as impractical both from the standpoint of cost and of maintenance time. As Fred and others can well attest, if we have a problem maintaining two sites now, how can we bite off more sites and variety of equipment to maintain?

Fred, Bing and others before them have put life blood into repeater work. They have done more than enough. We need to respect Fred's request and release him now from this burden.

It seemed to be well agreed that our problem is the amateur level equipment we have paid so dearly for in the past. To proceed with further expenses to keep the amateur equipment operational would be sending good money (and time) after bad.

Again, the consensus of the groups seemed to lean heavily toward commercial quality equipment, Motorola, or equivalent. The controller could be used with a new system, but the repeater, antenna, duplexer and feed line are all possible subjects for upgrading. Costs are not yet available, but we know they would be substantially more than amateur gear, just as they were more when the club previously replaced similar gear with more cost conscious equipment.

(over)

Also, and very importantly, with commercial gear goes the obvious need for commercial service. To buy such equipment and do anything less would be foolhardy. Again, costs are not yet available.

We have heard a number of reports of clubs using commercial equipment and having excellent results. But we are Hams, why deviate from Ham gear? Well, this is not a personal system. Those of us who would put a hobby repeater on the air may enjoy tinkering with our own equipment. But too many people have become dependent on the repeaters, especially the .61 machine and its bells and whistles.

Even if someone else were willing to spend time as much as Fred has, we are advised that the equipment has had too many breakdowns and repairs to spend any more substantial funds on it.

Why do we need a 2 meter repeater of the quality we are suggesting? Since I have entered the amateur ranks I am constantly reminded of our obligation to utilize the bands and perform public service. Amateur service is protected by federal law, as we all know. With that goes the obligation to return something for the public good.

In HF, traffic handling is public service. But in many situations, we have found the 2 meter band and the repeaters are where we can be of enormous help. Emergencies and public service events require 2 meter systems. In today's radio world. The good rapport we have with government agencies and event sponsors will attest to the values.

If you say, ok but how do we finance the improvements, here are some ways:

1. We now have the beginnings of a fund raising/grants committee. With proper dedication we can at least try to get funds from organizations and agencies which promote civic improvements. I think we'd have some success if we approach it properly and have good preparation. The committee will need much input to prepare our case. A brochure will be needed to depict our functions and state specifically why we need help.
2. We could possibly get private investors to obtain the equipment and lease the system to the club, for a monthly rent, including service.
3. Lastly, we should take a look at the future of the invested funds. I'm told some of it was donated for a building, so perhaps part of it is unavailable. But maybe some of the balance should be put to use. If not, why is it there? As a newcomer I'm open for enlightenment. Parenthetically, I believe we should never even think about obtaining our own building!

Food for thought for future meeting(s)...

73's, Bob

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