

THE - QUA - RAE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

EDITOR, K3UPC--COPY DEADLINE 15th OF MONTH-JULY 1988

THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING



The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. The roll call of officers and board members showed only WB3KKT as being absent. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Frank Grace, W3NR, who became a silent key. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as read. THE TREASURERS REPORT, given by N3FAW was approved as read. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT, given by K3IVG. THE FIELD DAY REPORT, given by KC3LV. This will be held at The Fairview Evergreen Nursery on June 24th and 26th, with an alternate group site at the QTH of KA3KGT on Dorn Road to give the Novice and Non Contest operators a shot of how field day works at a more leisurely pace. THE MEMBERSHIP REPORT, given by KJ3L shows 192 present members. PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT, given by KA3JTD, who made a motion to cover the Edinboro Triathlon and The St. Vincent 3 mile walk. Seconded by N3GCN, and passed by oral vote. K3IVG made a motion to have the RAE again handle communications for The Erisistible Marathon later this year. Seconded by N3GCN and was passed by oral vote.

President Chester Kanis appointed Joe, K3IVG, to the temporary position as Public Service Project Coordinator, and K3IVG then appointed Mike, N3GCN as his assistant. THE SKYWARN REPORT, given by K3IVG. THE REPEATER REPORT, was given by Tony, WB3KGT, who finally assumed the Chairmanship of the Repeater Committee. Tony called on Fred, KA3AWR, who explained the need for an immediate purchase of an interface card for the improvement of both programming, and the Auto-patch capabilities of the repeater. Fred made a motion to that effect, it was seconded by K3UPC, and passed by a show of hands.

Tony then gave a very thorough and detailed report of the conditions of both repeaters and the carefully laid-out plans for getting them into an acceptable and reliable state of repair, as well as the repair of the antennas and feed lines at the repeater sites, so that the repeaters can be reliably maintained under a maintenance contract covering both parts and labor, at a nominal fee of around \$ 40.00/ mo. A copy of the

full report was distributed to each member present, and a copy will be kept with the Secretary's minutes. (They are not included here, only because of their length and complexity.)

A motion to accept the Repeater Committee Report and their recommendations, including the expenditures stated therein, subject to the availability of the necessary funds. The motion was seconded by KD2HG, and passed by a large majority of 23 yea, and 5 nay. Because the funding has been approved, no further action will be required by the general membership to release the funds when the need arises and the necessary funds are available.

OLD BUSINESS, Chris, KB3A, took final orders for RAE Jackets and the order is to be sent in on Monday, June 6, 1988. NEW BUSINESS, Mike, N3GCN, reports a record of 46 check-ins on the Sunday night Net at 6:30 p.m. He stated a need for more stations to assume the duties of Net Control for this Net. He also made a motion that the RAE investigate the feasibility of becoming a Special Services Club under the umbrella of the ARRL. Motion was seconded by K3IVG, and passed by oral vote. N3GCN was appointed to make the necessary inquiries and to report back to the membership at the earliest convenience. Don Kelly, KA3QDM, mentioned the Red Cross recruitment drive for Radio Operators to man their Disaster Station and mobile stations.

EQUIPMENT: The 2 Meter rig and the Robot went to N3GCN.

The Argosy went to KA3PDR. The 50/50 winner was George Bablak. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

-Barb Crotty, KA3JTD, Secretary

REPEATER USAGE STATISTICS

50,345 Key-ups during month of May
16,187 Minutes of Transmit time
196 Auto-patches
33-Mailbox accesses
3,301 Command Entries
Submitted by Ken, KZ3E

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

The following letter was written to the Club President by a member. It is representative of the many critical comments received recently. It's contents will be discussed on the floor at the August business meeting. Chester, KB3P

June 7, 1988

Dear Chester;

We have been asked to write when we have comments or complaints concerning the RAE. In the last few months (deleted to preserve anonymity) made me slow to write because I have had precious little time available to write or attend repeater meetings. I even debated the expenditure of time to attend the June 2 business meeting, but I felt I had to see my friends who attend.

I know you desire to carry forth the precedent set by Frank, W3NR, to keep RAE business meetings short to allow time for other activities. While this is good, I do not believe you can limit debate by concerned members on matters which have been taken up in committee meetings and blandly state that if the member desires to be in the know and debate he should attend such committee meetings.

If it is desired to stifle the club on repeater matters, I strongly suggest that the Club disassociate itself from the repeater committee so that this committee and its followers can function as a separate entity, leaving the Radio Association of Erie free of lengthy, dull discussions and free of the encumbrances of large expenditures of money on a continuing basis.

It appears that the recent repeater committee proposals left no clear plan to finance the projects undertaken on either a short or a long-term basis, other than finding ways to make others support their expensive tastes from gifts, grants and other handouts.

The dues structure has once again been hit as a means to finance the repeaters, no doubt the support for the repeater maintenance contract. This would force many members to finance something of which they don't necessarily approve. Any attempt to raise dues for any reason than to cover normal operation of the Club as suggested by Jim (Ed. Bob Schwimmer), N3FAW, will be mighty unpopular with the membership and will certainly cause many to consider termination of their membership!

I also question the wisdom of large

expenditures on repeater antenna systems of the present locations where we are there only on the generosity of one person. What would we do in the event something should happen to these people? Do we have a written agreement which will guarantee a minimum amount of time - let us say a lease?

We have also developed another expensive taste - the Club Directory. Do we need a fancy one as we have had in the last few years and one that lists more than the members of the RAE? I belong to many Clubs and none are so lavish. Most publish a roster of members only. Such a listing would require only a few 8-1/2 x 11 sheets and not require \$ 300.00 to finance. Further -- publish the directory every year...why not errata and additions or deletions?

I fail to see how the new board for the RC-850 will be able to record who makes a phone patch call. With an open repeater/patch this would require voice identification, no?

With such an important agenda as the RAE had June 2, it seems there wasn't sufficient notice given to the general membership. While the newspaper column did mention it, and allude to the business at hand, the membership was certainly not well represented. Or was this intended?

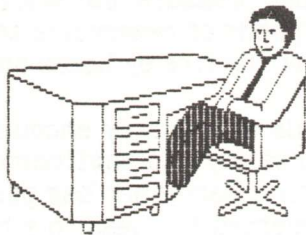
It has taken some time to formulate these ideas on paper and I'm sure a disproportionate amount of time will be spent disposing of them. I'm certain this pen is expressing the concerns of more than the writer. I hope it isn't put off. - One last comment...many ask why only one repeater plan was submitted. An alternate plan could have addressed the antenna/duplexer problems the report seemed so critical of. Also what money is allocated to what commercial shop to attend to all the hook-ups, cabinetry, etc. necessary to make this gold-plated system function in a commercial fashion? Or are we to delegate this to common amateurs..Club members, as we have in the not so distant past (See the report!)?

An unrelated problem - we refer to the VE team as the RAE VE team. Is it necessary to be an RAE member to participate at the VE sessions?

Enough for one evening! I'll probably make copies of this letter available to Joe, K3IVG, and a few others as I see fit. Thanks for your indulgence. 73 (Name withheld)

NET CONTROL STATIONS NEEDED

Net Manager Mike Sensor, N3GCN, advises that he is in need of more net control stations for one of the RAE Club nets. He will be more than pleased to furnish all the information you require in order to do a good job. The requirements are that you must be an RAE member, and be licensed to work two meters. Anyone qualified can do it. It's easy and you'll have a ball! See Mike for details.



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Well it looks like progress to me. After two and a half months and many meetings the new repeater committee has come up with a detailed proposal for upgrading the Club repeater systems. Yes we finally have a plan on paper. It was presented for a vote by the membership at the last meeting and was approved. Of course there has been a good bit of grumbling since then, but this is to be expected when any important decision involving considerable Club expenditure is made. Since barely twenty percent of the Club membership attends meetings with any regularity it follows that the remaining eighty percent are poorly informed since they must depend upon rumor, gossip, hearsay, guesswork, and what QUA-RAE writers like myself want them to hear. I was completely amazed by some of the questions phoned to me and the types of misinformation that has been floating around. The repeater committee is to be commended for the amount of time and effort they expended on research. These fifteen members, about eight percent of the Club membership, have been meeting on an almost weekly basis. Are they just a bunch of VHFers? Not at all. They are more or less a cross section of the membership, with some advocates and some Devil's advocates, and some Devils. To be sure not all of their decisions were unanimous.

By the time this copy reaches the press, implementation will be well under way. Now it's time for the funding committee to get into action. They really have something to work on. 73 KB3P

SILENT KEY

We were saddened to learn of the following silent keys, that arrived too late for the June issue:

The first was William Schneider, WG3IEV, of North East, PA, who will be remembered, and deeply missed by his many friends in the Amateur community.

The second was Frank Grace, W3NR of Erie, PA. Frank, our immediate past President, will be long remembered for his many fine contributions to the Amateur Fraternity, and for his diligent, dependable, and tireless efforts in behalf of the RAE, and the Amateur Radio Fraternity in general, in both a local as well as in a regional capacity.

We have received an acknowledgement from the Erie County Library, of the receipt of a copy of The Amateur Radio Handbook, that has been presented by The Radio Association of Erie, to the library in memory of Francis (Frank) Grace.

THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC THEORY NOW COMPLETELY CHANGES THE TEXTBOOKS!

For many years, young electronics technicians have been taught the "hole" theory of electronics. This theory explains how electrons move along conductors. The explanation has been good enough to satisfy, or at least keep at bay, those who might question the theory. However after a number of years of working in the radio broadcast industry, one engineer has come to realize that the "hole" explanation may not be accurate. His theory, which has been proven time and time again by close personal observations, is that electrons work on smoke. Yes, that's right. SMOKE!

It has been ascertained that almost every manufacturer encapsulates a certain amount of smoke in every piece of electronic equipment he builds. The smoke is what does the work! You have undoubtedly observed that a component will cease to operate when the smoke leaks out. This well known fact has been thoroughly documented, and has conclusively proven the absolute accuracy of the theory. I personally have never seen holes in a wire, that electrons could pour out of when the wire was cut or broken, therefore the encapsulated smoke theory has to be the logical answer, not holes. (DXers Magazine 607, 4/25/85)

Employee: "Could I have a raise?"

Manager: "Impossible! You've only been with the company for two weeks. You must work yourself up first."

Employee: "But I have. Look, I'm trembling all over!"

Working in an ancient Egyptian tomb, an archeologist translated some writing on a wall. It was a hit of yesteryear: "My Mummy Done Ptolemy."

VE REPORT

The June team present included Richard Blasco, KY3D; Henry Schultz, KA3GXP; Chester Kanis, KB3P; Richard Waldinger, NI3Q; Mike Przepierski, NO3E; Ray Keskinen, W8VHK; and Norma Vanderhoff, W3CG.

June up-grades were as follows:

Am. Ex. Michael Varga, KA3NAK, Fredonia, PA

Adv. John Stager, W3ZBF, Erie, PA

Gen. Jeffrey Griggs, N8JJI, Conneaut, OH

Tech. Donald Pylarz, KA3SRH, Erie, PA

Amateurs will be acknowledged upon completion of the license class. All members of the VE team have been supplied with 610 forms, for your convenience. Members of the team in addition to those listed above include: Lee Robinson, WA3HJC; Chris Robson, KB3A; Jim Spinks, KJ3L; Jim Ferguson, KZ3C; and Bert Van Houten, W3TPW. Dick Blasco has the additional monthly duty of notifying the Villa Maria College of the test date so that the room will be available. This was formerly handled by Frank Grace. The next test session will be held on July 2, 1988. Norma Vanderhoff, W3CG.

QCWA NEWS

The Lake Erie Tri-State Chapter # 122 of QCWA will hold their Summer meeting at The Elks Club, north of Meadville on Rte. 86, on June 25th, beginning between Noon and 12:30 PM. The menu is a buffet style Soup, Salad and Sandwich food bar. The cost is only \$ 6.00, which includes tax and gratuity. Make your reservations by contacting Sid, W3MMJ, in Erie at 825-2216, or Ray, W3VXV, in Meadville at 724-7162.

OPPOSITION TO FIRE FIGHTING AGENT COULD KILL MEN AS WELL AS FIRES

I.C.I. has announced the discovery of a new fire fighting agent to add to the existing range. Known by the acronym WATER, (Wonderful And Total Extinguishing Resource), it augments, rather than replaces, existing agents such as dry powder, and BCF which have been in use from time immemorial. It is particularly suitable for dealing with fires in buildings, timber yards, and warehouses. Though required in large quantities, it is fairly cheap to produce and it is intended that quantities of about a million imperial gallons should be stored in urban areas and near other installations of high risk, ready for immediate use. BCF and Powder

are usually stored under pressure, but WATER will be stored in open ponds or reservoirs and conveyed to the scene of the fire by hoses and portable pumps.

I.C.I.'s new proposals are already encountering strong opposition from safety and environmental groups. Professor Connie Barrinner has pointed out that, if anyone immersed his head in a bucket of WATER, it would prove fatal in as little as three minutes. Each of I.C.I.'s proposed reservoirs will contain enough WATER to fill half a million two-gallon buckets. Each bucket-full could be used a hundred times, so there is enough WATER in one reservoir to cause the demise of every of His Majesty's loyal subjects in the UK. Risks of this magnitude, says Professor Barrinner, should not be allowed, whatever the gain. If the WATER were to get out of control the results of Flixborough or Seveso would pale into insignificance by comparison. What use was a fire fighting agent that could kill men as well as fires?

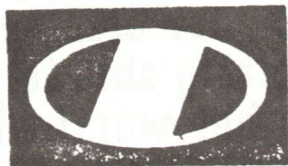
A Local Authority spokesman said that he would strongly oppose planning permission for construction of a WATER reservoir in this area unless the most stringent precautions were followed. Open ponds are most certainly not acceptable. What would prevent people from falling into them? What would prevent the contents from leaking out? At the very least the WATER would need to be contained in a steel pressure vessel surrounded by a leak-proof concrete wall.

A spokesman from the Fire Brigades said he did not see the need for the new agent. Dry powder and BCF could cope with most fires. The new agent would bring with it certain risks, particularly to firemen, greater than any possible gain. Do we know what might happen to this new medium when it is exposed to intense heat? It had been reported that WATER was a constituent of beer. Does this mean that our firemen could become intoxicated while being exposed to this hazardous material in the line of duty?

The Friends of the World said that they had obtained a sample of WATER and found it caused cotton to shrink. If it did this to cotton, what would it do to men?

In The House of Commons yesterday, the Home Secretary was asked if he would prohibit the manufacture and storage of this lethal new material. The Home Secretary replied that, as it was clearly a major hazard, Local Authorities would have to take advice from the Health and Safety Executive before giving planning permission. A full investigation was needed and the Major Hazards Group will be asked to report.

It is easy to exaggerate the dangers of new inventions and to forget that we have learned to live with the hazards of familiar materials, -T. A. Kletz, Divisional Safety Advisor, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.



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FOR SALE: Sony DCC-3000 Bat. Adapter, Converts 10-30 Vdc to reg. 12 Vdc/7 A. New. \$ 25, Heath IM-58 Harm. Dist. Meter w/ manual \$ 10, Sencore TC-114 tube tester \$ 25, B&K 550 tube tester \$ 20, 25 ft. Ind. phone cable \$ 25 David Brennan, 338 W. 9th St. Erie, 454-8239
HW-101/HP-23, with 400Hz CW filter, SB-600 Spkr, Key, Kenwood MC-50, Spare finals, & other tubes. \$ 240. Joe Rodrigues, N3EXV, 459-3940

50 feet of RG-17 (1" dia.), Ray Sayre, KC3WF at 868-4093.

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