

Radio Association of Erie
W3GV Repeaters
146.610(-) PL 127.3
146.820 (-) PL 127.3

QUARAE



Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2004

Special points of interest:

- March of Dimes event will be held in April, mark you calendars.
- New Website officially online. I invite you to check out our efforts.
- Digital modes of communication is on the minds of some people...
- A new license class might be implemented, check page 3 for more information.

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Annual After-Holiday Party Brings In The 2004 Year

The Radio Association of Erie held an after-the-holiday party at Nunzi's Restaurant on January 17, 2004. It was a fantastic evening filled with gifts, awards, food, and fun. The best part about the whole event was that I think Jack— N3RKO finally figured out what Morse code is. Ha! Ha! Our club president Chris Robson— KB3A helped organize a wonderful event.

Our club has had much success in it's endeavors, and it has also had much sadness over the past year. Members attending that night gave a moment of silence for those silent keys this past year. The gathering two weeks ago has allowed us to re-focus what we mean to the community and what we have to offer. The new year we have ahead will prove to be challenging and "radio active" year for our club.

Please take a look at the photo's take at the holiday party taken by Jack— N3RKO.



Officers and Contacts — 2004

President

Chris Robson, KB3A

Vice President

Jack Haven, N3RKO

Treasurer

Frank Graziano, KD3D

Secretary

Dianne Miller, K3LD

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IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES

General Membership Meeting

Time: **Thursday, February 5, 2003 @ 7:00 PM**

Location: **American Red Cross
4961 Pittsburgh Avenue**

Club meetings will continue at the Red Cross building until better weather arrives for us to return to the club house.

Board of Directors Meeting

Time: **Tuesday, February 3, 2003
@ 7:00 PM**

Location: **American Red Cross
4961 Pittsburgh Avenue**



The club president invites the attendance of all club members to our next meeting. Please join us for an important meeting.

Public Service Events Information— Jack Haven

The first Public Service Event will take place on
April 25, 2004.

The March of Dimes has again asked for communications assistance. Our club has participated in the years past, there should be no problem getting official club approval as long as there are available operators. Please mark your calendar for that date.

The Radio Association of Erie is recognized as a ARRL special service club. Each year we participate in community activities for various awareness and fundraising efforts.

Please help your community!

*Please help your community!
Participate in the RAE public service events for awareness and fundraising.*

New Website Is Online Finally

The effort over the past year has paid off. The new and improved look of the now "OFFICIAL" Radio Association of Erie website is up and running. The new address is <http://www.raerie.org>. Do not forget to change your bookmarks and favorites everyone. You can now visit this site for all your information needs. The site also has the built-in functionality for you to check your own club records. It will allow you to change your own address, phone, email, etc. You MUST have your use id and password. This information can only be obtained from the club webmaster, Bob LaPlaca-KC2HVX or club membership chairman, Bob Schwimmer-N3FAW. For privacy reasons, only these members will be able to grant you access to your online records.



User accounts and passwords will be given out at the general club meeting this week at the Red Cross. Your account information can only be obtained by that individual. NO ONE ELSE CAN CLAIM YOUR ACCOUNT INFO.

General Meeting Minutes— January 17th, 2004

Due to the Annual Holiday party becoming an after holiday party, there are no meeting minutes for the month. Please check back next month for official information on club activities.

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement—now 5 WPM—only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals—developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July—are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so then Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class—being called "Novice" for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to

current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees—now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs—would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees—Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General—would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit. "This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said.

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access***** Continued *****

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF sub bands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees

would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, for the specific sub band allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

NNNN

/EX



Amateur Radio has some interesting things happening, check out the ARRL.org website for more up-to-date information.

***** ** Club Membership *** ****

Hey...

Our club needs your support...please take the time to fill out a application for 2004 and mail it in. Directions are located on the form. Copies of the form can be found online. Please take the time to get your membership dues in. The club depends on it's members to support it's financial, social, technological, and community efforts.

www.raerie.org/application.htm

*If anyone is interested in testing contact
Rob Jacobs
N3OCL is the new RAE ARRL VEC VE liaison.*

Erle County ARES—RACES—SKYWARN

The weekly training and information net is held every Sunday night at 9:00 PM on the W3GV repeater. You can listen in on 146.610(-) PL 127.3 or jump in during the call for visitors. If your interested in becoming more involved with either of these programs please see page 2 of the newsletter for contact information.

There will be a informational presentation and training at the Hamot Auditorium in a few months. More information about the date and time will be forthcoming. Please check back here or listen in on the weekly net.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

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P.O. Box 844
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We're on the Web!

[Http://www.raerie.org](http://www.raerie.org)



Support Amateur Radio

Digital Modes of Communications

I would like to see some interest stirred up in RTTY. To that end and also for many other educational ham radio sites, maybe you could start a series of links which will lead to information on the web. The nice part, I think, about using links is not having to create more files on your system.

Here is a starter for using Computer for digital modes such as RTTY, PSK31, CW and others --

Your Invitation to Join the Amateur Radio Digital Revolution! <http://www.qsl.net/ve5kc/invitation.htm>

The first one for RTTY is quite good: Getting Started In RTTY :



Computers can be used for," digital modes such as RTTY, PSK31, CW and others."

http://www.aa5au.com/rty_start.html

I think the links should not be randomly listed but should be in categories.

Another for RTTY Contesting: RTTY Contesting Slide Show: http://rtycontesting.com/dayton03/dayton03_aa5au_files/frame.htm

Best RTTY Computer Program (It's Free): <http://www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/>

There are lots of others, but we can add more later. If you wish you can put me down for someone to talk to about digital modes. (I know there are others more knowledgeable than me in Erie on the subject.)

73,
Bob Schwimmer—N3FAW