

Club Repeaters:

Erie:

146.610-

PL 127.3 hz

Waterford:

146.82-

PL 186.2 hz

QUARAE



Volume 4, Issue 6

Web Site: www.raerie.org

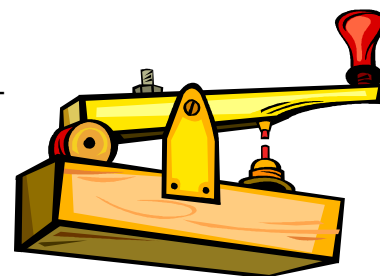
June 2005

CW Ops Whip Whippersnapper Text Messengers on TV

It may have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code--and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The victory, which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense encouragement to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators, who been ballyhooed the achievement all over the Internet. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in a reflector posting that the CW team won fairly handily. "Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done," he said on the Elecraft reflector in response to various questions he's received following the TV appearance. "I already knew that 28-30 WPM would easily keep us in front of even the current world [text messaging] record holder, and also it is the fastest speed that I can make nice readable copy on paper with a 'stick' [pencil]." Miller said it was decided he'd be on the receiving end because he wasn't distracted by the noise in the studio.

Margelli recalls that he was sending at 29 WPM. "I believe the goods were suitably delivered," he told ARRL. "CW and old guys rule!" What the viewing public didn't know was that Margelli and Miller had, in Miller's words, "smoked 'em every time" during three pre-program rehearsals. Even so, during the real thing, when Miller raised his hand to signal he'd copied the CW message successfully, Jason's jaw dropped. None of the players had

any idea of the text they'd be sending, Miller noted. The message? "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance." As with many Tonight Show bits, this one involved a member of the audience, a young woman named Jennifer who predicted--incorrectly as it turned out--that text messaging definitely would top 170-year-old Morse code. She walked away with a gift of restaurant tickets anyway.



Margelli says the CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers--one of his own and another owned by Dan Dankert, N6PEQ. Backup units--not needed--were provided by HRO; Margelli's wife Janet, KL7MF, manages an HRO store. They ended up using 432.200 MHz as an operating frequency in order to avoid RFI from the plethora of TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear.

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RAE CLUB MEETING

Thursday June 2nd – 7 pm at the
RAE Clubhouse
3940 Wagner RD
See You There!

Program:

**Tonight Show CW vs Text Messaging
Competition Video**

Officers and Contacts – 2005

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. - June 2nd General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99

Tues. - June 28th Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse

VHF CONTEST

Listen for W3GV during the VHF contest. We'll be running 6 meters, 2 meters, and 432 mhz and maybe 220 mhz ssb

We may also be monitoring 146.55 simplex

The contest begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 0300 UTC
Monday (June 11-13, 2005).



**Field Day will
be held the
weekend of
June 25th-26th
at the RAE
Clubhouse**

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
May 5, 2005
General Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: KB3A, N3ZNP,
N3NKV, KD3D, N3LBI, KB3JSN

Not Present: KC2HVX, N3BXL, KB3ALU

The meeting was brought to order by KB3A at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report: N3NKV made a motion to accept the April general membership meeting minutes as printed in the QUARAE. KB3B noted that 2 corrections needed to be made to the minutes. The motion to rename the clubhouse was seconded by N3LBI instead of WB3DOM. Also the date of the Edinboro Triathlon was listed as June 3rd, the correct date should be Saturday June 4th. N3LBI made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by KB3B. Motion Carried.

Visitors: John Churchill N3DBC and Richard Pent

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided report.

Board of Directors Report: N3NKV gave a brief overview of the meeting. Items discussed included linking 61 and 82, public service, membership, classes, N3RKO memorial, and the VHF contest

Membership: KE3V reported that 3 more members joined for 2005.

ARES/RACES: WX3E thanked everyone for attending the Skywarn training session. 102 were in attendance. KB3JSN was on WJET-TV for Skywarn. ARES registration forms are available. KB3JSN and WX3E will be meeting with the NW PA Terrorism Task Force to check on the funding status for the mobile command post.

QUARAE: N3NKV mentioned that the QUARAE was only 6 pages. He is in desperate

need of articles for the newsletter. He also talked with KC2HVX about a few updates to the web site.

Contesting: WB3DOM mentioned the Mid-Atlantic QSO party would be coming up on May 15th. KB3A mentioned the club station would be on the air for the event. WA3KAZ donated the N3FJP software to the club for contesting. Also, the club would have a station on the air for the VHF contest in June.

VE: K3LD mentioned that a VE session was held on Sunday May 1st. If anyone is interested to take a test, you have to contact Rob (N3OCL) cell phone #814-881-5238 or email at N3OCL@verizon.net so that we can make sure to have the test at the RAE clubhouse. KB3A mentioned that we should have regularly scheduled VE testing available.

Repeater: N3SRD reported that N3BXL donated the link radios and power supplies in memory of Jack N3RKO. The link should be up and running within the next few days. Also discussed shortening up ID messages and adding wav files with real life voices.

Skywarn: N3SRD mentioned to be prepared for the upcoming severe weather season.

Public Service: N3LBI mentioned that he needs help for the MS WALK on Sunday May 15th and the Edinboro Triathlon on Saturday June 4th. He thanked everyone who participated in the March of Dimes Walk America

Old Business: None

New Business: N3NKV mentioned that in order to get the VHF station up and running on 6 meters a 5 element beam would be needed for the clubhouse. N3LBI made a motion that N3NKV purchase a 5 element 6 meter beam at Dayton Hamvention not to exceed \$179.95. Seconded by K3LD. Motion Carried.

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General Membership Meeting Minutes continued

N3LBI mentioned that Howard Katzenberger N3ZAZ has donated various items to the club. Some of the items will be sold to club members or taken to Breezeshooters Hamfest

The 50/50 winner was N3BZL \$14.

A drawing for Seawolves tickets took place.

Motion to adjourn was made by N3LBI and sec-

onded by NI3Q.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis

Radio Association of Erie
Secretary

CW Ops Whip Whippersnapper continued

They ran the little transceivers at their lowest power level and with the antennas disconnected--although they were mounted on the back of each unit--no problem given the close proximity involved. Margelli sent with a Bencher paddle. Margelli says the CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers--one of his own and another owned by Dan Dankert, N6PEQ. Backup units--not needed--were provided by HRO; Margelli's wife Janet, KL7MF, manages an HRO store. They ended up using 432.200 MHz as an operating frequency in order to avoid RFI from the plethora of TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear. They ran the little transceivers at their lowest power level and with the antennas disconnected--although they were mounted on the back of each unit--no problem given the close proximity involved. Margelli sent with a Bencher paddle

To add a little atmosphere to the affair, NBC producers attired Margelli and Miller to look like 19th-century-era Western Union or railroad Morse telegraphers. The costumes came complete with green visors, white shirts, sleeve garters, vests and bow ties. The teenaged SMSers wore T-shirts and jeans. Cook told Leno that he'd managed to send a 160-letter message to his friend using his cell phone's short message system (SMS)--the formal term for text messaging--in 57 seconds. A member of the Morse Telegraph Club and a QRP enthusiast, Miller said he'd been using CW for 38 years. Margelli told Leno he'd been using Morse "for 43

years in ham radio," a phrase Leno echoed. That was the only plug Amateur Radio got during the appearance on the show's "Dinner for 4" segment. Miller says that during rehearsal, the pair had come up with a few lines to promote ham radio and telegraphy, but they were cut during the final dress rehearsal in the interest of making the segment fit its allotted time slot.

During the Australian competition in April, a Morse team consisting of 93-year-old former post office telegrapher Gordon Hill--the sender--and 82-year-old Jack Gibson--the receiver--topped 13-year-old SMSer Brittany Devlin. In that event, Hill spelled out the message in full, while Devlin used text-messaging shorthand. In that competition, held at the PowerhouseMuseum in Sydney, Hill took 90 seconds to send the message, 18 seconds faster than Devlin's message took to reach her friend's cell phone. Miller encouraged all who enjoyed the CW-vs-text messaging segment on NBC to contact The Tonight Show to let the producers know about it--with an eye toward having the network schedule a more elaborate segment "next time." "Thanks for the kind comments from all," Miller concluded, advising "let's keep on having fun!--It is a hobby after all." Commented Margelli to ARRL: "I completely agree with my fantastic teammate, Ken Miller. It was a lot of fun, just like ham radio, and the show also delivered an important, if subtle, message about the benefits of the 'basic' communication infrastructure that Amateur Radio provides."

RAE Members Help Out in at Local Public Service Events

On May 1st, The RAE assisted the March of Dimes with Walk America at Presque Isle State Park. A big thanks go out to those who helped out at the event: Bob N3LBI, Bill KB3JSN, Chris KB3A, Debi KB3B, Dianne K3LD, Dick NI3Q, Neil N3ZNP, Bob N3FAW, Kevin KE3V, Steve N3SRD, Bill KB3JZM, Jim KZ3C, and Jeremy KB3BAM.

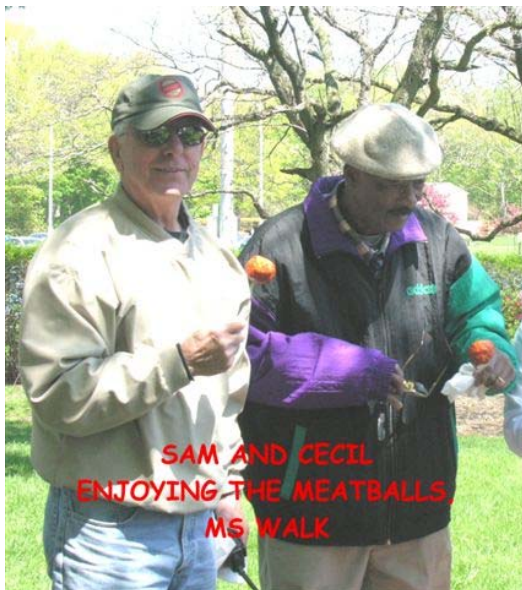
On May 15th a great group of RAE operators assisted the MS Society get 350 walkers safely around the City of Erie on a beautiful Sunday morning. Doug AD4UL would like to thank the following people who did an outstanding job making this another successful event: Chris KB3A, Debi KB3B, Dianne K3LD, Bob N3FAW, Ron WB3DOM, Sam KB3DAF, Cecil NM3L, David KA3AUH, John N3NKV, Bob N3LBI, Matt KB3CAT and Doug AD4UL.

Doug AD4UL would like to give Serafini's Resturant a BIG THANKS for the OUTSTANDING meatballs that they provided for the walkers and our radio operators, no wonder Bob N3FAW likes to be assigned to that rest stop!!

And finally, Pam Masi-Wenzel, MS Society Director, would like thank all of the radio operators for their continued support of the MS Society Walk and Bike Ride.

Upcoming public service events include: the Edinboro Triathlon on Saturday June 4th and the MS Bike Ride on Sunday June 12th

If you are interested in helping out, a sign-up sheet will be available at the RAE club meeting or you can contact Doug Sweet AD4UL at 453-2915 or via E-mail at ad4ul@arrl.net.



Thanks to N3FAW and N3LBI for the photos!

FCC Staffer: BPL Faces Uncertainty, Technical and Financial Viability

FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff member Bill Cross, W3TN, told the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention May 21 that "a lot of uncertainty" surrounds BPL, including questions as to its technical and financial viability and where, how and if it will fit into the communications future. Cross works in the WTB's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, and much of his work directly involves the Amateur Radio Service. Devoting nearly a quarter of his remarks to the standing-room-only audience to BPL, Cross discussed various aspects of the FCC's October 14, 2004, Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37. The R&O established new Part 15 rules to implement BPL systems. Cross said the Commission's expressed a lot of "potentials" and "coulds" in outlining its rationale for promoting BPL as another competing broadband pipeline.

"Whether BPL catches on will be a decision made by economics, both for those who want to provide the service and consumers who have to decide it is better for them than other broadband services," Cross said. He also said the FCC recognizes BPL's potential to interfere with Amateur Radio and other radio services.

"Also note that BPL is coming on the scene, at best, as the fifth player in a field already crowded with heavy hitters," he said. "Currently we have cable, satellite, non-satellite wireless broadband and telephone lines available and providing broadband service." Cross said telephone companies already are looking at installing fiber optic cable to the home to expand available bandwidth for consumers. At the same time, he said, cable companies "have been

spending gazillions of dollars upgrading their systems to digital systems so they can provide services other than traditional TV service."

Citing the current heavy level of advertising and even price-cutting by industry players for a bigger piece of a "fixed pot of dollars," Cross asked, "Where does BPL fit in?" Cross said he didn't believe anyone was now getting a barrage of offers for BPL-provided services. "Nor will we be anytime soon, from what I have read in the communications press."

Cross pointed out that FCC Part 15 rules require that licensed radio services such as Amateur Radio must be protected from harmful interference. He also noted that the FCC was careful to carve out reservations and set specific prohibitions regarding BPL deployment on certain parts of the spectrum allocated to civil aviation users, in addition to imposing some strict requirements to mitigate interference. "You wonder, with all these restrictions--including some that prohibit BPL deployment in what appear to be very profitable areas--a reasonable question might be: Who would want to go into this business?" The current tug of war, he said, is between the three or four companies interested in BPL--who want less onerous restrictions--and the ARRL and other users who don't believe the restrictions go far enough. Both sides have filed petitions for reconsideration." Those petitions are pending, and whatever is decided on them will affect the final rules for BPL and may very well affect its viability," Cross concluded.

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FCC Staffer: Continued

Regarding Amateur Radio proceedings now before the Commission, Cross was unable to pin down for FCC Forum attendees when they might expect to see a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in response to 18 petitions for rule making filed by ARRL, other Amateur Radio organizations and individual licensees. The primary hot-button issue in that proceeding is the future of the Morse code requirement for access to HF amateur bands. The FCC also is considering proposals to create a new entry-level license class and to implement some additional Amateur Radio license restructuring, including automatic upgrades from Technician to General and Advanced to Extra. Cross said he anticipates the FCC will combine the 18 petitions into one NPRM and invite another round of comments from the amateur community. "I suspect the proposed rule making will be coming out in late summer or this fall," Cross said. The comment period could

extend into early 2006, he added, after which a Report and Order would be written.

The amateur community also can expect a Report and Order as a follow-up to its April 2004 NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, Cross said. The main proposal in that proceeding--ARRL's so-called "Novice Refarming" plan--would eliminate the Novice/Tech Plus CW bands and use that spectrum to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands. Current Novice and Tech Plus licensees would get CW privileges in the current General CW bands. Cross said commenters generally seem to support the proposal, although he cited requests to establish even wider phone bands, "particularly in the 75-meter band."

Among other issues, the FCC also has proposed in the same proceeding to essentially do away with its rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.



Repeater Update

The 61/82 link is back up and running. A big thanks goes out to Ron Prindle N3BXL for donating 2 new 220 mobile radios and power supplies in memory of Jack N3RKO.

Autopatch access is not available through the 82 link.

Also look for the pl on 61 to be changing to 186.2 sometime later this year. The actual date will be announced on the 61 repeater and in the QUARAE.

Radio Association of Erie
P.O. Box 844
Erie, Pa 16512

Remember the WRL, Globe, and Galaxy gear?



Well Bill Laakkonen, N4BKT sure does. And now he has created a new website to honor the gear that came from the mind and heart of Leo I. Meyerson, W9GFQ, the founder of WRL. Bill says over QRZ.com that while WRL's gear may not be in the same class as Collins gear, Leo Meyerson had a lot of hits with his Globe and Galaxy lines and that these rigs were pretty popular. He says that the

site is focused on maintaining these older radios and has a database in Reviews with descriptions and photos of most of the WRL, Globe, and Galaxy products. There are even a few manuals available for download.

Check it out at www.worldradiolabs.com

If you have something an article or items for swap and shop for the QUARAE, please contact John Lis N3NKV via e-mail at john@jllis.com or via twisted pair at 825-5565.

The deadline for submissions is the last Friday of each month.