

Club Repeaters:

Eric:

146.610-

PL 127.3 hz

Waterford:

146.82-

PL 186.2 hz

QUARAE



Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2005

ARRL EXPO 2005 to Highlight League's National Convention in Dayton

If you've never been to Dayton Hamvention, then this is the year. That's because Hamvention will host the 2005 ARRL National Convention May 20-22. A special feature of the event will be "ARRL Expo 2005," a separate area at Hara Arena that will highlight what the League means to Amateur Radio. "ARRL Expo 2005 will be a special feature of the Convention," says ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who's helping to coordinate the event. "ARRL Expo will showcase ARRL membership benefits and services as well as the activities of ARRL volunteers. Visitors will be able to meet ARRL volunteers and staff knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics, and, of course, have their cards checked for operating awards."

Hamvention has donated a separate section of floor space for ARRL Expo 2005. The large area is convenient to the flea market and indoor exhibit areas--and it's just a short walk from the Ballarena entrance to Hara Arena. While the Expo area will complement the traditional ARRL concession in North Hall, it will operate independently. ARRL Expo will offer the opportunity to meet and greet ARRL staff members and volunteers--including representatives of DXCC, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and other ARRL entities and programs that span the wide variety of interests that comprise Amateur Radio.

The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) will be attending Hamvention as guests of the ARRL National Convention. ARRL and NARTE have a memorandum of understanding to support mutually beneficial programs and activities. NARTE representatives will be on hand at the ARRL exhibit and will provide FCC General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) examinations to interested applicants. The testing fee, not included in the Hamven-

tion admission price, is \$40. Register or get more information from the NARTE Web site or by calling NARTE toll-free at 800-89-NARTE (800-896-2783).

Inderbitzen notes that ARRL Expo 2005 will be the place to pick up a free "ARRL Passport" to get a 2005 ARRL National Convention keepsake when making qualifying purchases from participating retailers at Hamvention. The ARRL ad hoc National Convention Committee has been meeting since last July to help make Dayton Hamvention 2005 a memorable ARRL National Convention. New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, chairs the committee. Members are ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, Midwest Division Director Wade Walstrom, W0EJ, and ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV.

The theme of Dayton Hamvention 2005 is "Bringing hams together from around the world." Upward of 25,000 visitors from the US and elsewhere on the globe make the annual pilgrimage to Hamvention, where socializing is a big part of the fun. In addition to the popular indoor and outdoor exhibits and vendors, Dayton Hamvention 2005 will feature a full slate of forums and other activities. As they say, "If you can't find it at Dayton, you'll never find it." It's not too soon to purchase tickets for Dayton Hamvention 2005. Early birds can save \$5 by getting their tickets online at the Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/>. Hamvention has eliminated the on-line handling charge.

Check the ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention Web page <http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2005/> for information updates.

Officers and Contacts – 2004

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. March 3 - General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm
Red Cross—4961 Pittsburgh Avenue
off of West Grandview Blvd.

Tues. March 22 - Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 7:00 pm
Location: To Be Announced

Autodial Now Available on 61 Repeater



Autodial slots are now available on the 61 repeater for RAE club members. If you are interested in one, please contact Lee N3APP via e-mail at n3app@verizon.net

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@jjlis.com or via twisted pair at 825-5565. The deadline for submissions is the last Friday of each month.

RAE General Membership Meeting Minutes February 3, 2005

Radio Association of Erie February 3, 2005 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: KB3A, N3ZNP, N3NKV, KD3D, N3LBI, KC2HVX, KB3JSN, KB3ALU

Not Present: N3BXL

Meeting brought to order by President KB3A at 7:02 pm at the American Red Cross.

Secretary's Report: N3NKV: Motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as published in the QUARAE. Motion: N3LBI, Second: KD3D

Treasurer's Report: KD3D provided report.

Guest: Pat Davis thanked the membership for all of their help in both the Edinboro Triathlon and the Highmark Triathlon. The Highmark Triathlon donated \$150 to the club for all of their help. The Edinboro Triathlon donated \$200 for all of our help with the event. She mentioned that the 2005 Edinboro Triathlon will be held Sat. June 4th and the Highmark Triathlon will be held on Sat. September 10th.

Silent Key: A moment of silence was taken in memory of Walter Pogson W3MFG of Fairview.

Board of Directors Report: N3LBI provided an overview of what was discussed at the meeting. Items consisted of the budget, representation at repeater council meetings, clubhouse maintenance (water, handicap ramp, etc.)

Membership: N3FAW mentioned that there is a gradual transition with KE3V taking over. There are 63 members for 2005 and 19 life members= 82 overall. Bob mentioned KE3V plans on sending out letters to those who have not renewed dues.

ARES/RACES: WX3E discussed various items such as:

* New Skywarn Maps are coming

*ARES/RACES team is working on various projects such as applying for grant monies from the county for equipment upgrades for linking.

Trainings planned for the future: Hazmat, damage assessment, trainings with other emergency providers

Public Service: N3RKO mentioned he will have a signup sheet for the March of Dimes Walk on May 1st at the next meeting.

Repeater: Steve N3SRD discussed the recent repeater outage that took place on Thursday January 27th. The Micor was still operable, but the controller was inoperative. It may have been caused by a brown out in the area. The 220 receiver from Sharp Road is being checked over by N3APP due to interference problems from Ch. 12. The purchase of the upgraded link equipment is on hold due to possible grant monies being available to the club. Someone is interested in purchasing the 440 repeater. The 440 controller will not be sold. Steve also mentioned that he is looking for different voices for the .wav files for the repeater controller.

Clubhouse: N3ZNP mentioned that a piece of gutter is needed on the south side of the building to help stop water from running into the basement at the clubhouse.

Packet Cluster: KB3A- It is available for use.

Contesting: No Report

VE: K3LD- If anyone is interested to take a test, you have to contact Rob N3OCL cell phone # 814-881-5238 or E-mail at N3OCL@verizon.net so that we can make sure to have the test at the RAE clubhouse.

February Minutes Continued

KB3A polled the membership for ideas for club activities for 2005.

WB3DOM mentioned a 1 day no-code tech class.

KB3JSN mentioned packet and EMCOMM.

KB3A mentioned more HF activity and the Grid Square Contest.

N3NKV mentioned foxhunting.

KB3A wanted Echolink at the clubhouse.

Old Business- None

New Business:

N3LBI passed out flyers about the Radio Amateur of Corry Breakfast fundraiser which will be held on February 27th.

The 50/50 winner was N3LBI - \$19.00.

Motion to Adjourn:

Ron WB3DOM Seconded by Joe KB3ALU

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis
Radio Association of Erie
Secretary

March of Dimes Walk America Public Service Event

The warm weather is just around the corner. The RAE's first public service event of the year will be Walk America. It is the largest and most successful annual fundraiser for the March of Dimes. Walk America brings out almost 4,000 walkers in Erie County to help raise money for the fight against crippling birth defects.

This year's Walk America is scheduled for Sunday May 1, 2005 at 1:00pm on Presque Isle State Park, beginning and ending at Waldameer's Rainbow Gardens. If you would like to help out at this fun event, a sign up sheet for the event will be available at this month's club meeting.



Maybe the W3GV Billboard will be up this year!



Neal and Bob want warmer weather this year.

WSJT — A Software Package for the VHF DXer

Maybe it's time to discover another form of DX on the amateur bands and a fairly new and exciting way to do it. You may not realize it but DX is not just working someone on a deserted island in the Pacific or a DXpedition in Antarctica. Each amateur band has its own natural characteristics, and the term DX has a different meaning for different frequencies. Certainly worldwide communications might be the norm under certain conditions and time of day on 160-10 meters.

However, 6 meters and especially 2 meters take on a different meaning for the term DX when using these bands. 6 meters can actually have world wide DX during sunspot peaks but those band openings are few and far between, e-skip openings and occasional Auroral events make up the other potential band openings, but again there are more days when the band is dead than any of the other activities put together.

And 2 meters is yet another story all together. 2 meter SSB and CW contacts can yield qso's with stations up to 300-500 miles under normal or slightly enhanced conditions, a few days out of the year you will get some tropospheric ducting which can allow contacts out to say 1000 miles. Auroral activity several times a year yields qso's out to 1000 miles and the big E-skip openings that only happen a couple of times a year might allow signals to travel at best, 1000-1400 miles or so.

As you can see the term DX as it applies to these bands has a different meaning, but is just as significant to those that use these frequencies as to the HF operator working DX on those bands.

Now there is a way to use these VHF frequencies all year around even when there are no enhanced conditions to help propagate signals. This fairly new and evolving way to make use of these frequencies is by using meteor scatter techniques. And by far the most popular mode today is WSJT or High Speed Digital Meteor Scatter.

This new digital mode was developed by K1JT, Joe Taylor. Who is not only an avid Amateur operator but also a Nobel Prize winner and professor at Princeton University. His WSJT software allows for several different modes. FSK441A which is a RTTY like mode used for meteor scatter, JT6M a mode for meteor scatter used on 6M under certain conditions. And JT65 a mode for EME and weak signal communications allowing small stations the opportunity to work bigger EME stations around the world on VHF and UHF bands.

By using WSJT it is possible to make meteor scatter contacts out to a maximum of about 1400 miles on 6 and 2M. Small stations running 100 watts and using small to medium size beams are having good results using this mode. By using this mode, states and grids can be worked that would only be possible under exceptional or rare conditions.

By far the easiest band to work meteor scatter is the 50 mhz band, as the prime frequency range for scatter is between 30-100 mhz, although there have been contacts made up to 432 mhz.

If you are already setup on PSK, RTTY or other sound card modes, you're on your way to being setup for WSJT. To start out you need a rig capable of operating USB on 6 or 2 Meters. Power output of 100 watts is a nice average to start out with although stations with 50 watts or less are having good results. The antenna should be a beam, of course the more elements the better but 3 elements on 6 and 10 ele on 2M should be a good start although there are some rovers out there using M2 loops and other small antennas with good results. In fact I did work a Maritime Mobile in the Bahamas/ C6A on 2M that was using a pair of M2 Loops on his boat! You will need a 200 mhz or faster computer running a windows operating system. And a computer to radio interface to have the computer key the radio, I use a RIGblaster which is quite popular but Rascal, MFG and others including homebrew work just fine.

Continued on Pg. 6

WSJT Continued

You will also need an internet connection, not only to schedule contacts in real time but also to calibrate your computer clock to an accurate time, all computer clocks are off and by the use of a computer program called D4 or dimension 4, it will keep your clock accurate to within a second while connected to the internet. This is necessary as you will be transmitting in 30 sec intervals and should be close in time to your partner.

Use the following websites to download software and get more info about WSJT.....

Download WSJT Free at
<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT>

Dimension 4 Time Program at
<http://www.thinkman.com/>,

Ping Jockey site for scheduling and chatting is
<http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk> Here you can schedule meteor scatter, tropo JT65 or EME JT65 contacts.

WSJT GROUP website [WSJT WSJTGROUP](#)

The calling frequencies for WSJT FSK441A meteor scatter are 144.140 mhz on 2M and 50.260 mhz on 6M but don't expect to hear much there under normal circumstances unless there is local activity, a contest or major meteor shower. The exception to this is Saturday mornings when special Times are set aside for random operation on these frequencies. 1400-1500Z for 2M randoms and 1500-1600Z for 6M.

Once you get set up and operating and decode your first PING you will be hooked like your author. I have worked many new Grids and States that I could have worked no other way. So if you are tired of the same old grind, learn more about the wonderful world of WSJT and Digital High Speed Meteor Scatter, then if you want to get real serious try JT65 EME and see what stations you can copy and possibly even work off the Moon!

This article was written by Terry Hosack WA3LTB of Lake City.

K3PLV & K8PT expedition to Jersey

K3PLV and K8PT will be operating from Jersey Island off the coast of France for the 7th consecutive year. They will use the calls MJ/K3PLV and MJ/K8PT and will operate 160 through 6 meters. They both will have amplifiers this year for all bands except 160 and 6. The operation will be March 9th through March 16th. They plan to operate SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK-31. They plan have the ability to put out DX spots so that people can find us. If you have not used DX spots, one way to see them is to go to <http://oh2ag.kolumbus.com/dxs/>. Craig would enjoy saying hello to any of the Erie area operators. If anyone would like a setup a schedule, they can E-mail Craig at crahill@adelphia.net We will operate from the club station of the Jersey Amateur Radio Society which is in a World War II German signal's bunker. Jersey is an independent country that has it's own currency, postage, and government, but has close relations with Great Britain.



Swap and Shop

For Sale—HEATHKIT SB-1000 (1000 watt) linear HF amplifier with manuals---\$500.00 or best offer. Contact Joe Ponchak KA3CPV at 836-9829 or via e-mail ka3cpvgrmpap@velocity.net.

See it Before it goes to the Buffalo Hamfest !!— KC3LV Estate Sale: Kenwood TS-930, Kenwood TS-430, PS 430 Power supply, Icom IC 27A 2 Mtr, Kenwood 930 speaker, Ameritron AL80 15 thru 80 Amp, MFJ Antenna Bridge 204B, Dentron MT 3000a antenna tuner, Bencher Paddles, Heathkit Umatic Keyer, Alliance HD73 Rotor, Mosley TA-33 Tri-bander, Diawa MS-660 PA SWR Power Meter, Kenwood MC-60 Mic, Rig Blaster, Heil Foot Switch, AFS Speaker Kenwood TH 205 AT 2 Mtr HT, Micronta World Clock. MFJ 202B Noise Bridge, Heathkit Clock GC 1107, Computer cables, Ladder Line fed dipoles, Kantronics Packet Com3, Autek Research RF analyst Model RF1, 4 to 1 1kw Balun, W2FMI Balun Transformer 2:1 HB100, B&W Model CS-6G 6 Pos Antenna Switch 5 Position Antenna Switch, Straight Key, ARRL Antenna Book ARRL Handbook 1995. Numerous books on antennas, Heil Headphone Boom Mic., Headphones, Johnson Viking Match Box Tuner 10 thru 80,

All these items are for sale along with various connectors wires and junk that Joe managed to collect over the years. If interested in any of this equipment call Ron WB3DOM at 456-0500 for details. Ron has all of the equipment at his home available for demonstrate.

Also available is an Ameritron AL-82 Call Don Eller K3GY for info

Upcoming Ham Radio Activities

Amateur Radio Classes & VE Test—Wattsburg Wireless Association is holding upgrade classes on Saturday mornings at 9am at their clubhouse at the Greene Township Municipal Building on Tate Rd. These classes are for all license levels. VE exams are held each month on the second Saturday each month at 12 noon at the clubhouse (appointment preferred to WWA@Wattsburg-wireless.us).

The Ripley Hamfest will be coming up on
Sunday May 1st. from 8 am to 12 pm at the Ripley, NY Fire Hall.
Just 3000 feet south of the traffic light in Ripley at Routes 20 & 76

Homebrew Contest — Bring you best homebrew project to the hamfest. Judging will start at 9:30 am. The winner of the contest will receive a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to AES.

Admission: \$3.00 Tables: \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00

Talk-In on 146.58

Prizes: AES Gift Certificates

Food and Beverages will be Available

For more Information Call or E-mail:

N3MLX — Joe Lis — 814-825-5565 — n3mlx@adelphia.net

N2LXD — Fred Krause — 716-736-4688 — emily2@cecomet.net

Online at <http://ripleyhamfest05.tripod.com>

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

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2005

Each spring before the onset of the thunderstorm and flash flood season...the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Erie County Emergency Management Office, and the National Weather Service sponsor a week of Emergency Weather Preparedness.

This year, Governor Ed Rendell has declared the week of March 6th through 12th as Weather Emergency Preparedness Week for Pennsylvania. Weather Awareness week is a time to plan for thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, tornadoes, and flash floods.



On Thursday March 10th, a statewide drill will take place between 9 am and 12 noon. If your near a radio that day please check in on the 61 or 70 repeaters.

