

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

QUARAE



Volume 3, Issue 4

May 2004

March of Dimes 2004

The Public Service Event Season is now in full swing. 16 Members assisted with communications for March of Dime WalkAmerica on April 23rd at Presque Isle State Park. Despite the rain and temperatures in 50s, WalkAmerica went off without a hitch because of the planning of Jack Haven N3RKO and March of Dimes Emergency Services Chairperson Mary Wolski KB3JZM. Over 3,000 people walked in the event. Those who participated included: Net Control Bob N3LBI, Bill KB3JSN, Matt KB3CAT, John N3NKV, Dick NI3Q, Bob N3FAW, Neal N3ZNP, Joe, KB3ALU, Sue N3LPO, Diane K3LD, Bob KC2HVX, KB3A Chris, KB3B Debi, Jeremy KB3BAM, Frank KD3D, and Steve N3SRD.



John N3NKV made sure to advertise amateur radio emergency communications signs on the school bus.



Neil N3ZNP and Bob N3FAW made sure to have a tailgate party at the event.



New Billboard on Peninsula Drive?



Chris KB3A on Guard at Checkpoint 2

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 6th,
2004

7:00 PM

Location:
Club House - EOC
End of Wagner Rd, off
Bargain Rd, off Route 99

Speaker:
Bill Edgar, N3LLR ARRL
Vice Director Atlantic Div.

VE Testing will be held
prior to the meeting.

Officers and Contacts — 2004

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Chris Robson, KB3A

Vice President

Jack Haven, N3RKO

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From the President's Desk

As we lead into the spring months, thoughts turn to Operating at the EOC! Yes, we want to have more activity at the EOC our own Ham Radio Clubhouse. The more time I have spent at the EOC the more I appreciate the wonderful asset we have in having a ham radio home. With the advent of more and more restrictions placed on our home ham shacks by unknowing and uncaring municipal governments, our clubhouse is like an oasis for our activity. In the future, we hope to have Saturday get-togethers during the summer to enjoy grilling hot dogs and burgers, enjoying refreshments and spending time with people who enjoy a common thread, Ham Radio. changes, BPL issues and other topics. This should be a very informative meeting. Please attend and welcome Bill to our Club House!

In the near future, you will be hearing some major changes on our 146.01/.61 repeater. For many years, we have accepted the status quo with our current repeater controller. Well we have made the decision to move into the 21st century and update our controller to a software based system that will allow us to make a more pronounce presence on our

repeater with new and information we never could do before which will allow our club members to have Radio based info system for announcements, activities, and interesting trivia. We all look forward to this refreshing facelift!

For members that wish to actively operate the club HF stations, I am requiring that you give me a copy of your current ham radio license. This is not to stop people from operating, just help keep us in conformance with FCC rules. Also any member that wishes to operate or work on club projects from the EOC alone, there will be procedures put into place for notification of presence at the EOC. This is for safety reasons.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the club meeting; this is the start of a great spring!

73,
Chris Robson KB3A



Chris Robson

Important Dates

General Membership Meeting

Time: Thursday, May 6th, 2004 @ 7:00 PM

Location: Club House -EOC

End of Wagner Rd, off Bargain Rd, off Route 99

Speaker: Bill Edgar, N3LLR ARRL Vice Director Atlantic Div.

Club meetings are NOW going to be at the Club House.

VE Testing will be held prior to the meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting

Time: Tuesday, May 27, 2004

@ 7:00 PM

Location: Club House -EOC

**If you have a
submission for the
QUARAE , you can
e-mail it to John Lis
at
john@jjlis.com
Or
Contact John
via phone/fax at
825-5565**

General Membership Meeting Minutes April 1, 2004

Board Members Present: KB3A, N3LBI, N3FAW, N3RKO, KC2HVX, KD3D and K3LD.
Not present: KB3ALU and N3BXL

Meeting brought to order by President KB3A at 7:01, General Membership Meeting at the E.O.C.

Moment of Silence: Scotty Forbes W3STK

Visitor: Nick Sleptzoff, Josh Lemmon, and Zack Lindvay

Secretary's report- K3LD: motion to accept the minutes that were printed in the QuaRae.
Motion: N3HPR Second: N3NKV

Treasurer's report- KD3D given

Board of Directors report- N3LBI- No Quorum informal meeting discussed N3ZNP got the water and club house ready for meeting, found the well for the water, website, events, QuaRae editor needed, directory ready and foxhunts.

Membership- N3FAW: 102 members also Bob has the new directory for \$2.00, if someone wants a hard copy.

Nick Sleptzoff: Thanked Tom (N3HPR) and Dave (N3EOY) and the RAE the programs developed in ARES/RACES and Skywarn. The state is looking at our organization and the structure that we have in place.

He let us know that new technology is in place for cell phones, if you call 911 with a newer cell phone they can locate your position. Erie County is the first county in PA that has it and is one in 20 in the country. The Emergency Operations is looking for a new facility and they want to equip a special room for amateur radio.

They are also working on new communications for public safety. He said they will ask us to help

them establish a network.

ARES/RACES: Tom (N3HPR) announced that Dave (WX3E) is taking over the ARES/RACES leadership. Tom has led ARES the past 12 years and RACES the past 6. He had to step down due to his moving to Chautauqua and also due to Sandy's health, Tom will continue on by assisting Dave. A lot has been accomplished in those years they have taken over 100 photo ID's, set up Ham Radio with antennas at the EOC, Hamot, updated Red Cross and the Airport EOC and pending the wish list for the new Emergency Operations Center. We have a good relationship with all the agencies. We have been #1 and #2 on some of the Emergency test in PA. We even made #1 in the US once. It has been a wonderful opportunity.

Tom thanked first and foremost his wife Sandy (N3LKW) for her support. Dave (N3EOY), Joe (KB3ALU), Dave (WX3E), Nick and all the rest that he has worked with over the years. He said that he knows there will be a smooth transition between him and Dave. Dave has the approval of ARRL, is Extra Class and has assisted Tom the past few years. He has his ARES 1 and 2 level and almost level 3. He will be an excellent EC.

Dave (WX3E): ARES/RACES will continue to operate without a noticeable difference, there will be some tweaking. Tom has done an excellent job in setting it up. Dave will be available through the 70 repeater and will be working out of Union City.

Skywarn: Dave (N3EOY) announced he too is stepping down after 15 years and Steve (N3SRD) will be taking over Skywarn. And like Tom, Dave will be assisting Steve. They will formally transfer during the Skywarn training next week.

General Membership Meeting Minutes continued

Nick Sleptzoff: someone asked about whether the ARES/RACES/Skywarn badges will still be valid. He said at this time yes. They are though working on a universal ID for all agencies and are in the process of getting equipment.

KB3A: Thanked N3HPR and N3EOY for their years of service and watching it grow over the years to a first rate organization. It is a tribute to them and we owe them more than thanks and are proud to have them in our Radio Club.

QuaRae: KC2HVX (Bob) is stepping down as editor for the QuaRae .Bob will continue to be our webmaster but he needs the time to develop the website. N3NKV has accepted the position of editor and Bob is providing John with the templates and software to develop the QuaRae. Please help John by sending him any articles, information etc. Also the directory is on the website.

KB3A: Thanked Bob for the great job in taking over and doing the QuaRae.

Public Service- N3RKO- March of Dimes is April 25 and the MS walk May 16, Edinboro Triathlon June 5, MS Bike on June 13 and Caring Place Triathlon in September 11. We need the help, please contact Jack for any or all that you are interested in. It is good training and fun and good public service.

After last years March of Dimes, Mary has gotten her license. So this year we are going to be tied into Mary (KB3JZM) which will be an asset during the March of Dimes. (Mary you will finally be able to talk back to Jack.)

Contest- KB3A: We won a plaque from the Maryland DC QSO. Chris would like to see more on the wall. Ron (WB3DOM) there is a new award work all 50 states.

Doug (AD4UL) has ordered in Florida 10 sets of magnetic signs for emergency communication which he will be bringing back with him. The cost will be \$20.00 a set.

Repeater: N3SRD- N/A

EOC: N3LBI- Neal N3ZNP has located the water well and we need to bring it up. The township may let us use a back hoe. Looking at linking 82. We need another 220.

KB3A- Station Trustee: as of April 15th the codes for the EOC will be changed. If you wish to operate you will need to supply Chris with a copy of your license. If you enter by yourself you need to contact Chris to let him know that you are there and when you leave. For liability, security and safety reasons he needs to know who is there and using the equipment and the club call sign. People have been operating fine and Chris personally wants to hear more people operating.

Education: John (WB3IFD) has volunteered to teach Tech classes at the EOC. He may have classes on either Wednesday nights, Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. He may also have weekend classes with VE exams Sunday night. Contact John if interested. Email john@

Old Business: Donation to Red Cross for \$50.00 motion N3RKO Second: KC2HVX

New Business: N3NKV there will be a Ripley Homebrew contest

Bill Edgar (N3LLR) will be at the next General meeting

We are planning on a VE session at 6:30 on May 6 before the General meeting at the EOC. Anyone interested contact Rob (N3OCL). Contact Rob Jacobs at n3ocl@velocity.net or 438-7304.

Meeting Minutes Continued

Next General meeting is at the EOC on May 6 at 7:00 or later depending on VE sessions completion.

50/50: Steve WA3JJT

Motion to adjourn: N3LBI Second: WB3DOM

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

2004 Public Service Events

Saturday May 16th — M.S Walk —

Sunday June 5th — Edinboro Triathlon —

June 13th — MS Bike Race

August 21 — March of Dimes Paddle Erie

Sept. 11th — Caring Place Triathlon

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

61 Repeater Controller Update

by Steve LaJohn, N3SRD

The Board of Directors has approved the purchase of a new PC based controller for the 146.610 machine. As you may or may not know we have several problems with the OLD ACC 850 as of late and although it has served us well for many years it will soon be taken out of line and sold. If you know anyone interested in it, let me know otherwise it will go up on a list server of two for sale.

I will be working with the committee and a couple of local area hams to layout a format and test the hardware and software for our new controller over the next week or so. If you have an interest in being a control operator, please contact me ASAP....more to share at the next RAE club meeting so don't miss it. 73's Steve N3SRD.



The ACC 850 Repeater Controller pictured above is used for illustrative purposes only. The actual controller for sale may differ in appearance.

Thanks Dave and Tom!!



Dave Henderson
N3EOY



Tom McClain
N3HPR

The Radio Association of Erie would like to thank Dave and Tom for their years of service and watching the ARES/RACES and Skywarn programs grow over the years to a first rate organization. It is a tribute to them and we owe them more than thanks and are proud to have them in our Radio Club.

Introducing



Dave Wellman, WX3E
New ARES/RACES Coordinator



Steve LaJohn, N3SRD
New Skywarn Coordinator

Trivia Corner

- 1) In the 1930's it was common to locate automobile radio antennas under the running boards and under the 'soft top'? True / False
- 2) Radio show host Art Bell is a ham. What is callsign? A)K6UFO B)K6AB C)W6OBB D)WB6TYS
- 3) Which FM Erie Station has the highest power output with a directional antenna
A) WXKC 99.9 – Classy 100 B)WRTS 103.7 – Star 104 C)WUSE 93.9 – US Country
D)WFGO 94.7 – Froggy 94.7

See Page 8 For Answers

License Renewal Information

Many Hams may not be aware of a new procedure now in effect for license renewal.

A three step process is necessary for renewal:

1. You must first obtain a "CORES" Federal Registration Number ("FRN"). The FCC relates our Social Security Number ("SSN") to the FRN. This number is permanent. It serves to eliminate further reference to the SSN by the FCC. It helps to preserve the privacy of our SSN. This process also requires the assignment of a password, which can be selected by the Ham, or the FCC will assign a password to relate to the FRN. [FCC Form 160](#) can be used to accomplish this procedure.

2. After the above is completed, the next step is to associate our call sign to our FRN. FCC [Form 606](#) is the appropriate form.

Final step is the license renewal application. FCC [Form 605](#) is applicable.

You say you would rather not do all that paper work? Fine. You can do it all On-Line via the FCC Internet Web Site. It will take about 10 minutes. If you don't compute, call Bob N3FAW. I have done it for several people. I will need your Social Security Number, call and exact name including middle initial.

Any future business with the FCC will use the same FRN and password, so keep the documents which should be printed while on line. They will contain your FRN and password.

FCC Web Site: www.fcc.gov, then click on "FCC Registration Number" in the left column.

Note: "CORES":= **CommissionREgistrationNumber** 73,

Bob Schwimmer N3FAW, 866-3027

HAM-CONGRESSMEN URGE FCC CHAIRMAN'S SUPPORT FOR ARRL RESTRUCTURING PLAN

The only Amateur Radio licensees in the US Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), have written FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place. "We believe that this plan will encourage the development, refinement and use of new technologies; increase the number of young people involved in Amateur Radio; and provide incentives for Amateur Radio licensees to pursue technical self-training and opportunities for volunteerism in the best traditions of our country," Walden and Ross said in an April 23 letter. "We urge you to support the ARRL's restructuring plan and to implement it rapidly."

The FCC now is considering a total of nearly 1300 comments filed on the League's restructuring plan and on two other similar petitions--one from a group called the Radio Amateur Foundation, RM-10868, and the other from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10870. A fourth

petition from Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, RM-10869, dealt solely with the Amateur Radio Morse code requirement. It attracted more than 200 comments before the April 23 comment deadline. The ARRL plan proposes a new entry-level Amateur Radio license--being called "Novice" for now--that would include HF privileges without requiring a Morse code exam, consolidate the current six license classes into three and retain a 5 WPM Morse test only for Amateur Extra class applicants. It also would integrate current Technician licensees into General and current Advanced licensees into Amateur Extra without additional testing. "The ARRL's license restructuring plan, once implemented, will complete the Commission's [restructuring] plan, initiated in 1998, and will provide a blueprint for licensing well into the next decade," Walden and Ross said. The League's plan "is needed right now to promote greater growth of the healthy, exciting and rewarding intellectual pursuit of Amateur Radio." Walden--a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet--and Ross invited Powell to share his thoughts on the matter. — ARRL

Trivia Corner

1) True — Rubber covered radio antennas for autos used to be installed under the running boards or step-board for entering auto.

2) W6OBB is Correct

3) The Correct Answer is WXKC 99.9 – Classy 100. Classy 100 is licensed by the FCC to transmit up 50,000 Watts with a directional antenna. Their transmitter is located in Greene Township with the antenna favoring the northwest.

WRTS 103.7 – Star 104— 50,000 Watts Omnidirectional - The transmitter is located in Greene Township

WUSE 93.9 – US Country— 6,000 Watts Directional—The transmitter is located off Wagner Road on the side that is accessible from Rt. 99.

WFGO 94.7 – Froggy 94.7— 1,700 Watts Omnidirectional —The transmitter is located on Peach Street.