



# The QUARAE

The Newsletter of the Radio Association of Erie

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2008

## K3PLV's Isle of Man and Jersey Update

Well my annual Dxpedition has come to a close. For the last 9 years I have gone to the country of Jersey located in the English Channel, 14 miles off the coast of France. For my tenth year I decided to also include the Isle of Man, which is located in the Irish Sea about halfway between Ireland and Scotland. For all except the first year, I have operated with K8PT (Pete) who lives in the upper peninsula of Michigan. We decided this year to go to the Isle of Man first, as we figured we would be fresh. That was a mistake, but more on that later. I drove to Cleveland and flew to Chicago, where I met Pete. We then flew to Manchester England. Neither of us managed to sleep much on the plane. I got about two hours sleep and Pete got about one hour. We then flew to the Isle of Man. Our rental car was waiting for us, although this year I was unable to get an automatic transmission. Driving on the left hand side of the road really doesn't bother me much anymore, but you need to shift with your left hand. I hadn't driven a standard transmission in over 30 years. But we managed eventually (after a number of stalls) to find where we would be operating from, which is the contest station of GD6IA - Alex. After we met Alex, we drove to our bed and breakfast and slept for about two hours. Since we only had about four hours sleep in the last 36, we were anything but fresh. The first day I was in a daze. We found out that although Alex's station was very nice, he was really only set up to have one station on the air at a time. On Jersey we always run two stations. That meant that we had to operate in shifts. Eventually we did get two stations running at the same time by using the filters we brought along.

But that wasn't until late in the second day. Alex also was not set up to operate RTTY. We did spend some time getting him set up, although we never did run that mode. Alex lives on top of a hill about 600 feet above sea level. He has a large Stepper antenna along with a number of monoband antennas. By the third day we were getting acclimated to the local time zone. Conditions were good and I worked a great many stations all over the world including Afghanistan, Greenland, Niue Island, Singapore, Malaysia, and others. I also worked some of the local area hams including WW3S, W2FD, KA3FZN, W3PIX, and WA3PRC. I also worked 46 of the 50 states and close to 100 DXCC countries. In all I had almost 1300 QSOs and Pete had about the same number.

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## **OPENING DAY AT THE CLUBHOUSE!**



THE MAY RAE CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD AT CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY MAY 3rd at 11 am.

We'll Have Hot Dogs for Lunch!

**Hope to See You There!**

We then flew to Jersey via London. After a great deal of aggravation at the London's Gatwick airport, we arrive on Jersey about three hours late. Jersey had a nasty storm about a week before we arrived with close to 100 mile an hour winds. The Force 12 beam and the R-8 vertical survived with the only problem being the beam was about 180 degrees off it's indicated direction. But the wire antennas were tangled, the ends down, and the 40/80 snapped off. We spent about 2 days getting the antennas back up and running. Conditions were poor this year as the sunspot cycle is at it's minimum and we had a couple of solar flares during our stay. Also since we operate from so far north, the propagation is much worse than even here in Erie. Jersey is at 51 N. latitude and the Isle of Man is about 325 miles further north than that. But we still had a good time and we each had about 2,300 QSOs. I again worked 46 states and about 100 DXCC countries. I also worked some local hams including KE3V, WA3UCR, WB3DOM, K3TLP, and W3BBO. I also worked Ghana, St. Helena, East Malaysia, Reunion Island, and Iceland, along with a number of other uncommon countries. I also went over to one of my friend's house and spent some time with him, his wife, and family, so all the time was not spent operating.

By the way, for those complaining about gasoline prices, we paid the equivalent of \$10.00 a gallon on the Isle of Man and about \$8.00 on Jersey. Well over two-thirds of this is tax. Then it was time to fly to London's Gatwick airport and then shuttle to Heathrow and then on to Chicago and Cleveland. Heathrow had just opened a new state of the art terminal the day before we left, which turned into a disaster. All flights were delayed and many others cancelled and a week later many people still had not gotten their luggage. But even with all the flight aggravations, it's still great being the DX and having people call you in pileups. Even after ten years of operation from Jersey, sometimes the pileups are five kilohertz wide and it's tough to pull out one single call. I think what KJ4R wrote on his QSL card says it all. "Thanks Craig for all time new one for me! Been DXing for 10 years with over 200 conformed and DXCC on 6 bands, but this was my first time to work Isle of Man. Many thanks

for asking EU to stand by to work NA. I don't think I would have gotten in the log otherwise. Take care. Vy 73, Ed". If you have never gone on a DXpedition, consider planning one. It really doesn't have to cost that much, usually a great deal less than a cruise. And – it's well worth it.

73, Craig – K3PLV



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### Ripley Hamfest

Bring Your Ham Radio, Computer Gear, and Electronics leftovers to Ripley and make a few bucks! Meets lots of old and new friends and have a good time!

**Sunday May 4th, 2008  
7:30 am to 11 am**



Ripley Fire Hall  
Ripley, NY

1500 feet south of the only traffic light in  
Ripley at Rts 20 & 76

**Prizes: Cash  
Breakfast will be available**

**Admission: \$3.00  
Tables: \$3.00**

**For more Information Call or E-mail:  
Joe Lis N3MLX at 814-825-5565 or  
n3mlx@roadrunner.com**

**Fred Krause N2LXD at 716-736-4688 or  
emily2@cecomet.net**

For More Information Visit Us Online at:  
**<http://ripleyhamfest08.tripod.com>**



**The Stairs Are Finally in at the Clubhouse!**

Thanks a lot!  
Gene, Neal,  
and Frank



**Radio Association of Erie  
General Membership Meeting Minutes:  
April 2008**

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3NKV, KB3NAT,  
Not Present: N3NZP, KD3D, KB3CAT, K3LD, KB3BAM, AD4UL

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by KE3V.

New Calls: None

Silent Keys: None

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion Made by N3LBI. Seconded by N3DBC. All in Favor.

K3UFG mentioned that the minutes one minor revision in the minutes. The price for the Kit from ARRL is \$50 not \$15 as was quoted.

Treasurer's Report: None

Board Report: N3NKV gave brief synopsis of Board Meeting of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Topics discussed listserv, YAESU FT-100, Field Day, Equipment Insurance, Printed Directories, 440 Repeater, Echolink for 61, Purchase of Membership Software, Sale of Surplus equipment.

Committee Reports:

Repeater: N3APP reported that some of the bonding work has been completed on the tower legs to help eliminate the static.

Website/Newsletter: N3NKV reported that as time goes on we will be phasing out raerie.org and using w3gv.org

Education: K3UFG brought in the ARRL basic electronics class kit he purchased from ARRL for an upcoming class. The next Tech class starts Thursday, May 22, at 6 pm at the Erie Red Cross. Classes will be each Monday and Thursday, 6 to 8 PM

Clubhouse: Backstairs- No Reports

Public Service: N3LBI mentioned that Walk For Babies will be taking place on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Field-Day: KB3CAT has been in contact with the representatives from Fairfield Fire Company and they tentatively approved our request to use their property for field day.

New Business:

Equipment Insurance: N3LBI made a motion that the club purchase equipment insurance from ARRL. Total estimated cost is \$300.00. Seconded by N3DBC. Motion Carried. All in Favor.

440 Repeater: KE3V reported that upon the recommendation of the Board of the Directors of the Radio Association of Erie. KE3V made a motion that that the RAE donate the 444.875 repeater to the Erie Red Cross Amateur Radio Club. Seconded by N3LBI. Motion Carried. All in Favor.

Hamfest trip and stuff: He mentioned that the idea of smaller bus and staying 2 days may be the way to go. Frank also mentioned the Union City/Wattsburg Hamfest in July.

50/50 Winner: Ron WB3DOM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis

RAE Secretary

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**GET YOURSELF INTO THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY!**

# Ham Radio License Class

- *ONLY 35-Multiple Choice Questions*
- *NO MORSE CODE REQUIRED ... EVER!*
- *Zero to passing in 3 short weeks!*
- *Study Manual Optional\**
- *Using nothing more than your PC, you'll be talking to other Hams around the globe via Internet ... for free!*

Using proven hands-on methods and techniques, you'll learn everything needed to pass the "Technician" Exam, receive your FCC license and be ready to get "on-the-air!"

Class starts promptly 6 PM, Thursday, May 22, at the Erie Red Cross Chapter, 4961 Pittsburgh Avenue. Classes will be each Monday and Thursday, 6 to 8 PM.

When your license arrives, usually within a week of passing the exam, we'll help you find equipment and make your first contacts. Classes are free. Exam administration fee is \$14.00. \*Optional study manual is \$24.95.

Dan Miller, K3UFG

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### **From the Editor's Desk**

After being the editor of the RAE QUA-RAE newsletter for the past 4 years, I have made a decision to step down as editor of the publication effective July 1<sup>st</sup> due to some personal reasons. Here is where you fit in the picture. You can be the new editor of the QUARAE. To start to you off, I'll give you what I call the "QUARAE Toolbox.". If you would like to know more about the about this aspect of the club please give me a call at 825-5565 after 5 or e-mail [jjlis@roadrunner.com](mailto:jjlis@roadrunner.com).