

QUARAE

NOVEMBER 2008 EDITION



Second Reading of Bylaw Revisions...

Notice is hereby given that the Second Reading of the proposed bylaw changes will take place at the Radio Association of Erie monthly meeting which will be held on

Thursday November 6th, 2008 at 7 pm at the American Red Cross located at 4961 Pittsburgh Avenue in Erie, PA. The bylaw revisions are online at www.w3gv.org. Pa

per copies are available by contacting RAE secretary John Lis N3NKV at 825-5565.

VECs: More than just Exam Coordinators...

When you think of ARRL's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Department (VEC), Amateur Radio licensing exams are probably what come to mind. The ARRL VEC handles questions regarding exam requirements, exam accommodations, exam test locations, exam question pools and Volunteer Examiner support. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community since

1984. "Helping a person become a radio amateur or upgrade their existing license is what we do best, but that's not all we do," Somma said.

"We provide instruction and support for everyone who wants to get an Amateur Radio license, as well as licensing assistance and procedures for those amateurs seeking upgrades to their current license, regardless of where in the US they may live; some sessions are also provided overseas,"

Somma explained. "Volunteer Examiners are accredited by the ARRL/VEC; they obtain their training -- and receive ongoing guidance -- from our office by phone or e-mail. They can also access our online VE Manual, which is also available for purchase."

Somma said that the ARRL's VEC Department is also a primary provider for club license questions and applications (club call signs) and vanity call signs.

More on page 2...

Club Repeaters

146.6100 PL: 186.2
146.8200 PL: 186.2

ANNOUNCEMENTS BOARD

- Calendar of Events section to be removed following the DEC 08 issue of the QUARAE.

- RAE Club Meeting THR NOV 6 at 7PM. Location is the Red Cross Building.

- Congratulations to our HAMs who have upgraded to the General Class! Very nice job!

Volume 08
Issue 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

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VECs: More than just Exam Coordinators (cont'd)

"We only serve in an advisory capacity in this activity, as application must be made (with their appropriate fee) directly to the FCC," she said. "We also handle the 1x1 Special Event call signs, International Amateur Radio Permits (IARP) and ARRL member (or non-member with accompanying fee) FCC license updates and renewals."

Since the VE program began in 1984, the ARRL VEC has accredited more than 50,000 Volunteer Examiners. "These VEs have conducted more than 90,000 test sessions," Somma said. "At these sessions, more than 850,000 individuals have taken examinations to earn a

license or to upgrade their license privileges. And out of those, 400,000 have had their successful applications submitted to the FCC for new and higher class licenses. Today, the ARRL VEC is the largest of the USA's 14 VECs, representing nearly 70 percent of all exams given."

Somma credits her "skilled and friendly staff" with the success of the League's VEC Department: Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O; Pete Warner, K1HJW; Ann Brinius; Lisa Riendeau; Amanda Grimaldi, and China Chaney.

"The ARRL VEC has more than 20 years of service to radio amateurs, operating as a knowledgeable information source for a wide-range of licensing issues," Somma said. "Look beyond the exams -- we're here to help!"

*Special Thanks to;
ARRL.org
From the ARRL Newsletter*

SkyWarn Recognition Day! Set for December 6th

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the

world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on

Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, an amazing 15,888 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted.

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Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by KE3V.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3NKV, AD4UL, KB3BAM, KB3NAT, N3ZNP

Not Present: KD3D, K3LD, KB3CAT

New Hams and Visitors: None

Silent Keys: A moment of silent of silence was taken in memory of W3BVM, W7RVY, and N3FAW's xyl

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion made by AD4UL. Seconded by KB3JZL. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Not available

Board of Director's Meeting Report: N3NKV gave synopsis of meeting. Topics discussed repeater and its current status and the voter system along with parts needed repairs, status of insurance needed. Upcoming contests and problems with The Yaesu FT-100 and Kenwood TS-430.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: KB3BAM gave update on status of controller installation. At that time, it was not yet installed. Tentative installation is this weekend. KB3BAM mentioned that the wire harnesses have been made.

Education: KB3RIT reported that Tech classes are in session on Mondays and Thursdays at the Red Cross. There are 4-5 in the Tech class and 10 in the General.

Stairs: Pip has been obtained. The project will take place in the spring.

Public Service: AD4UL mentioned that all events are done for the year.

Contesting: AD4UL mentioned that the California QSO Party is this weekend and the PA QSO party is coming up. He mentioned we need to get the TS-430 taken a look at.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The first presentation of the bylaws took place. With no problems, N3LBI made a motion to accept this first reading of the bylaws. Seconded by WB3DOM. All members present were in favor.

Holiday Party: N3ZNP mentioned that we should start thinking about the holiday party. From the input of the members present, N3ZNP is going to check on the availability of Friday January 9th or 16th. Also, we are looking for a speaker for the event.

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Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

County EOC Station on Oliver RD: KB3NAT mentioned that he is trying to form a list of backup operators who would know how to run the equipment at the County EOC. He also discussed problems that came out of the Airport drill.

Nominations for elections:

President: John Lis N3NKV

Vice President: Kevin McKenna KE3V and Doug Sweet AD4UL

Secretary: Nick Seelinger KB3RDO and Laura Dewart KB3PPH

Treasurer: Allen Platz

Board Positions: Marty Fox N3EPU, Mike Rinn WB3IGK, Doug Sweet AD4UL, Craig Hill K3PLV, and John Churchill N3DBC. (VOTE FOR 2)

50/50 Winner: Ron WB3DOM \$12.00

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm made by KB3BAM seconded by KB3JZL.

*Respectfully Submitted,
John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary*

SkyWarn Recognition Day! Set for December 6th (cont'd)

"The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year!"

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Suddenly there was incentive for more NWS staffers to either obtain a license or upgrade so that more people could work ham radio during severe events. In

addition, many club members had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology."

And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. "Perhaps the most unusual contact occurred in 2000 was with an airliner 39,000 feet above Utah," Floyd said. "The pilot ended the QSO

with a request for a 'spot weather forecast' for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport."

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices and local ham clubs participating has increased, until now more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part.

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November 2008 Area Events						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 RAE CLUB MEETING	5	6
2	3	4 WWA CLUB MEETING	5	6 UCWA CLUB MEETING	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 LICENSE EXAMS - WWA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<p align="center">HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING AND A SAFE HOLIDAY THIS MONTH! THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS SECTION WILL BE REMOVED IN THE JAN 2009 ISSUE OF THE QUARAE DUE TO A LACK OF INTEREST AND EVENTS. THANK YOU.</p>					

Contact the Editor: KB3RDO@yahoo.com

Schedule of Events

- Radio Association of Erie Club Meeting on the 4th of November at 7 PM. Hope to see you there!
- The Wattsburg Wireless Association has it's monthly Radio Examinations for obtaining or upgrading a license. Exams start at 9 AM.
- THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SECTION WILL BE REMOVED FOLLOWING THE DEC. 08 ISSUE OF THE QUARAE. THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF INTEREST AND EVENTS TO BE POSTED HERE. WE WILL SAVE SPACE FOR OTHER ARTICLES AND EVENTS.
- Schedule is subject to change.

SkyWarn Recognition Day! Set for December 6th (cont'd)

The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to the staff and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or NOY in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs

hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KCOSKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKY-WARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year,

more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors."

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 6 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2008 your year to do so!

**NOVEMBER 2008
EDITION**

**QUARAE
NEWSLETTER**

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE
ONLINE EDITION OF THE QUARAE!**

**QUARAE NEWSLETTERS THAT ARE
MAILED ARE PRINTED IN
GRAY-SCALE.**

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Nicholas Seelinger
KB3RDO**

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