

QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION
6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: AA1M@ARRL.NET

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG

JUNE 2019

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**QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948
IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
1948-2018, OUR 70th YEAR**

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Don Melanson, KA1MAP
Vice President – Mike Rioux, W1USN
Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH

Club Webmaster – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Club Call Trustee – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Nominating Committee- Barbara Day, KA1EDV
QRA 2-Meter Net- Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES
Tom Cefalo Jr.- W1EX
Tim McNulty, K1TIM
Field Day Committee- Walter Callahan, KC1ENI
Jim Powers, KC1ENJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Watt, W1HN 2018-2019
John Carrick, KB1YEF 2017-2019
Tim McNulty, K1TIM 2017-2019
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2017-2019

Education Committee- Jim Fisk, W1HL
Membership committee - **VACANCY**
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M
Speaker Committee - Mike Rioux, W1USN
John Carrick, KB1YEF
Banquet Committee- John Carrick, KB1YEF
Barbara Day, KA1EDV
Jim Fisk, W1HL

IS IT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES ? STILL ONLY \$20.00

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer at the next meeting or sent to him at:
QRA c/o Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The QRA holds its membership meetings at the Reading, MA Senior Citizen Center at 49 Pleasant Street in the old fire house. All are invited and holding an Amateur Radio license is not required. Meetings begin around 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, September through June. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

Ham Radio Station For Sale

Kenwood TS-570D 10 thru 160 Mtrs. Radio has optional YK-88C-1 CW filter and YK-88SN-1 SSB filter. Radio comes with the Kenwood MC-50 desk mic.

Radio has Factory automatic antenna tuner and puts out 100 watts. Price is \$400.00 firm.

For more info please call Don KA1MAP 339-203-5166.

Learning about batteries

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I often say that getting an amateur radio license is as much getting a license to learn as it is getting a license to operate on the amateur radio bands. Lately, I've been learning about batteries, LiPo batteries to be exact.

It all started when I purchased a Morserino (<http://morserino.info/>). The Morserino is a Morse Code learning aid that has a number of unique features. For example, in addition to helping you learn the characters, it's also supposed to help you learn how to copy in your head. It also has a built-in touch keyer function, and a LoRa interface that lets you send and receive code from other Morserino units.

[[Image at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/morserino-768x670.jpg> goes here]]

I'll be writing more about the Morserino in a future column, but let's get back to batteries. The kit did not come with a battery.

Instead, it was suggested that one purchase a 600 mAh LiPo battery commonly used for powering drones. [I found this battery on Amazon](#), and purchased a six pack of them, thinking that I'd find uses for the other five in some project or another.

[[Image at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/tattu-3.7v-600-mah-battery-768x522.png> goes here.]]

Well, sooner than expected, I did find another application for one of the batteries. I'm building a little Arduino project for a client, and I reckon that this, or one with more capacity, will make a great power source for the project.

Now, I have two immediate challenges:

1. Figure out how to charge the battery.
2. Figure out how to connect it to the Arduino.

On the Morserino, the battery plugs directly into a connector on the bottom of the computer board (the white board with the LED display). I knew that connecting the 5V line from the USB connector directly to the battery was a no-no, but I'd lent out the Morserino to a friend, and I didn't have the schematics for the board. So, how they managed to charge the battery from the USB port was a bit of a mystery.

I emailed Willi, OE1WKL, the designer of the Morserino, and he sent me a wealth of information. There actually is a battery-management IC, the TP4054, on the board:

[[Image from <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/heltec-power-supply-768x327.png> goes here.]]

He also gave me the part number for the battery's mating connector. He said, "The mating connector for the Molex connector on the battery is a Molex 51006. It is sometimes referred to by vendors as 51005 female, but 51005 is the connector on the battery." You can, of course, buy pre-made cable assemblies on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07P54QTR8>).

You can also buy lithium battery charging modules (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01LZSC7I8>). These modules have a TP4056 on them, which is similar to the TP4054. It's amazing to me that you can purchase ten of these things for less than seven bucks.

So, that's where I'm at right now. Once I get the modules and cables, I'm going to hook it all up and get the Arduino system running from the battery. The next step will be to integrate a small solar panel and run the whole thing from solar power, hopefully.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). He often wonders if he can learn things fast enough.

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QRA ON FACEBOOK

Join us on our combined Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/> and keep up to date with information about QRA and the Wolf Pack Repeater System. Both are being run by Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.

**COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS
WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075
FM/FUSIO * PL Tone 151.4 Echolink: WO1VES-R (813502)**

KDA Custom Embroidery is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For over 20 years, Paul and Kathleen have been providing customized embroidery and screen-printing from their shop on Pearl Street in Reading. Names, monograms, call signs, logos and designs (stock or customized) can be stitched on hats, shirts, sweatshirts, polo-shirts and more. Purchase garments from them or provide your own.

Visit: www.kdaembroidery.com, email to kdace@aol.com or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY

JUNE 20, 2019

AND WILL BEGIN AT

***** 7:00 PM *****

We will be having our annual banquet and installation of new club officers and BOD members

QRA MAY 2019 MEETING MINUTES

The May 2019 monthly membership meeting held on May 16 was called to order at 7:12 pm.

Club treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH noted we have a checking balance of \$1,265.00 as of the beginning of the meeting.

Banquet volunteer Tim McNulty, K1TIM will have the assistance of John Carrick, KB1YEF in the planning and set up of this years banquet. Member Jim Fisk, W1HL had a falling accident at home and will be tied up recuperating so he will be unable to help with the banquet this year. Jim has been a major help with past QRA banquets. (We wish Jim a speedy recovery). After discussion, it was decided to have party platters for the banquet. An attendance head count would be a lot of help with the ordering of the food and beverages. PLEASE NOTIFY EITHER BOB AT 781 272 6219 OR TIM VIA EMAIL IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING. The club will handle the expense and donations will be welcome and appreciated.

With no interest in having QRA field day this year, it was recommended club members find another club to operate at. We have had an enthusiastic invitation to attend the Nashua clubs field day and member Ron Draper, WA1QZK will welcome anyone who wants to operate on Saturday at his set up at the Richardson's Ice Cream on Route 114 in Middleton.

Nominations were made for next years officers and BOD members. For secretary, Bob Reiser, AA1M and treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, BOD members for the next two years will be Tim McNulty, K1TIM, John Carrick, KB1YEF and Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.

Members were invited to come and operate the Museum Ships Weekend on the USS Cassin Young DD793 on Saturday at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm. (submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M club secretary)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL TO:

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