

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 1

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2019, OUR 71ST 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

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John Carrick, KB1YEF 2019-2021

Tim McNulty, K1TIM 2019-2021

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Membership committee - **VACANCY**

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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

Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:

From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM
Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73, Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

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 is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

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.

DXpedition to use FT8 robot?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: [Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed](#). He wrote:

“A [DXpedition to Tokelau](#) will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mod

“Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a “FoxBot” for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot.”

John has since updated this post, noting “The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in ‘full compliance’ with the mode.” Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent *ARRL Letter* noted:

“ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

“A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote.”

As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

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QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES

BOXBORO HAMVENTION 2019

A few QRA members and myself attended this years ARRL New England Division Convention, Northeast HamXposition in Boxboro Mass on the first weekend of September. First off, I'd like to congratulate our club president Don Melanson, KA1MAP on winning one of the drawings of a 2m/440 hand held radio. I also noticed the name of Al Nardone, W1PLK on the winners list. I don't remember what he won. It was a good day for QRA members.

I bumped into a few old friends while roaming around the facility. Chris Querze, N1JKO comes to mind. He was a past president of QRA when he lived in Winchester, MA.

There seems to be less and less vendors each year, but the convention chairman Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF noted at the Saturday dinner that the attendance count has been climbing for the last few years. He was very happy to announce there were many people who passed the Tech-in-a-Day review conducted by the Cape Ann ARA and a bunch passed upgrade exams to General and Extra class.

As usual, there were plenty of forums to attend. If you have an interest in Fox Hunting, Flex-Radio, Traffic Handling or antenna modeling, there was a forum for it. I enjoyed a talk on the Heath company and restoring Heathkits but had to miss the forum on "Getting started in Amateur Satellites" on Sunday morning. It was scheduled for 3 hours. I'll bet it was interesting.

The Nashua ARA ran a station using the special event call sign of N1T near the entrance. It was dedicated to amateur satellites and had many contacts with FM and SSB modes. They had an unbelievable setup. I should also note they took up the whole back wall in the main exhibit hall with displays about their club. Very impressive. The ARRL also had an HF station available for operating.

Some of the sellers in the main exhibit hall were HRO, Quicksilver Radio, Elecraft (a W1USN Favorite), Gold Medal Ideas embroidery, AMSAT, the ARRL, DipoleUSA and NEAR-Fest.

The outdoor flea market had a pretty good selection of THINGS I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT. I tried to keep my hands in my pockets. We had plenty of parking so it was easy to buy something and then run it over to your car. I managed to talk with the guy from Cobra antennas and got a few hints about hanging my antenna.

Bob Reiser, AA1M

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.

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QRA JUNE 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ANNAL BANQUET

The QRA Annual Banquet and membership meeting was called to order at 7:21 pm on June 20, 2019 by our club president Don Melanson, KA1MAP. After everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the crowd, we had an unofficial installation of club officers and BOD members.

President Don thanked John Carrick, KB1YEF and Tim McNulty, K1TIM for their efforts in setting up the banquet. They did a great job. We enjoyed a very nice serving of party platters and cold drinks.

Ron Draper, WA1QZK invited all to visit and operate the ARRL Field Day with him at the Richardson's Ice Cream parking lot on Rte. 114 in Middleton, MA. President Don noted all were invited to the BARS club FD operation in Billerica and the Nashua ARC in Nashua, NH.

The officers and BOD members wished all a happy and safe Summer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm. Banquet started at 7:32.

There were 13 members and guests attending.

Bob Reiser, AA1M QRA secretary

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**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS
THURSDAY EVENING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

AND WILL BEGIN AT

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

**At the Reading Senior Citizen Center on
Pleasant Street in Reading Mass.**

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

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