

# QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION

6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: [AA1M@ARRL.NET](mailto:AA1M@ARRL.NET)

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

**ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.W1EKT.ORG](http://WWW.W1EKT.ORG)**

NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3

QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948

IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1948-2019, OUR 71ST YEAR

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

President – Don Melanson, W1DM ex- 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**

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2019-2021

John Carrick, KB1YEF 2019-2021

Tim McNulty, K1TIM 2019-2021

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

**THE**

**781-368-3413**

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**Wolf**

Email: [brian@shamelesswolf.com](mailto:brian@shamelesswolf.com)

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

## **QRA OCTOBER 2019 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

Our October 2019 monthly membership meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by club president Dom Melanson, KA1MAP (Now W1DM, November 13, 2019)

Don asked all to introduce themselves to the group.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the September membership meeting minutes as read in the QRA News.

Club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M noted that club treasurer Jeff Hollis, W1CKH was absent and there would'nt be a club treasury report.

Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES gave a report on the 2 meter repeater. The repeater is at the same location and soon will be moved back to Brian's house and the call will be changed to WO1VES/R.

A motion was made by club president Don to make Abbie Murphy, XYL of member Jim Murphy, N1FXL an Honorary Associate member of QRA. Motion passed, Abbie will now be required to sign in as a member on the membership meeting attendance sheet.

A short talk was given by Tom Walsh, K1TW, Eastern Mass ARRL Section Manager on looking for ideas about getting more people interested in our hobby using mailing and fliers dropped off at local libraries and schools.

Member Tom Hashem, KA1F donated 2 used laptops for anyone wishing one.

President Don noted we will be making plans for our annual Christmas party at our November membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15. (Submitted by Bob Reiser, AA1M club secretary)

**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](http://www.kdaembroidery.com), email to [kdace@aol.com](mailto:kdace@aol.com) or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

## **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.

**QRA IS ON THE WEB AT: WWW.W1EKT.ORG**

## **- ATLAS AERIAL IMAGING -**

*Residential & Commercial Real Estate Imaging - Bridge Inspections - Precision Measuring*

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## **QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

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.

# Know a young ham going to college next year? Have him or her apply for an ARRL scholarship.

November 1, 2019 By [Dan KB6NU](#)

*From Dale Williams, WA8EFK, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director...*

We are about mid point in the time period for applications relating to ARRL Foundation Scholarships. The foundation accept applications from September 1 through midnight of December 31. I mention this as a past member of the Foundation Board and as a reminder to students about to graduate who would appreciate a grant to assist them in their education. I suspect most would. There are many opportunities waiting in the program. Please examine the Scholarship web pages and review the qualification requirements. We currently have 89 scholarships available and some make multiple awards each year. True, not everyone will qualify for every award, as some are limited to specific courses of study, some to specific geographic regions, but the vast majority present significant opportunities for students.

<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-application> will take you directly to the application form and the details for completing the application. There are also links to the Scholarships themselves along with the qualification details.

Last year, while serving on that board, I took note that there were not many applicants from our Great Lakes Division. I suspect that these scholarships don't get a lot of media attention and tend to remain in the background compared to many local scholarships. So here I am shouting for all to hear: "We have the funds, contributed by individuals, foundations, trusts, clubs and others who love ham radio and want to continue to support those striving for a higher education. Please take advantage of these offers!"

## ENJOY READING INTERESTING ARTICLES? TRY KB6NU'S HAM RADIO BLOG, I DO...

### How to help kids learn CW?

November 7, 2019 By [Dan KB6NU](#)

Yesterday, a reader wrote:

*My 9 year old son and his 7 year old twin brothers have expressed some interest in learning Morse code. Actually they're pestering me about it. I don't know the code nor do I have a clue how to best teach it. I've messed around with Koch method but just haven't put enough effort into it to master CW. Koch seems like a good technique to learn.*

*Looking for your guidance on what tools and approach might work for kids.*

*I'm thinking they might like a code practice oscillator to practice sending and receiving. I have a couple arduinos laying around if there's an easy kit available. I also don't mind buying a commercial product (one for each boy) if there's a good one.*

*I really don't know where to start here but I want to encourage them.*

I posted this question to the CWOps mailing list and got a bunch of suggestions and offers to help. Here is a summary:

- Give them an iPad and download some Morse Code apps?
- Re: teaching code to youngsters. I did that in 1985 for my two sons ages 9 & 11, and a group of their friends. Along with Morse, they studied the Novice license manual, built a code practice oscillator, and passed the Novice exam in 5 weeks. I'm not sure about the 7-year old twins, but if the desire and ability is there they may succeed also. I wrote an article, "[Robbing the Cradle](#)" for the August 1986 issue of *QST*, pp. 46, 47, under my previous call sign, W8LNU. Key points: have the boys get a small group of friends to work with them, if possible, though 3 may be enough. Building the oscillator taught them some soldering skills. Get another ham or two to help out, depending on the number of students. Good luck to your reader.
- Take a hard look at the Morse Toad app ([iPhone](#), [Android](#)). I think it teaches the code by sound – as it should. A quick look showed me that it starts forming words right away with just a few letters learned. It starts the student out on a preset lesson plan path and I don't believe it allows skipping ahead so it's simple and structured. The graphics on the program aren't sophisticated, but who cares? I think it looks like a good app to begin with, or at least a contender.
- Have them try [CW PLAYER to learn the Morse code](#).
- Sign up for the [Youth CW Academy](#). For the last two years I've been teaching Youth CW Academy exclusively. Never had 7 year olds, but I've had plenty of 9 year olds. If they sign up for CW Academy they automatically get put in the youth program. Young people are not required to wait if there is a waiting list.
- Here's a low-tech approach: When I was 10, my buddy and I (he was a little older) would call each other on the landline every evening and simply talk the code (i.e., dit-dah) to each other, timing with a watch, until we were good enough to become WN3WHJ and WN3WHK. No key to train our fists, but that came later.

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS  
THURSDAY EVENING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

**AND WILL BEGIN AT**

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

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

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<http://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/>**

