

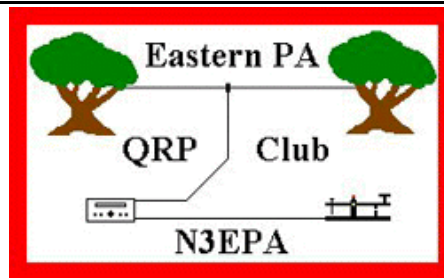
The Eastern PA QRP Club Newsletter

Volume One, Issue One

February 16, 2001

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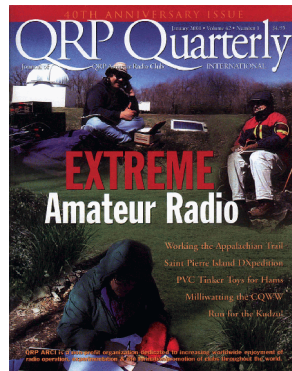
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EPA QRP Club makes the International Scene

The EPA QRP Club's Appalachian Trail makes the cover story for the QRP ARCI 40th

Anniversary Issue.

On October 2000 Craig Behrens, NM4T, asked if I would like to write a story for the QRP ARCI January 2001 Quarterly. He asked me if I would like to write a story about the Appalachian Trail Awards that the EPA QRP Club sponsors.



Naturally, I could not resist the free publicity for the program. So I agreed to write the article. Craig gave me the dead line for the article and asked if I had any good photos from the trail.

I sat down several times to write the article at home, but to my surprise I had writers block. Whatever I wrote down on the PC just was not working. I had a certain idea in mind for the article. So one day after making several QSOs on HF from the AT, I wrote the article on my Poqet PC. The creative juices were flowing and the words just flew off my fingers.

I sent Craig the article with several pictures and waited for his response. To my surprise Craig said that it was just what he was looking for the

40th Anniversary Issue. He decided to place three color pictures on the cover to give the QQ a new look. The top right picture is of me, WB3AAL, at the Lehigh Valley Astronomical Society on the AT near Pulpit Rock in PA. The top right picture is of WB3AAL again about 3 miles east of Route 501 at the Round Head area in PA. The lower left picture is of Carter, N3AO, operating east of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on the AT in PA.

Ken, N2CQ, also wrote a story about his Appalachian Trail excursions to several different states. Very interesting story. What a way to start his retirement!

Both articles are well worth the time to sit down and enjoy the reading.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

EPA QRP Club makes the National Scene

The EPA QRP Club's Appalachian Trail Award program makes the February 2001 issue of ARRL QST Journal.

Rich Arland, K7SZ EPA QRP #21, writes the **QRP Power** article for QST each month. He wrote about the Appalachian Trail Award program and placed a picture of Ed, WA3WSJ, into the article. Since this issue hit the stands, the EPA's web site has received hundreds of check-ins on the page. Rich writes about things that are going on in the QRP world. I think since Rich has

been writing for QST, there is more interest in QRP activities. Thanks Rich for the great service you provide to make QRP known.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

EPA QRP Club Meeting

February 24, 2001 will be the next meeting for the EPA QRP Club at the Berkshire Mall near the Reading area.

Well it is that time again for our formal meeting for the year. Usually people start arriving around 8:00 A.M. in the food court area of the mall. This is located in the middle part on the upper level of the mall. Look for our EPA QRP Club Banner. You can't miss it!!

The program will consist of a show and tell session where you can bring you recently built projects to show off. Don't forget to have a sheet explaining what your rig is with your name and call. This way we know what is on the table. The main program for the meeting will be of 3 twenty to thirty minute sessions. Len, N2BSC, will talk about low impact camping and hiking. Len use to teach a course during his summers. Ed, WA3WSJ, will talk about his DXPEDITION to Abico Island, C6A. Ed is now on the island operating the CW DX contest. Ron, WB3AAL, will talk about how to do your own web page. He will be looking for some input from other members that have web sites up. This will help since not everyone uses the same type of HTML program.

Door prizes will be given out near the end of the meeting. The list will consist of the following items:

1. Four January QRP ARCI issues of the Quarterly
2. Two "Low Power Communications - The Art and Science of QRP" by K7SZ
3. Hiking book donated by N3AO

4. 386 Computer with NA program which is donated by WA3WSJ
5. Two subscriptions to QRP ARCI

I will also have some hand outs that we accumulated for anyone to pick up.

If you need directions, check out the N3EPA web site under the Meeting link. The reason why the meeting is being held in the Reading area again is because it is centrally located for everyone that is coming to the meeting. Maybe next time we will have it in another location.

Don't forget about our Camping Meeting at French Creek State Park in September 2001.

72 Ron de N3EPA

N3EPA Web Site

The N3EPA Web site is now running without any problems since the conversion of our location.

Since we made the change with our location of the club's web site things have been running smoothly. I guess you get what you pay for. Since our old location was for free, there were issues with the server. It was old and slow, and I was having problems with uploading and performing any work on the site. Now since we are on the FastNet servers everything is running smoothly.

Now we are paying for the site, I had to come up with a way that would not tax the club funds. So with the help from club members sponsorship we can afford the new presents on the server. I placed an e-mail on the server and sold all 12 months for \$10 each within three hours. I would like to ask if you can check out the membership page listing and see if I have either the following under your call. Web site location if you have one, history about you in ham radio and any picture of you so we can place a face with the call.

I am open to any and all comments or suggestions to better the web site. So please feel free to drop me a note with your idea.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

EPA QRP Club Membership

The membership count is now up to 73 club members. All of which either live in or visit the state of PA. They also are active in QRP radio. You can find the members scratch building something from their junk box or from a kit.

If you know of a QRPer that lives near you that does not belong to the club please let him know about the great bunch of QRPers that have assembled as this club.

I never thought that the club would be this large. The recent growth is due to the articles in QRP ARCI QQ and Rich's QST article. Since both journals came out we have had hundreds of hits on the page and several new members.

This Newsletter will be sent out to those that are not on the Internet yet. This will be a monthly occurrence and I am looking for anyone to write a short story about any experience you have with QRP.

72 Ron de N3EPA



Appalachian Trail Award Program

The Appalachian Trail program is sponsored by the Eastern PA QRP Club. This turning out to be a well-known award program.

Since we have had the recent publicity in the national and international journals, I have had many e-mails asking about the program.

I am lining up several other QRPers to activate the southern states that the AT runs through.

We have issued several Basic Awards and one Trail award. Everyone keeps asking me why I did not include contest QSO for the awards. My reply is that we would be swamped with applications and I do not think the club could handle that kind of interest. Besides I am trying to promote QRPers to get out on the AT with their radios and Take a Hike!!

It is official. I have been out on the AT for one year straight now. I have been going out on the AT as WB3AAL since March 2000. Last week Ed, WA3WSJ and I went out to our Route 501 location to put the AT in PA on the air. We also made contact with Jim, N4QO, who was in NC on the AT. We might be staying over night in the month of March. We also plan to start hiking the AT in PA this year. We will start in the NE section of PA and hike south with our radios. This trip will be broken into a couple of weekends. This trip is in the planning stages and if you would like to hike with us please let me know.

So get out and Take A Hike! You don't have to hike on the AT to activate the trail. You can drive to any location that the AT crosses a road and setup to operate from that location. You are still on the AT.

72 Ron de N3EPA

EPA Club Member's DXPEDITION

C6A/WA3WSJ is now on the air in the CW DX contest on Abico Island in the Bahamas.

Ed goes to the island twice a year to operate DX contests. He first started this tradition operating the contest while running QRO, what an ugly three letter word. Hi Hi

I knew Ed for quite a number of years now, mostly talking on two meters while driving home. But now I got to see Ed at the first Atlanticon 1999. I did not know that he was interested in QRP and I asked him if he would like to join our little group. Since then, all is history and Ed mostly operates QRP. One year he took his newly built K2 and went to Abico to operate a DX contest while running QRP. Now he really knows the thrill of having a pile up in another country while operating QRP. He is even trying to convert his DXpedition buddy, K3TEJ, into doing the all out effort QRP style. I think you will see this happen in the next few trips to the island. This is his first trip that all he will be using is his doublet antenna feed with 300 ohm tv line. Usually he takes down a beam on the trip. He cut a beam up to fit into a golf club bag. I think this AT stuff is rubbing off on Ed. He will be leaving the island on February 19, 2001. So even if you hear him working the contest try to work him and give Ed a Q. Ed will be telling us all about his trip at the February meeting.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

EPA Club Member # 1

Recovery Update

Ron Polityka, WB3AAL, is back to his usual 100% since his throat surgery back in September 2000.

EPA Club Member # 13

Recovery Update

Carter Craigie, N3AO, has been on the road to recovery.

He has been working on putting his health back on track over the winter months. I recently received an e-mail from him stating the following. His last radiation treatment was more than three weeks ago and now he is starting to feel like his old self. His energy and health are improving on a daily basis.

Over the past few weeks' Carter and Kay (this is his wife) have built the K1 together. Wow, only is I could get my wife interested!!

EPA Club Member # 35

Recovery Updates

Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, has recently had bypass surgery.

He recently went through bypass surgery to on his heart. This was shocking news to me because I know Bernie is a very active person traveling all over the country for the ARRL.

Fortunately for Bernie he has a personal nurse. His wife Ruth worked as a nurse and her latest duty is to get Bernie back on his feet. Ruth has good news for us. Bernie is doing well and he is improving on a daily basis. He is on track with the recover. Unfortunately Bernie will not be able to attend the upcoming meeting.

72 and Good DX,
Ron de WB3AAL (N3EPA)