

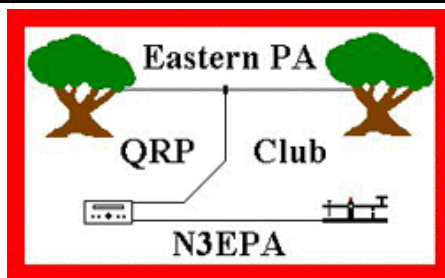
The Eastern PA QRP Club Newsletter

Issue Four

January 14, 2002

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Inside this Issue:

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Status of the EPA QRP Club

At the present time I am still mailing out the QRP Contest Calendar for 2002. Were did 2001 go? It seemed like we were worrying about the Y2K problem and now we are in 2002.

Well at the time of writing this newsletter, the Eastern PA QRP Club has 92 members. I never thought we would make 50 members. When I came up with the idea of the EPA QRP Club, I had no idea of what I was getting into with this creation. Now the club sponsors the EPA QRP Web Page, TAC Contest, QRP Contest Calendar, Club Call and the Appalachian Trail Award Program. All of these items I take care of personally. The club also has two meetings a year plus Hamfest meetings, Field Day and contest score collaborations which I was also running.

With the changing of jobs six months ago, being on call and attending night classes for work I don't have enough time to do anything. I am currently taking on-line classes for HTML writing and I plan on taking programming classes soon. Now the time has come where I am going to scale back my activities with the club so I don't become Burned Out and loose interest in the hobby. I will still take care of the Web page, TAC Contest, calendar, Club Call and the AT Awards. But I am dropping all the other items. So this means if you want to have a meeting, we will need a meeting chairperson to organize them. If you would like to run contest and have Field Day, we will need a contest or FD

chairperson. I will still be there to support and help everyone with their ideas the best I can.

I need to do this because everyone needs to stop and smell the solder smoke. Besides I have six kits that I still have to build. I also have a new K1 that I am building as my AT rig. Many club members have told me to slow down, so I am now listening to their advise. This newsletter is taking me about three months to write and get it on the web site.

72, El Presidente' Ron de N3EPA

EPA QRP Club Structure

The Eastern PA QRP Club is becoming large. We need to have some kind of club structure so that it can keep on growing. Now I know this could be a sore subject with some members but I see the need for us to obtain a non-profit status and a possible ARRL affiliation. So this means we need a President, VP, Secretary and Treasure.

I will run for the President position since I am the founder, anyone else can run for this office. Some members were talking of voting me into a Life Time term, I have no problem with that if that is what everyone wants. But I still need someone to run for VP, Secretary and Treasure. It would be nice if we had at least two people for each position. But if we can only find one that would be just fine. So if you are interested, please send me an e-mail to: n3epa@fast.net . If there is no interest, we will

probably drop all activities and become most likely become inactive.

If at all possible I would like to have an election before spring if at all possible. What do you think? Let me know.

72, Ron de N3EPA

N3EPA Web Site

The N3EPA Web site is being continuously worked on. I am behind in the work I have to do on the web site. So please be patient, I have many pictures to place on the web page.

Last year the club had to come up with \$120 for the web site location. So I asked everyone if they would like to sponsor a month for \$10. It was a great success. If you received a month during the 2001 year, I would like to say Thank You. So the time has come around again to look for sponsors for 2002. Ed, WA3WSJ, is sponsoring January 2002 but I need 11 more sponsors. Check your e-mail on Jan. 20, 2002. I will place an e-mail on EPA QRP for 2002 sponsorship.

Thanks, 72 Ron de N3EPA

HAMMING & HIKING on the A.T. -The Way I Do It!

Those of you who've met me know that it's been quite some time since I've seen the low side of 200 pounds on my bathroom scales; to call me "portly" would be a compliment. And what hair I have left at age 63 is all white! So WHY would someone so aged and overweight even THINK about a hike on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.)? And why would he lug the weight of a ham station along in his backpack? Maybe I can answer those questions,

AND maybe even inspire YOU to join ME for a day up on the trail...

Your first clue to solving this mystery was in that last line: a "day" on the trail. No, I don't have the ability any more to go with Ron WB3AAL and Ed WA3WSJ and Len N2BSC for multiple days' (and nights) hiking trips. Those guys are a lot tougher--and a few weeks younger -- than I. So I go for DAY-HIKES! My goal is to leave my home in Paoli, PA, early enough to arrive at a place where the A.T. crosses a road, and where I know I can find a safe parking spot; my plan is to have all my fun, and then to return home for a long hot shower and some yummy supper.

I hope to get to my starting spot by 8:00 a.m., so I can stretch a bit, heist up my pack, get my trekking poles on, make sure I have the car key attached to a clip on my bag, and clip my water-sipping tube to a convenient spot on my chest cross strap. I find gaiters perfect for keeping bits of dirt out of my boots, and I recommend them highly, by the way.

And so I'm off. Into the hemlocks I go, following the rectangular white-painted A.T. blazes on the trees. The birds are still making their calls at this hour, and sometimes there's a sweet misty fog. My A.T. trail map is tucked into an outside pocket on my pack, along with the page from the A.T. book I've photo-copied of the particular stretch I want to do that day. The same pocket holds my little compass.

Also handy are a small plastic bottle of REI's Jungle Juice (bug repellent) and a whistle (to call for help if I need it), and my ever-present red handkerchief, since my nose is ALWAYS damp. I like hiking in shorts and a tee-shirt, and I've found a hat too hot to wear while hiking. I stow it away for use later when doing the hamming part. A cool spring or summer day is my favorite time to go.

I like having a particular destination in mind. One of my favorites is Dan's Pulpit on Blue Mountain, not far from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. This trail has Pennsy's well-known rocks along many of the stretches, so I stop --

OFTEN! I catch my breath, notice spots others have camped for the night, and look back to see just what it was I just hiked over! Many times I ponder how I could have done it. Why aren't I dead-tired? But I'm not, well, at least not after a few minutes' rest! And then it's on, until the next rest stop, and then on again. NOTICE: if you go with me, you'll get to rest -- often!! It's nice, especially if there's a slight breeze.

When I reach my destination, I take a look through the trees at the MAGNIFICENT VIEW! I am WAY UP THERE, folks, and, boy, how gorgeous it all is. I can see for miles--and I'm so far up, I'm looking DOWN on red-tail hawks! The valleys so far below look so green and pastoral. This is what I came for -- and it is worth it! (See, this is part of the answer to my earlier question!)

Next I open my pack, find my long nylon string and attach the fishing weight to the clip there; usually one toss up into an overhead tree is all I need. I attach my 33-foot blue-insulated #26 hook-up wire to the clip where the weight had just been, and I pull up my vertical antenna. I stop when the wire's end is just brushing the earth; I attach its banana plug into the dual binding post's red (female) end. Then I lay out my 33-foot orange-insulated wire along the ground and over the low-growth bushes and limbs. It also ends in a banana plug, so I put that into the black receptacle of that dual binding post. This, then, has a BNC connector which fits onto the back of my Elecraft K1 QRP rig's antenna jack. I plug in my head phones and Paddlette paddles, tune up the rig with its built-in antenna tuner, set the power out to 4 or 5 watts, and the rig's ready.

I sit on a Crazy Creek padded chair, set right on the ground. On goes the hat, and I wrap my fleece jacket around my legs if it's cool and breezy. I tune my rig to about 7.043 +/-, as I have capabilities on 40 and 20 meters with the K1. I always start on 40 meters. Out comes my pad and pen, and then it's CQ CQ CQ!

Now I really have let everybody I know that I had been planning this trip: I use the EPA QRP Club email reflector; I use the Elecraft and QRP-L reflectors, the Adventure Radio Society's reflector, as well as the Appalachian Trail reflector. When I stop sending my CQs, there are people calling me--yes, I AM THE ONE THEY ARE CALLING! It's great! What a rush! I am so pleased! Now THIS is what it's all about! How sweet it is...

I try to limit the calls to about 5-8 minutes, so everybody gets a chance to make a contact. I don't want people to go away if they feel they can't get a QSO. People I know, and have already worked from the A.T. get even shorter QSOs -- but they are still so good to get. So keep those calls coming, folks, as I love to hear my friends when I'm up in God's Country!

After about 2-3 hours of hamming, combined with some fruit and a sandwich, I'm ready for the hike back down. Dan's Pulpit is about 1610 feet in elevation, and my car is parked at about the 740 foot level, so I know I have a few feet to go down. This is when I really use those trekking poles, as my old knees just don't like the downward part. The poles help though -- a lot! And I rest too -- a lot! In about 2 hours I am back at my car, and ready for the trip home. I'm tired now, but it's a good kind of tired; I'm glad I came -- and I might even have worked off a few calories. And I've done something good for ME! And I had FUN!

A few days later begins the fun of trying to make a new picture QSL card for this particular trip! Often I ask a hiker to take a snap of me with my digital camera, and if something looks OK -- that is, if I don't look TOO fat in it -- I'll use the shot. If not, I'll scan a portion of the Topo map where I went and use that as the background of my card.

As they say, a QSL card is the final courtesy, and I love doing it. Usually I make around 15 - 25 QSOs, and each guy or gal gets my card. Sure, it takes time, but it makes a perfect end to a perfect hiking and hamming day on the

Appalachian Trail. Was I too old and too fat?
Nah! Next time I hope you'll join me.

Carter Craigie N3AO

EPA QRP Field Day

This years Field Day was canceled. But that did not stop some of the club members. Steve, N3ANW, offered to have Field Day at his QTH. The operators that attended on Saturday were Jon (N3ZIL), Ed (N2AQJ), Craig (WB3GCK) and Ed (K3YTR). They were passing messages on packet and making SSB QSO's. Ron, WB3AAL, showed up on Sunday and ran the CW station. Jim, NS1E (ex AA3BZ) also stopped by to give Ron support on Sunday.

On the SSB side they had around 121 QSO's on 75 m, 52 QSO's on 40 m and 4 QSO's on 15 m. The CW station made 11 QSO's on 80 m, 50 QSO's on 40 m, 16 QSO's on 20 m and 2 QSO's on 15 m.

Usually the EPA QRP Club has FD in the Mohnton, PA area just off of Route 222 south of Reading. This spot is around 1,200 ft. above sea level. There is plenty of land with trees all over the place. This location is Eric, WB3FPL, homestead. A few months ago I seen Eric and he asked me if the EPA Club would like to have 2002 Field Day at the site. He enjoys our company and helps us out during FD.

Our plans this past year were shaky at first and it just did not seem like anyone was going to make the event. So that is why I canceled FD and Steve volunteered his QTH for FD. So if you would like to have FD 2002, someone will need to step up and be the FD chairman.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

RFI Interest

Early September I started to notice an arcing sound in the receiver from about 10 MHz all the way to 30MHz. It was hitting S7 to S8 on the S-Meter and was on day and night, making QRP operation nearly impossible. The interference was consistent with 7 seconds of an arcing hash sound followed by about 3 seconds off time, then repeating over and over. Using my portable SWL receiver I started walking the neighborhood and found the signal strongest around my backyard neighbors' house but could not pinpoint it. I suspected an arcing fish tank heater but my neighbor said they did not have one. I called PP&L and reported the RFI with the thought that it could be something in one of their transformer boxes that feed our houses from underground wiring. I happened to catch the PP&L van when it came in to check. Fortunately the service guy is familiar with ham radio and knew what problems their equipment could cause, such as an arcing lightning arrester in the transformer box that may have taken a hit in summer storms. This was not the case. He then pulled out a receiver with a small yagi antenna and we began hunting. We tracked it to a house close by and were fortunate enough to have the lady let us in to search further. We finally tracked it down to a recessed lighting fixture in a bedroom closet! When the light was turned on it stopped. I suggested that they have this fixture replaced as it could become a fire hazard. The lady was very happy to have us find this problem and she did have it replaced immediately. Without the PP&L guy there it may have been a much tougher problem to convince her. I am happy to say this solved my receive problem.

Note: The very same thing happened to me at another house down the block about 8 years ago. Same thing - bedroom closet lighting fixture. Must be awfully cheap ones! Hope this may help someone with a similar arching problem. 72, Dick W3DP #63

A Father and Daughter Hike the Presidential Range in NH QRP-Style



WA3WSJ and Daughter Cynthia on Summit of Mt. Washington @ 6,288 feet

Hello and welcome to my New Hampshire AT Trip Report. About a year ago I thought it would be neat to hike the White Mountains of New Hampshire. After some thought, I started planning the hike. The first thing would be to get someone to hike with me. No problem, Aron, N1ODL, saw a few of my e-mails on the EPA QRP AT Reflector and said he would hike with me. I called the Appalachian Mountain Club, AMC, in March of 2000 and made reservations for July 16th to July 19th. One weekend while my daughter was home she heard me planning the trip and said that she would hike with me. This surprised me, but I said ok! I next proceeded to buy airline tickets from Philadelphia, PA to Manchester, NH. I called US Air and was told the price for a Monday departure and a Friday return was over \$700 for one ticket! The representative then told me that if I stayed over a Saturday night the price would be \$287! I bought two tickets and looked for a place to spend the weekend.

After searching the Internet, I found a nice looking place called the Red Jacket Lodge. The price for a room was \$189 a night, but I figured

we would spend two nights in luxury before returning home. This proved to be a wise decision after the hike. I now had to buy some hiking gear. I already owned two backpacks, but I needed another water container for Cyn. I bought her the same Platypus water pack that I use on the trail. I always use a wooden hiking stick, but I wasn't sure it would fly so I called the airlines about it. I was told that the hiking stick would have to be checked luggage. I then bought a set of telescoping hiking poles for \$89.00. The hiking poles are made by Leki in Czech Republic and worked fantastic. Cyn would use one and I would use the other pole. These poles worked out great on the trip. Small to pack, but nice to hike with on the trail. I also taped both sticks together and taped them to a trail sign to raise my dipole antenna. No trees above tree line to raise your antenna and my telescoping fishing rod is to long to fly.

Cyn now needed a good pair of hiking boots. I picked up a good pair of hiking boots for her from Bass Pro Shops and I had a good pair of boots. I also purchased two emergency blankets, trail map and a loud whistle. Cyn now bought some clothing items that weren't cotton and we were looking good for gear. I started taking an inventory of qrp gear for the trip. Let's see an Elecraft K1 QRP Rig, WA3WSJ AT Dipole, coax, G4ZPY Mini Paddles, 7AH battery, power cord, headphones, solar panel, logbook and pen. I was looking good for radio gear. One important point of interest must be mentioned now. The boots we purchased were of good quality and waterproof. This later proved to be very helpful as it rained on us the first day of the hike. We hiked through water that was almost a foot deep at some spots on the trail, but our feet were dry. Other hikers at the first hut had wet feet! We are now ready for the trip. One small snag, Aron had e-mailed me that he broke his ankle. He would not be hiking with us!

It's Monday, July 16th and we're up and ready to leave the home by 6:30am. We arrive at the Philadelphia Airport about 8:30am and wait

for the plane. 10:15am and we're in the air towards Manchester, NH. By mid afternoon we are at Pinkham Lodge, NH. The drive from Manchester took about three hours. We check-in, look around and then get ready for dinner. The huts serve a nice breakfast and dinner, but no lunch. Dinner always starts at 6pm and breakfast at 7am, but you have to quickly look for a seat because it's usually crowded in the hut. Monday evening we were served a Polish meal because some of the hut crew members were from Poland. After the nice meal, we looked at a huge 3-D model of the Whites and checked our hiking route. Pinkham Notch Hut is the crown jewel of the huts. We were in bed by 9:30pm and I was in dreamland by 9:31pm!

Tuesday morning we're up about 6am and in line for breakfast by 6:45am. Pinkham is crowded, but the place is very nice. Cyn and myself eat a nice breakfast of eggs, various breakfast meats, various juices, toast and if you want cereal. After breakfast we're back to our room packed and over to the shuttle pick-up point by 8:30am. Before we depart on the shuttle we weight our packs on a fish type scale. Cyn's pack weights 28lbs and my pack weights in at 45lbs. I would feel this weight later while going over the summit of Mt. Franklin!

The shuttle picks us up at 9am and we're finally off on our adventure. As we drive over to Crawford Notch, we see three moose! Boy, they are a whole lot bigger than I thought they would be in my mind. We arrive at Crawford Notch Hostel about 10:30am and look around for a while. One last look at the trail map, we're at 2000 feet, and some last adjustments of our packs and we're hiking! The weather looks threatening, but the sun is in and out so we don't break out the rain gear.

About a half mile into the hike it starts to drizzle, but we keep on hiking up the Crawford Trail. Well, the drizzle turns into a down pour so we put on our rain gear. For the next 2.5 hours we hike in the pouring rain up the mountain. Cyn is very glad to see Mizpah Hut as the trail is very

slippery and everything is wet, but our feet are dry. Mizaph Hut is a very nice hut and the hut crew are very nice to us. We find our bunks, change and get ready for dinner. Just before dinner the sun makes its appearance so most hikers hang their wet clothing on nearby rocks etc. I find a rather large rock, I not a small guy, and take a nap at 3300 feet. Cyn reads a book she brought along for the hike. Dinner is again great and afterwards we check our route for the hike on Wednesday up to Lakes of the Clouds Hut at 5500 feet. By 8:45pm we are in bed and sleeping by about 9pm. This hiking makes you tried! Wednesday morning brings sunshine to the hut. We eat a great breakfast and pack for our departure. 9am and we are out the door hiking up to the summit of Mt. Pierce. We make the summit by 10am and are rewarded with just breath taking beauty! A short look on the summit and then on to Mt. Eisenhower. As we approach Mt. Eisenhower, we both decide to take the trail around the mountain. The summit looks like it is a long and steep trail up to the summit. As it turns out, the side trail is overgrown and very narrow at spots. This side trail was not fun to hike, but we move on to the next mountain. We see Mt. Franklin in the clouds and there is no side trail around this one. We meet the clouds near the summit, but the clouds soon disappear as quickly as they had descended upon us. Hiking the summit of Mt. Franklin took a bunch of energy out of me, but Cyn seems ok. I guess my 45 lb pack is catching up with me or maybe old age!

We stop on the summit of Mt. Franklin for a few minutes to rest and then push on toward Mt. Monroe which is close to the hut. As we approach Mt. Monroe, both Cyn and myself say, "no way." Mt. Monroe has a very steep ascent to the summit and we are tired and looking for the Lakes of the Clouds Hut. We decide to hike around the mountain. This decision turns out to be a good one. The side trail around Mt. Monroe is beautiful and smooth with just gorgeous scenery. As we hike around Mt. Monroe, Cyn

says to me, "I hope they have something good to eat tonight." This struck me as very funny and I can't stop laughing for about five minutes. Here we are on top of the east coast with breath taking scenery all around us and she's thinking about eating! After the hike around the mountain, we start on a slight downward trail and see the hut. We have been hiking for five hours and the sight of the Lakes of the Clouds Hut looks really great! We are tired, dirty and hungry. The weather is great and we can see " the big one" looming over us. Lakes is at 5500 feet, but Mt. Washington looks like a cathedral at 6,288 feet. We check in at the hut and find some bunks. The next thing is to eat. I unpack lunch for us and you can buy soup for lunch at every hut. We eat lunch, rest and get ready for dinner. Dinner as usual is great and we prepare for a good night's sleep.

The next morning Cyn is up early and I ask her why? She always sleeps late, but not today. Cyn says, "it was to cold to sleep." The temperature at 5500 feet dipped down to about 39 degrees last night and even with two wool blankets on Cyn was cold. I on the other hand slept like a baby. We eat breakfast and are out the door by 9am. The weather is great, but the hike up to Mt. Washington looks rocky and steep. As we start the ascent, we pass by a couple of shallow lakes that I would call ponds. The trail isn't as steep as I thought, but we're just starting the ascent. After about forty minutes we're half way up the mountain - not bad. I turn around and tell Cyn to take a look. We are at about 5900 feet and can see for miles and miles. The hut looks so small and we can see the entire ridge we had hiked for the past three days - what a view! After a short rest, we continue the ascent up the mountain.

One hour and twenty since we started the ascent we have summited Mt. Washington. The weather is nice, but a little chilly compared to the temperature at Lakes. We are lucky, the weather is just great and the views are wonderful! The Cog Railway train is in service

and the auto road is open to drive to the summit. Cyn is surprised by all the people up here. She looks at me and says, " yeah, but we hiked up here." After checking out the shops etc., we decide to head back down the mountain. About half way down the mountain Cyn has to relieve herself. What do you do at 5800 feet on the side of Mt. Washington? I tell her to go behind a cairn and I will stand with my back to her in front. She does her duty and off we go - what else are you going to do! We're back down at Lakes about 1:30pm and I decide to get on the air. Cyn likes to read her book and finds a nice rock to sun herself on and read.

I look for a spot to put up my dipole antenna, but no trees in sight over five feet. I decide to tape two hiking poles together and tape them to a trail sign. After about a half hour of calling CQ with no takers, a four station finally gives me a call. I work him and try again. After about ten minutes, I hear a familiar call. It's Ken N2CQ from NJ! I work him, but he is weak 449. After that exchange, N2CQ calls me again, but this time he's 559 into NH. He says that I'm weak, put readable. That was about it for QSOs from the Lakes Hut. Two QSOs with Ken and one other one. I had to take the antenna down and get ready for dinner. The hike on Friday would be a long one so I knew that I would not operate from the huts again this year. Still, I did make three contacts from the AT in NH.

Thursday night Cyn puts on a long pair of pants; two pair of socks; a tee shirt; regular shirt; and a fleece jacket. She also asks me for my wool pullover cap. After all this, she asks me to get another wool blanket for her. She now has all that clothing on plus three wool blankets over her to sleep! Friday morning comes and she tells me that she had a good night's sleep. I'm surprised that she could breath with all that weight on her!

I knew the hike back to Pinkham Notch will be long and down hill so we leave Lakes about 9am for the trip back to the rental car.

The first leg back is to hike over to the crest of Tuckerman's Ravine. The first mile is all uphill, but not too steep. After we crest the major hill out of Lakes, we can see numerous trails intersecting on the ridge. Each trail is marked by a string of cairns that goes as far as the eye can see. This is a neat sight and the first time we have ever seen such a thing. Over the top of the ridge we go and towards Tuckerman's. The weather is again nice and the scenery is again just gorgeous. You can't imagine just how beautiful the scenery is up there. The pictures in this article don't do justice to what it feels like having all that beauty in front of you! After a couple of pictures, on we hike to Tuckerman's.

As we approach the rim of Tuckerman's Ravine, we think we made a mistake taking this route. It's a very steep descent until it bottoms out. It turned out that it never bottomed out all the way back to Pinkham Notch! The first three hours of the descent is slow, steep and hard, but beautiful at the same time. The trail down the ravine is steep, narrow, wet and rocky, but we see beautiful waterfalls, nice flowers and gorgeous views. At the bottom of the steep part, we stop for lunch and rest. After a half hour or so we're off for Pinkham Notch.

From the bottom of the ravine to Pinkham the trail is downhill, rocky, and has little in the way of scenery. For the next two and a half hours the hike is tough on the knees. We are tired and the legs are weak from the downhill hike. With about a mile left to go in the hike, Cyn hurts her left knee. I offer to take her pack, but she says let's just finish this hike. We hike slow, but steady for another hour until we reach Pinkham Lodge.

Total time to hike back to Pinkham is 5.5 hours of downhill hiking! I now know that I like uphill hiking much better than downhill. By the time we reach the car, the sun is very bright and the temperature is around 90 degrees. The daytime temperature on the mountain was around 65 degrees! Still, we finished the hike

and had a new and wonderful father/daughter experience.

After a brief rest at Pinkham, we head out for Maine. I want to make a QSO from the AT in Maine because I probably won't get the chance again soon. After an hour drive I spot the AT sign and pull into a parking lot. I'm set up after fifteen minutes and on the air. After my second CQ, W2JE comes back to me. I make the QSO from the AT, pack up and start the drive back to NH.

We're now looking to drive out of the White Mountains to a small town called North Conway. We have reservations at the Red Jacket Lodge for some R&R! After about a hour and twenty minute drive we're in North Conway. The lodge has indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a large hot tube-haaaaa! Well, Cyn and myself spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the lodge and then drove back to the Manchester Airport. It was a trip we will both not soon forget. I'd like to figure out how much each QSO cost me, but I don't dare!

72, Ed de WA3WSJ

New Options for K2 All Winners!

I have added the following to my Elecraft K2, and not a bad apple in the bunch: KIO2 AUX I/O Module, KAF2 Audio Filter and Real-Time Clock, K2 Revision 2 Firmware, and MH2 Microphone. The KIO2 is a serial interface which allows me computer control of the rig. If I change the band or mode on the radio, the interface changes those categories on my DX4WIN logging program. If I click on a DX spot called out on the DX Cluster, the rig is converted to that frequency and mode--even if the DX is operating on a split frequency! Amazing...The audio filter knocks the hiss and white noise right out of the speaker, leaving only pure CW or SSB to be heard, although I believe

it works best with CW. The real-time clock can be set to UTC or local time; I prefer the UTC setting, and it is keeping excellent time so far.

The new firmware allows you to use the serial interface as well as to set up one-touch memory sending on four different message buffer keys, a nice deal for contests. And the new mike has a Heil element in it which is matched to the K2's circuitry. So far I've gotten excellent reports with it; it is bigger than my Kenwood mike, however, and the PTT button is a bit stiff, but no problem to use, as witness 420 QSOs in the PA QSO Party, about half of which were SSB. So, all in all, the new options were quite well worth it. Any questions? My e-mail address is n3ao@arrl.net.

72 Carter de N3AO

September Meeting

Back on Sept. 15, 2001 we held another meeting at French Creek State Park. Last year it seem that it was a popular outing. Some of us even stayed over night in a group camp site. Well unfortunately this last meeting had a small turn out and I was the only one at the camp site over night. Some of the club members did camp over night in the park but in other areas for single camping. I can not justify the club spending the money for this next year, so I am going to place the meeting for next year at French Creek State Park on the back burner.

Now we can still have the meeting at the state park but we can not have it in the camping area due to restrictions on the number of people in one camp site. So we would have to meet in a day time only location. Then if you want to camp over night that will be up to yourself.

Thanks, 72 Ron de N3EPA

EPA QRP Award

I have been thinking of starting a paper award for working EPA QRP Club Members. The first award you would need 10 QSO's with different members. Then you would receive a seal for each additional 10 QSO's with other members. Let say we will start January 1, 2002. So this means if you work a club member any time on HF, even in a contest, that QSO will count for the award.

What do you gal and guys say?

72, El Presidente' Ron de N3EPA

Laptop Search

I am looking for a simple laptop that can run logging programs. I am hoping that I can find one that is not needed anymore or one with a problem. This way it will go to the club. This means if you want to run a contest or special event with the club call, N3EPA, you will have a way to keep an accurate log.

So if you do know of such a machine, please e-mail me at n3epa@fast.net.

Thanks, Ron

Hamfest

This past year we had a table at four events this year. We also helped with manning the Elecraft table by EPA QRP members. I had a blast. A Big Thanks to those who helped me at the tables and all those that stop by to say hello.

72 Ron de WB3AAL

EPA QRP Net?

Anyone interested is having a weekly net on HF for EPA QRP Club Members? This way we can check in and meet one another. If you are interested please post something on EPA QRP server. Please specify the band, day and time that you would prefer and we will see what will develop.

Silent Key

Over the holidays we had a fellow EPA QRP Club Member pass away. Frank Paskowski, KI4IH, did not survive his battle with cancer.

You might remember that Bernie, N3EFN and Frank were seeing who can out do each other with how many heart by-passes they can have.

Frank join the club before Atlanticon 2001. I got several chances to meet and talk to Frank. He carried the true spirit of QRP where ever he went. I know Frank is showing them in that great world beyond what QRP is all about.

I know Frank's son-in-law, Paul (K3PG) will miss him greatly. There is something special when you have two QRP'ers in the same family. I know, since my dad Leo, KA5HVZ, was also a QRP'er.

Ron de WB3AAL

EPA QRP List Server

Well as you all know by now I changed the location of the EPA QRP list server. Too many members wanted to use their arrl.net address and the old server could not do so. Hopefully the new site will give everyone a variety of choices on how they would like their message to be received. So please keep your e-mail addresses

updated with me at n3epa@fast.net, this way we can keep everyone in touch.

72 Ron de N3EPA

Newsletter

Do you have an interesting story you would like to tell the club members? If so, how about writing a story for the club newsletter.

This newsletter is way too long this time around, sorry. But it has been several month since the last newsletter. Hopefully the next one will be only about 4 to 5 pages. Do worry about the spelling, I will let the computer take care of that problem. So if you are interested, please drop me an e-mail at n3epa@fast.net and I will be more than happy to use your story.

Final Story

The past few year have been a blast with the way the EPA QRP Club has grown. I got to meet some new people and to restore some old friendships. Meeting people from around the world at Atlanticon and Four Days In May has been one of the many highlights.

Now with the upcoming Atlanticon 2002 around the corner. George, N2APB, has asked me to be a speaker at this years event. This is going to be a blast, especially after March 2002.

Since March 2000 I have been going out on the Appalachian Trail at least once a month. I just recently got my Jan. 2002 hike and operation in on Saturday. This was the retirement trip for the K2. Now onto building the new K1 AT rig.

I just wanted to say thanks to all the EPA QRP Club members.

72 Ron de WB3AAL