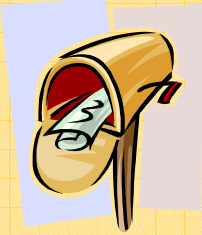
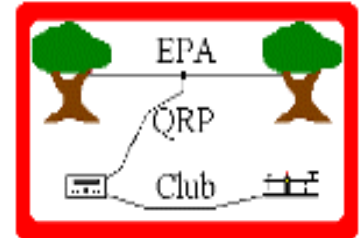


EPA-QRP Club Sounder

June Newsletter
5/21//2004

Publisher: Eastern Pennsylvania QRP Club

"QRP- More than Radio, it's a Lifestyle"



EPA-QRP Club Articles:

- New EPA-QRP Club Member
- June Website Member Sponsor
- TAC Contest 2004
- EPA-QRP Club Pulse
- The World of WB3AAL

Individual Highlights:

NK8Q	1
June Web Sponsors	1
TAC Contest	2-4
ARRL F.D. 2004	5
EPA- AT News	5
QRP Forums etc.	5
Contest Corner	5
NK8Q Continued	6
NK8Q Continued	7
EPA Club Pulse	7
World of WB3AAL	8
Nomad Update	9

New Member Profile: NK8Q

A big welcome goes out to the newest member of the EPA-QRP Club. Mark Schreiner, NK8Q, is EPA-QRP Member # 130. Mark, I hope you have some FUN participating in some club activities. Please read Mark's bio on page six and page seven.

Welcome aboard Mark!



June Website Sponsors



The sponsors for the EPA-QRP Club Website for this month are Joe Stratten #86, WB3JBS and his son John Stratton #82, AA3SL. Thanks Guys!



It's here: TAC Contest - 2004!
The Seventh Annual QRP "TAC" Sprint
Telephone Area Code Sprint

**** New Modes - SSB and PSK31 ****

Sponsored by The Eastern PA QRP Club

Date = **Saturday, June 5, 2004**

Time = 1800 to 2359 UTC

MODE = CW, SSB and PSK31

Click here for [TAC Contest Results](#)

Results were updated on June 8, 2003

Note: Plaques for 2003 are at the engravers, sorry for the long delay.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 12 JULY 2004.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON 31 JULY 2004.

Exchange = Call, RST, Name, State, and TAC (Telephone Area Code) or DX
Area Code.

Pennsylvania stations will send an "X" after their Area Code, example 610x.

Note: It was brought to my attention that some places have two area codes in one home. Please use the area code that you think will not be used by someone else.

[PA TAC's](#)

[North America Telephone Area Codes](#)

[International Telephone Area Codes](#)



Categories

QRP - 1 watt to 5 watts of output.

QRPP - Less than 1 watt output.

Portable - portable station using temporary antennas out in the field.

Homebrew - you built a radio from scratch or a radio kit.

Classic - this is for any QRP rigs made before 1985.

DX - You must be a DX station.

Note: If entering the Classic Category you must make all contacts with the Classic Radio while transmitting and receiving. You must state the make and model of the radio on the entry form.

You may enter up to 4 possible combination of categories, 5 for DX entries.

If you enter into the QRPP category, you will be competing for the QRPP plaque.

Standard QRP calculation for above log for QRP / HB category.

PA QSO (10 pts each x mode multiplier) + Non-PA QSO (5 pts each x mode multiplier) x TAC's (work each TAC per band) +

N3EPA QSO's (500 each) + Category Points (1,000 per category) = Total Score

$$(90 + 35) \times 3 + 500 + 2000 = 2,875$$

Classic QRP calculation for above log for QRP / Classic category.

PA QSO (20 pts each x mode multiplier) + Non-PA QSO (10 pts each x mode multiplier) x TAC's (work each TAC per band) +

N3EPA QSO's (750 each) + Category Points = Total Score



N3EPA will operate on CW, SSB and PSK31. There will only be one station on the air, but I will be jumping around trying to make as many contacts as possible. I will not change modes or bands for anyone. I will be calling CQ TAC and I will not be looking for anyone. So it will be a hit or miss for all. So if I make 5 CQ calls and no one comes back to me I will change bands or modes.

The same station may be worked on different bands for additional QSO points and multipliers. You may also work the same station on the same band in all three modes.

Frequencies = HF bands 10, 15, 20, 40 & 80

No WARC bands. Suggest that you stay *around* the standard QRP frequencies.

MULTIPLIER = TAC and DX TAC.

500 pts. X number of QSO's with N3EPA

SCORE = Total score = (QSO points X TAC's) + N3EPA QSO'S + 1000 points for every category that you entered.

POWER = 5 watts or less output.

AWARDS = Plaques for each winner in each category and Awards for 2nd and 3rd place.

Submit your log showing:

Band, Time UTC, Station, Mode, RST Sent & Received, Name, State or Country name and Telephone Area Codes. Please note the rig, antenna and power output that you used in the contest. You can send logs made in Excel Spread Sheet.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 12 JULY 2004.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON 31 JULY 2004.



EPA-QRP Field Day June 26th and 27th

Well, ARRL Field Day will be here on June 26th and 27th. I'm planning to be there and I hope you will too. You don't have to spend the entire weekend at the field day site. I'm sure club members would love to have an eyeball with other members and field day is the perfect time to do just that. Maybe you have only an hour or two to spare, but that's enough time to stop by French Creek State Park and meet us! If your cw is rusty, this is a perfect time to sit down with a club member and operate cw with some help. If ssb is your thing, sit down and operate the ssb station and have some fun. Yes you heard me right, the theme for this field day will be FUN! So stop by and eat, drink, operate and have a chat or two!

If you need information about field day, here's the link to the EPA-QRP F..D. Website

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/FieldDay/FD2004.htm>

EPA-QRP Appalachian Trail Awards Program News

The AT Awards program now has a chairman - Carter Craigie, N3AO. I hope Carter will provide me with information about who has obtained an AT Award. As you might know, certain contest contacts are now allowed to count towards your AT Award! This is a great idea that might allow more operators to have one of these beautiful At Awards hanging in their shack. The award is very beautiful so make a few AT contacts and receive one. Check out our website for more details at:

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/AT/AT.htm>

QRP Forums etc. Place

Pacificon California October 16 – 18

<http://www.amqrp.org/pacificon>

EPA-QRP Contest Corner

<http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html>



NK8Q Continued..

I was first licensed as a Novice in 1982 at the age of 15 as KA8PAK while living in Frankenmuth, MI. About 11 months later I upgraded to General and kept my callsign. A couple of years later I upgraded to Extra and got the new callsign of NK8Q. I received the ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award in 1985 for my activities as a young ham with lots of volunteer activities with the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association and communications events they helped with to support the Red Cross, bicycle rides, Friendship Games, weather nets, etc.

I went off to college and was active at W8YY at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. I was the Chief Operator and later VP & then President of the club there. Again was active with supporting the local Copper Country Radio Association with various events such as the Press On Regardless SCCA Road Rally and sled dog races. I also helped train new Novices & upgrades and was an active Volunteer Examiner.

After graduating with my BSEE in Communications & Microwave Theory I moved to NJ where I worked for GE AstroSpace where we built communications satellites. I was active in the ham club there, WB2JQR until it became non-existent due to mergers with other companies and an eventual move to a new facility located in Newtown, PA. By that time I had a nice hamshack built in my house in the upper Bucks County area, Ottsville, PA. I have since changed jobs and moved to Allentown, PA where I am starting to become somewhat active again in my spare time, now that I finished my MSEE at Villanova, moved, changed jobs (twice), got married, etc.

My QRP station is currently a pair of Small Wonder Labs RockMite rigs for 40 & 20m. I have a third one to build yet that I will modify for 30m most likely. My antenna is a multiband dipole for 80, 40 & 20m, so I guess I'll have to add 30m in there sometime as well. I enjoy building kits and modifying equipment as well as some homebrew activities from scratch. All of my VHF/UHF/Microwave ham equipment is presently in storage until I can get the "real" hamshack going again. My temporary QRO station is a Kenwood TS-940SAT and I hope to have the Yaesu FT-100 back in the mobile again as soon as I get the ATAS-100 antenna fixed (I need a feedthrough capacitor that Yaesu says will cost me \$160 so I'm trying to find a second source for the \$2 part).

Age here is 37 and am trying to be more "radio active" again as my life is settling down. I planned to operate Field Day with a local QCWA group (Chapter 17), but my new XYL scheduled a weekend getaway for us that weekend. I'll make sure that doesn't happen again next year! I also plan to be active (somewhere) for the PA QSO Party (Potter County was lots of fun a few years ago) and I always enjoy the ARRL November Sweepstakes, both Phone & CW. I did operate a little bit of the new Mid-Atlantic QSO Party while I was in Michigan (Mother's Day weekend and my grandparent's 65th wedding anniversary) but only made about 35 to 40 QSOs with my FT-100 and the old attic dipole on 40m that I had left behind when I moved (the mice didn't chew through the coax).



Oh, so I'm married to a wonderful lady named Ede whom I have known for about 9 years now. She encouraged me to put my 50 foot crank-up tower up when she first met me. She has been surprisingly tolerant of my ham activities and I hope she continues to be as it is a part of my life that I hope will take me well into old age. our house is located on the top of South Mountain in Allentown, near TV-69, WFMZ. It might not be a good location for VHF/UHF/Microwave with lots of IMD, but by golly it has been lots of fun with 40m CW QRP so far!

73,

Mark, NK8Q/3

EPA-QRP Club Pulse: WB3AAL

I am happy to see the EPA QRP Club lives on. If you do not receive any e-mails from the EPA QRP List, you might have not known that the club almost went belly up. The past year has been a hard one for my wife's side of the family. Two deaths and a quad by-pass for my father-in-law made the holiday season not the best one on my list.

Since the beginning of the EPA QRP Club I was taking care of all the club's daily duties. I did not mind because it kept me busy. But with the past years events, I just went into a hole and I could not catch up. That is when I sent out an e-mail stating that I was going to pull the plug on the EPA Club. I had a lot of e-mails from members and the QRP community stating that they were sorry to hear the bad news. But a few of the EPA members came up to the plate and said that they would like to help out with some of the club's activities. The EPA QRP Club lives on.

I just have to get some free time to get everyone organized with some of their duties. I have to straighten out the AT Awards and get Carter, N3AO, up to speed. I need to correct a problem with my computer so I can make pdf files via Adobe. Once I straighten that out I can get the membership and some other things up on line.

So please be patient and keep reading Ed's, WA3WSJ, wonderful "EPA Club Sounder." Ed volunteered to put out a club newsletter every month. I really do appreciate his effort. So with everyones' help and effort, there should be some new things coming soon to the EPA QRP Club. The club's web site now has 29,929 hits on the site since February 20, 1998.

72

Ron de N3EPA

EPA QRP Club El Presidente'



The World of WB3AAL

Welcome to the world of WB3AAL.

My name is Ronald J Polityka; I like to be called by Ron. I was born in Reading, PA on June 12, 1959 of Polish and Lithuanian heritage. I have lived in the Berks County area all my life. I currently work for a pharmaceutical company as a building maintenance electrician. I am married to a great gal, Sue, for 21 years, she understands my obsession with Amateur Radio. We have two cats, Louie and Scarlet. I should say that they allow us to live with them. If you have a pet, you know what I mean.

I was first licensed in 1975 as WN3AAL. I presently hold the Extra Class license while enjoying the lower 25 kHz CW portion of the bands. I enjoy all the different areas of Ham Radio, every thing from QRP to a Microwave TV station. I like to chase DX, hunt counties, chase awards and contesting. I created the Eastern PA QRP Club which was started to unite the Eastern PA QRP'ers. I was voted as the eternal Presidente'' by the first 20 club members.

I live inside the city limits, so my antenna farm is located on my 15' x 60' flat roof. I have a Hygain Thunderbird beam that is about 45' high with a Ringo Ranger 2 meter vertical. I also have the Cushcraft Boomer beam for 2 meters that has 13 elements. Depending on conditions I use the Ringo or the Boomer for 2 meter DX Packet Cluster. I have the Butternut HF9V with elevated radials. I did not slope the radials, instead I raised them off the roof by about 12'' so when it does snow they will be above all the wet stuff. I also have a J-pole for 2 meters and a Diamond Tri-Band vertical for Vhf & Uhf bands. The rigs, well I am a Kenwood fan. I do still have my old Drake C Line.

Now that I am in the process of moving to a new QTH with a big yard my antenna are slowly being taken down. I will not know how to act with a yard, now I can play with antenna at home instead of going to a local park.

I like to hike the Appalachian Trail with the QRP rigs. I usually take out my K1 or one of my Small Wonder plus rigs when on a hike. I have going out on the AT since March 2000. I have not missed a month going out on the AT with a rig since then. I close to 400 QSO's from the trail. I also like to operate contest when I have time. I recently got into activating Lighthouses and Lightships. I had the please to activate a WW II Sub and a Coast Guard Cutter that are docked at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD during the Museum Ship weekends.

EPA QRP #1 / ARRL Life Member / QRP-L #1099 / QRP ARCI #5318 / G-QRP #3031 / AK QRP #309 / Life Member 10-10 #13173 / NorCal / MI QRP #1703 Adventure Radio Society #380 / VA QRP Society #45 / HI QRP #153 / NJ QRP #179

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, ARLHS #423

Elecraft K2 s.n. 1392 / Elecraft s.n. 1011

That is all for now.

72 Ron de WB3AAL



WA3WSJ Nomad Award Update!

News Flash!

I've decided to donate \$1.00 received from each Nomad Award to start an ARRL College Scholarship Fund to a deserving amateur radio operator. I will post the fund amount on this page. When I reach \$500, I will contact the ARRL and arrange to start the scholarship. Please help give back to this wonderful hobby of ours by a donation of whatever you see fit.

*To make a donation all you have to do is send a check, money order or better yet, use PayPal and send to my email address at :
breneiser @ wa3wsj.com*

For more information go to:

<http://www.wa3wsj.com/files/WA3WSJevents.html>



