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**CLUB CALL  
WIEKT**

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# QRA NEWS

**1948-2006, OUR 59<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

Volume 46, Issue 4

December, 2006

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Last months meeting was a re-affirmation of why I like the QRA group so much. I took great delight in seeing the arrival of all the skeptical looking faces as everyone started to take-in last month's speaker and his props (no pun intended). As the evening went on I thought that everyone was engaged and at least fascinated at what others do for fun and recreation other than amateur radio. It was great fun to be part of the presentation and to be part of the QRA. I offer the following web address to anyone that wants to learn more about rubber power model airplanes: <http://www.newg.info/index.html>

Since the last meeting, Thanksgiving has come and gone. I hope every one enjoyed the holiday or at least ate well. I remind everyone that in honor of the holidays that we will hold a Yankee Swap at the December 21 meeting. If you wish to take part in the Yankee Swap be sure to bring a gift. As I remember, half the fun is a review of the rules and procedures before hand. We might have to call on the Board of Directors to officiate. I am still working on speakers for the rest of the year. As before, I appreciate any and all suggestions for potential or real speakers for our meetings. Please bring your ideas or contacts. I think we will do OK, but any suggestions will be tried or can be saved for another year. I am not sure of the tradition of choosing the end of the year banquet speaker. It would be great to have some suggestions or to have someone take charge of that effort. We will talk.

Radio activities since we last meeting:

Vacationed in in Asheville, NC after Thanksgiving, left all the radios behind. I am just now hooking up antennas and firing the equipment up. In the last newsletter I reported on W1WCI's first deer. I must report that I was attacked by a second deer on my way home from the last QRA meeting. Again, just vehicle damage and none to me or anyone else.

Received notice of New England Division (ARRL) Cabinet meeting scheduled for Saturday January 6, 2007 (Framingham).

Tim MacDonald, W1WCI, QRA president

**QRA ELECTED OFFICERS****CLUB OFFICERS**

**President – Tim MacDonald, W1WCI**  
**Vice President – Randy Bishop, KB1EDJ**  
**Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M**  
**Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Maurice Martini, N1UV, 2006-2008**  
**Barbara Day, KA1EDV, 2006-2008**  
**Ray Sylvester, NR1R, 2006-2008**  
**Tom Charbonneau, NZ1X, 2005-2007**  
**Bob Daigle, KD1ZT 2005-2007**  
**Mike Rioux, W1USN 2005-2007**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The QRA November 16, 2006 monthly membership meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by club president Tim MacDonald, W1WCI. Tim's first order of business was to introduce his friend Richard Zapf, who volunteered to speak at our meeting at the last moment. Richard gave an engrossing talk on the subject of rubber band powered model airplanes and showed off twelve different models he brought along. President Tim helped Richard with the talk explaining some of the competitions they attend and engage in as members of the "Flying Aces Club". The meeting was paused at 7:55 for all to mingle and to share in coffee and donuts prepared by QRA's own Mess Cook, Bob Tadgell, W1PIN. When the meeting continued, club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M read an e-mail he received from member Jim Fisk, W1HL in which Jim explained he wouldn't be able to attend this month's meeting and that he would be entering Holy Family Hospital in Methuen on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month to have his other knee replaced. Jim noted he was tied up for 17 days for the last one and would enjoy hearing from and seeing some of the guys during his recuperation. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's and secretary's monthly reports as read in this month QRA News. A discussion arose concerning the rules for our annual Yankee Swap which will be held at the December 21<sup>st</sup> membership meeting. Those wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift priced between \$5 and \$10. Numbers will be drawn to decide the picking order for the gifts. Tom Charbonneau, NZ1X donated a CB radio and antenna to the club which he received from one of his neighbors. President Tim asked for ideas on some speakers and subjects for the upcoming meetings. Jerry Jodice, W1ZQM offered some RTTY converters and machines to anyone who would want them. All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves. One guest Dan Rajczyk, N1KJN passed on 73's to all from his grandfather, Laci Radnay, W1PL. A drawing was held for ARRL Field Day shirt and pins. The winners were Tom Cefalo, W1EX, Chet Tyminski, N1YPH, Larry Keegan, WA1PII and Phil Maguire, WA1HTP. Chet Gunn, N1AKI will be our speaker for the January 18, 2007 meeting. His talk will be about his experiences in the Pacific during WWII. There were 22 members and guests in attendance. Respectfully submitted, Bob Reiser, AA1M QRA club secretary

Past issues of QRA News are available on the QRA web site: [WWW.Rioux.org/QRA](http://WWW.Rioux.org/QRA)

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 2006  
STARTING AT 7:00 PM  
YANKEE SWAP MEETING  
IF YOU WANT TO DRAW  
A GIFT, YOU MUST BRING ONE  
WRAPPED WORTH BETWEEN  
\$5.00 and \$10.00**

**WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH**

After 150 years, on 27 January 2006, Western Union Telegraph stopped taking orders for telegrams. Many of the older folks may remember receiving Western Union telegraphs announcing births or relaying happy birthdays or anniversary greetings. It seems email and the inexpensive cost of cell phone service have replaced telegrams.

**DUES ARE DUE NOW**

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer at the next membership meeting or sent to him at:  
QRA c/o Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

**USS Lexington Flag**

While roaming through the main library in Lexington Center, I entered the front reading room and noticed a flag in a frame. The Flag was worn and tattered and had a brass plate below it. It read, "Battle Flag of the USS Lexington CV-2 flown during the battle of the Coral Sea May 1942. Presented to the USS Lexington CVT-16, 27 July 1972 from officers and men of USS Ault DD-698". If you get the opportunity to view this Flag, go see it.

**"JUST A RADIO OPERATOR"**

Copyright C 2006 Robert Alexander Wallace W1MQV / W1HH (Now SK)

Oh, I'm winning the war with a telegraph key,  
Thought I as I finished a "stack".  
I hope this is not all the action I see  
Just wearing my pants out in back.

I idly shuffle the blanks in my hand  
And glance at the five letter groups.  
I think of my brother in far foreign land  
Fighting up front with the troops.

I check with my watch - where the heck's my R.J.?  
I'm getting as hungry as sin.  
An eight hour trick is enough for the day,  
And I'm practically deaf from the din.

The "trick chief" gets up from the teletype chair  
And says that he has one for me.  
"Get your key oiled up, get that rig on the air,  
Here's a honey - a long one O.P."

My relief gets a curse on his unknowing head  
For his tardiness costs me my chow.  
And this is a hell of a time for a sked,  
The net's QJZ about now.

But I slip on the cans and I rattle the key  
And the rig is again on the air.  
I give with the dits and the dahs just to see  
If the station I'm calling is there.

A couple of calls and he sends "QRU?"  
So I tell him I have an "O.P."  
He sends me a "K" and I start a tattoo -  
Pounding brass on my telegraph key!

I pass the first fifty, then wait for a sec,  
While he starts the next block on the sheet.  
I've found if you don't make an op break his neck  
You get fewer requests to repeat.

(Cont' next page)

**“Just a Radio Operator” (Cont’)**

A hundred, and fifty, and then fifty more.  
 She's long, I've a thousand to go.  
 My head's getting tired, my wrist's getting sore.  
 Can't use "bug" for this guy is too slow.

I'm passing a thousand, my fist is near beat,  
 Do I want an R.J. from T.C.?  
 Not a chance, Chief, you know once my sign's on the sheet  
 No one's sending that message but me.

We finally clear and I send him "AR"  
 And get one from him with his "ack".  
 The look that I give my relief leaves a scar  
 As I grab for my hat on the rack.

Later:

I read how a shipment of arms saved a corps  
 Because it arrived there in time.  
 The corps that it saved was my brother's. What's more,  
 The message that sent it was mine!

Oh, I'm fighting the war with a telegraph key  
 But as long as they want me I'll stay.  
 It may not be combat but now I can see  
 How a message can help save the day.

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The above was written just after the "Battle of the Bulge" in 1944.

Glossary: Ack = acknowledgement

AR = End of transmission

Bug = semiautomatic telegraph key

O.P. = Operational Priority

K = Invitation to transmit

R.J. = relief operator

QJZ = on stand by

QRU = Have you traffic for me?

T.C. = trick chief

(Received via Email from W1USN)

## **QRA Purpose and Meeting Location**

The QRA is an organization open to all interested in radio communications. It is our goal to further develop and help expand Amateur Radio ("Ham Radio"), while enjoying ourselves. The QRA was founded in Wakefield, Massachusetts on November 18, 1948 and is still based in the same geographical area, though we have members throughout the United States. Everyone interested is invited to attend QRA meetings and other activities as well as to join the association. You do not need to hold an Amateur Radio license to participate. Annual dues are \$15.00 and are payable in September. Dues may be paid to the treasurer at a meeting or sent to the QRA Newsletter address. The meetings of the QRA are held at the Reading Senior Center, 49 Pleasant Street. Pleasant Street meets Route 28 (Main Street) in Reading center opposite the CVS drug store. You'll see a traffic light atop a concrete pillar in the middle of the intersection. The Senior Center is located in an historic restored fire barn, approximately half a block from Route 28. Some members will remember it as the place QRA once held Amateur Radio classes. There is parking in the rear and the building is handicapped accessible. Our meetings start at 7:00 pm, on the third Thursday of the month, excluding the summer months of July and August. The club provides interesting and informative programs, repeater (145.290), mini-auctions, coffee and donuts and lots of fellowship. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited.

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL TO:**



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**BACK ISSUES OF QRA NEWS  
ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
QRA WEBSITE:  
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