

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy One Years: 1944 -2015

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

December 2015 VOLUME 88 NUMBER 12

*****Happy Holidays*****

ATTEND GARC HOLIDAY PARTY

See presidents message for directions

How Ham Radio Prepared me to Become a Soldier

By Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

I bought my first car while working as a technician at Emerson Radio & TV in NJ and living with my parents in the east Bronx. I got some driving lessons from my father but he was not a very good instructor. I also got some lessons from my high school friends. The problem was that the used car that I bought was a 1948 Plymouth with a stick shift and a dry clutch, which required some skill to keep it from stalling until I could master double clutching. I finally had to go for some professional lessons, using the driving school's fluid drive Dodge, which I also used for my road test. I was extremely nervous at the road test but the examiner took pity on me and passed me on my first try, once I told him that I needed to drive to Jersey to work. After that I managed to get into a car pool of 4 other men who lived in the Bronx and worked at Emerson. Two were engineers and hams. They were Bernie Kasmir and George Scavon. I'll talk about them later because I got to know them better years later when I worked in the Government Engineering section of Emerson.

I was 20 years old at this point in time. I had passed the government physical examination at Whitehall St. in Manhattan when I became 18. This made me eligible to be Classified as 1-A, which meant that I could be drafted for military service at any time. I had friends who had avoided getting drafted by getting letters from their doctors claiming that they had serious illnesses, were gay or pretended to be, were religious conscious objectors or pretended to be, or had jobs that were deemed to be important to our nation's security. It was also possible to get deferred if you got married and quickly had two dependent children. I could not qualify for any of those deferments. I mentioned that I wanted to become an engineer to the men in my carpool. They said that I would need academic or vocational training in order to advance out of my union job. There were opportunities to become a Field Service Engineer without formal schooling, but they usually required related military experience. Anyone might get hired for field service because most engineers don't want to get called to travel anywhere in the world where they may be needed. Others just didn't want to deal directly with military or commercial customers.

The way that the draft boards worked was that each regional board selectively called up the next available 1-A in age order. In some areas 18 year olds were being called, but in New York City 24 year olds were being called, because there were plenty of 1-As available. I was given advice by the carpoolers to join the military. I could get military training at a military school, because I could easily pass the radio aptitude test (which was very similar to the Advanced Class ham test). Although I was no longer an ROTC member, because I had quit CCNY, I was still a MARS member and that might help me get recognized as an experienced radioman. So I went down to Whitehall St. to volunteer. I was told by the recruiter that there was a special deal that was recently made available for men like me. It meant that instead of enlisting for a 4 year term of duty in the service of my choice (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, etc.) I could enlist for a 2 year term of duty in the US Army plus a 6 year term in the Army reserve. This seemed to be an excellent opportunity at the time. I

accepted it because I was convinced that I could earn much more as a 22 year old with military training than I could with the kind of technical experience that I would have if I remained working at Emerson. Furthermore the law at that time required Emerson to hire me back at my old job when I left military service, and that could be a worst case scenario. I might also be eligible for benefits, such as payments for vocational schooling or private college using the GI Bill of Rights.

I told my parents what that I had enlisted. My father was proud of me. Before the Pearl Harbor attack he had been an isolationist. He had served in WWI but never went overseas. Three of his older brothers did see action and one was badly wounded in France. My dad initially thought that Pershing should not have just accepted Germany's surrender, but should instead have gone to Berlin to hang all the German leaders, but he believed that WWI should have ended all World Wars. He constantly debated with my Mother at that time because she, who had brothers in England, wanted the US to help the British fight Germany. Now, in 1953 my parents had reversed their opinions. As I said my dad was proud that I was to become a soldier but my mom was now anti-war. She did not want to see her only child in a military uniform. She did not like the idea of me going into the Army anywhere. Walter Winchell, a radio commentator, had scared the public when he spoke about his son who had died during basic training at Camp Gordon, GA. I assured her that I was not likely going to be sent overseas and basic training would be a cinch for me. It turned out that I was wrong in both cases.

So strong was my mother's opinion against me getting into a uniform that she prevented me from joining the Boy Scouts, even after I had passed the tenderfoot exam at age 12. I had the idea that I wanted to become a pilot at one time and I attended a meeting of the Civil Air Patrol, which was open to youngsters with similar dreams. My mom also objected to the CAP because she said that flying was too dangerous to be a career for sane people.

Many Americans were against the Korean War...oops... It was not supposed to be a War because the word "War" was supposed to expire after WWI and WWII. It was called a "Police Action". Although the US entered it a short time before the U.N. officially approved of it...It was fought, not under the US flag, but along with allies under the flag of the U.N.

Obviously I did not join the Army because I was especially patriotic nor because I wanted to be a hero, but I did join because electronic technology was going to be a major part of my future career as well as my most beloved hobby...Ham Radio.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

Our holiday dinner will be on Wednesday evening December 16th at the Applebees at the Republic Airport Plaza (SE corner of Route 110 and Route 24) in Farmingdale. This year we will simply see who comes and asks to be seated. Jack WA2PYK, however, asks interested parties to call him at 516-249-0976 so that he can have an idea about how many are coming. As an accommodation to my long trip, we will meet a tad later than the historical norm. We will meet at 6 PM and be seated at 6:30 PM. It will be pay-as you-go individual checks, but if you pay your 2016 dues at the dinner, the club will pick up \$10 toward your food tab.

It is that time of the year again for my usual reminder that on Sunday, January 10th, 2016, there will be a Ham Radio University convention at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage from 9 AM until 3 or 4 PM. It is always a great experience and I recommend it highly. Check the agenda and schedule details at the website:-hamradiouniversity.org

The latest QST has the 2015 Field Day scores. It took a while for me to find the listing for our club. It turns out that instead of category 2A, we are listed under 2AC (the C referring to "mobile"... whatever that may mean here). We are right in the middle of the pack with a total of 1112 points.

Ed, WB2EAV

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 11/18/2015**

By Karen, W2ABK.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances are in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working.

NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV: 2 applicants for technician. One passed; one failed. VEs: Ed WB2EAV, Bill WB2QGZ, and Ken KC2YRJ

GARC NETS: 40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays

Net Controller: Karen, W2ABK

2 Meters (repeaters) Thursdays: 146.745 MHz (-600 kHz) at 8:15 PM

145.330 MHz (-600 kHz) at 8:30 PM. Tone for both repeaters: 136.5 Hz.

GARC Net Controller Karen, W2ABK **ARES/RACES NETS: Mondays.**

NEW BUSINESS -

MEETINGS

General Meetings of the GARC are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM, at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale. Driving directions and map can be obtained from <http://www.mapquest.com>. It is suggested that the GARC web site be checked to be certain of meeting location, which may change after this newsletter is distributed. Board meetings are held at Haypath Park on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon *Meetings may be cancelled or relocated. Check the GARC website.*

WEBSITE

The GARC web site can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/wa2lqo>. Webmaster is Pat Masterson, KE2LJ. Pictures of GARC activities, archives of newsletters, roster of members, and other information about the GARC may be found there. The membership roster has not been updated to delete Silent Keys and to enter new e-mail addresses for remaining members and friends.

PUZZLE

This month's question is:--

What is the beamwidth of a symmetrical pattern antenna with gain of 20 dB as compared to an isotropic radiator?

- A. 10.1 degrees
- B. 20.3 degrees
- C. 45.0 degrees
- D. 60.9 degrees

Last month's question was:-

The speed of a series wound DC motor varies with:

- A. The number of commutator bars
- B. The number of slip rings
- C. The loads applied to the motor
- D. The direction of rotation.

Answer: The correct answer is C.

WHAT I DID IN KOREA

When I mustered out of the Army, I and all of the other soldiers who had shipped into San Francisco from Incheon, Korea with me, were debriefed by an Army Officer. We were told that we should never talk about anything we had witnessed while serving in South Korea.

Bob Hope, who had visited Korea as a USO entertainer many times, wrote a book called "I Never Left Home". This was written to tell the folks at home that the GIs in Korea behaved themselves as well they would when living in their home town communities. Generally speaking this was far from the truth. Army life in Korea was not only different than at home but much different than Army life at military bases and camps within the USA. I can talk now about some generalities without naming names. Most of the men involved are dead now. I can say truthfully that I earned medals for my Korean service, which I never applied for, because I don't think of myself as a silent hero and don't want to be a loud mouth bragger either. I never got involved with any hand-to-hand armed combat myself, but I knew many men who had, and I saw how war had affected them. I never watched the sitcom called *MASH* after seeing one episode. It was not funny for me...not that there weren't funny things happening in Korea, but they were no way like those in the sit-com.

What I did in Korea was to follow orders: guard the signal depot, work as a radio repairman, first by managing the updating of PRC-6 walkie talkies and later by repairing civilian radios and tape recorders owned by army personnel. I became expert in repairing a reel-to-reel military tape recorder called the RD-74. I repaired mine detectors and once even an electric organ in a Korean church. I also got the job of running the movie projectors that projected 16 mm copies of new movies that were prepared for entertaining then troops by the Armed Forces Film Service. Each time I ran a movie I earned 25 cents. Not enough to report to the IRS.

The 181st Signal Depot was in Yong Dong Po, south of Seoul, the South Korean Capital. There is not enough space for me to describe the Radio Shop where I did most of my technical work. It had been a storage battery factory when Korea was run as a Japanese colony. The Japanese had used Koreans as slave laborers, producing things that the Japanese couldn't or didn't care to make in Japan. There were many working Koreans who were forced to learn to speak and read the Japanese language but elderly and young Koreans only spoke Korean. There were several classes of Koreans and Americans that I dealt with in the radio shop. 1-Regular Korean Soldiers, who were called ROKs (Republic Of Korea) 2-Civilian Korean Technicians. 3-Koreans Attached to the US Army, called KATUSAs 4- Korean Service Corp workers, called KSCs. 5-Technical representatives (Tec Reps) from Philco and RCA 6-American Army Warrant Officers who were well trained technicians. Most of the ROKs could not speak English, but some ROK officers were fluent in English and translated US military technical manuals. The civilian Koreans were very competent. One had been a watch maker. He was crippled because he had fallen from a guard tower when it had exploded during the fighting war. He taught me about repairing watches in return for my teaching him basic electronic theory. The KSC workers who cleaned the shop and emptied the outhouses were elderly Koreans who were rounded up with no choice. KSCs were later determined by the UN to be illegal slaves. The most friendly Koreans were the civilian technicians and the KATUSAs. KATUSAs were the only Koreans who ate their meals with us. Many bigoted Americans did not like Koreans eating in the same mess hall where they ate. Some did not want to work with Koreans or teach them anything. They claimed that Koreans were ignorant and hadn't even invented the wheel. This was not so because I found Koreans to be intelligent and easy to teach. My favorite KATUSA was a young Korean named Pac Me Yup, pronounced "pack me up." He was always alert and eager to help and his English ability was steadily improving. There was an American Corporal who would punch Pac every day until Pac had punch marks on his arms. I asked the GI why he punched Pac. He said he did it because he thought that Pac was cute. Pac was much smaller than the GI and unable to fight back. The situation got worse when all the men in the shop celebrated because the shop had exceeded some goal and we were given special food and many cans of soda and beer to have a party. The Corporal who thought Pac was cute poured several cans of beer over Pac's head. This brought Pac to tears. Pac was ashamed to be seen in his drenched uniform and ran out of the shop. Nobody in the shop did anything about the shameful way that Pac had been treated. I reported this incident to the Black American Captain who was the head of the technical shops. [cont'd on pg 6]

GARC Officers

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Newsletter

CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the Grumman Amateur Radio Club for its members and friends. Editor: Bob Wexelbaum, Retiree 631-499-2214 rwexelbaum@verizon.net. Contributing writers: All GARC members (we hope). To submit articles or ham equipment advertisements contact the editor. Articles will only be edited when permission is granted by the author.

GARC Webmaster

Pat Masterson, KE2LJ Retiree 813-938-4614 Pat-Masterson@tampabay.rr.com

GARC VE Exams

We normally proctor exams for all classes of ham licenses on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM. The exams may be given at various locations. Ham Exams are - Technician, Element 2, General Element 3, and Amateur Extra Class, Element 4. Time and location may be changed, and sessions may be cancelled if not applicants make appointments. The fee for 2015 is \$14. All applicants must pre register with Ed Gellender wb2eav@yahoo.com. All new applicants should be aware that they must use their Social Security number on the application form if they have not gotten an FRN number. Applicant for an upgrade must bring both their present license and a photo copy of it. All applicants should bring picture ID such as a driver's license. Study material may be obtained from ARRL-VEC at <http://www.arrl.org>, W5YI-VEC at <http://www.W5YI.org> or other VECs. All VECs use and update the same Q&A pools.

Editorial

I got a phone call from Howie Liebman, W2QUV. I was glad to hear from him. He objected to my using the word "atrocious" in on Page 6 of the November Newsletter. Howie sounds strong and well over the telephone and his point of view is well taken, but if you carefully read the article I wrote about "Evolution Revisited", it was my Japanese friend, not I, who referred to the phosphorous bombing of Tokyo as an atrocity. Howie also believed that the women who lived in the area that was bombed worked in Japanese factories producing war goods. Japanese female factory workers usually lived in dormitories within the factories where they were employed. Howie was my friend for many years, and the first to want to work with me when I began to administer Commercial FCC Exams, when most other GARC members were against giving such exams in Grumman buildings. There is no doubt that Howie was one of the best GARC CW operators. I logged for him on several FDs myself. Howie and I went to Astoria, Queens to give Ham Exams to Greek and Turkish applicants, at a time when they lacked sufficient Extra Class VEs to proctor exams. Howie also told me that he had gone to NYC to proctor exams at a black ham club, called The Ebonaire Radio Club. Howie helped many hams set up their stations and antennas. He did more than most of us. Howie could work DX with any antenna at any power output because of his CW skill.

73 and Happy Holidays,
Bob w2ilp (ISIS Lacks Peace)

Grumman Amateur Radio Club
215 Birchwood Park Drive
Jericho, NY 11753

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

WHAT I DID IN KOREA (cont'd from page 4)

He then brought the beer-pouring GI to a military court where the GI had to give up his Corporal stripes. The Korean men in the shop all had lots of respect for what I did. Pac gave me a stick of gum , which I had to accept and called me a “chingu’ friend. Some of the GIs in the shop threatened me and called me a “Gook Lover”. There were tears in my eyes when I chewed the gum. Next month I’ll tell you how I recently found something to be proud about because of what I did in Korea. I will never be a silent hero however. I’m basically a noisy coward.