



CQ
de WA2LQO

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More on Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL)

By David Ledo, AB2EF

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFL is an effective change we can make right now to save energy at home. This will help to prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

You can calculate the operating cost of any electrical appliance by using the following formula: $\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used} / 1,000 = \text{kWh}$

You can find out how much a kWh cost in your area by checking your utility bill or going to the Internet. CFL also last longer than incandescent bulbs thus providing a quick return on your investment. They also provide excellent color rendering and reduced temperatures.

If a light dimmer is used with CFL, you need a special CFL designed to work in this application. I did some research and found that if every American house replaced just one incandescent lamp with a CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emission equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

Most people I spoke with about CFL were concerned about the mercury contents, which are very small. It is approximately 5 milligrams. That is enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. Precaution should be taken not to break the glass. The CFL should be handled only by the base, not by the glass, if possible. According to the EPA, the US releases 104 metric tons of mercury each year. Most comes from coal fired electrical power stations.

What should you do when they burn out? Consumers should contact their local municipal waste agency or go to www.earth911.org

A word about RF interference; in the base of each CFL there is a switching power supply. Some of the older CFL did cause some RFI. I now have a CFL lamp next to my ham radio equipment and have not encountered any problem whatsoever.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV
February 2009

Last month I regaled everyone with my tales of Northrop Grumman and the antenna for the Bethpage repeater. I left it that the company facilities people were going to remove the old ruined coax cable and give it to me to measure and buy the correct length for replacement. Well, nothing has happened. We have had some pretty bad weather; not all suited for antenna work on a roof, and the few times that we had decent weather without snow, they just couldn't get around to it. Meanwhile, my desk at work was moved up to the top floor of another part of the building, and I am pretty near a window that has a spectacular view of the repeater antenna and its bum feed line. Talk about taunting me!

Being in the middle of a rather cold and snowy winter, things have been pretty quiet lately. It is still near the sunspot minimum so the low bands have been pretty quiet too. Not so much going on. So I was surprised to be invited as a club president to an ARRL Hudson Division meeting. I have never been invited to such a thing before. I am not sure if they just started them, opened up an existing meeting to include new groups, or just simply realized that I exist. It turns out to be in Paramus, NJ on a day when I have other commitments. Had I been able to go, I am not sure if I would have wanted to spend a day shlepping to New Jersey. The only redeeming quality to the trip would have been that it is right near Camp-Mor, which if you are interested in camping gear is THE place to browse. Hopefully I will be able to get any minutes or anything that comes out of the meeting.

For years (decades?) we have been exchanging newsletters with the Larkfield ARC. No one has been interested in seeing theirs for some time now, and I doubt that they are interested in seeing ours anymore. I have been trying to contact them for about 6 months to see if we might change to e-mail exchanges or, if there is no interest, consider stopping to save the printing and postage costs on both sides. However, my attempts to reach them have not worked out. Their newsletter does not normally include any contact information, but once they gave an e-mail address...I pounced...No answer. Last month they listed a phone number for someone who also belongs to GARC. I called and they had the number for the proper person...That number turned out to be one of those automated customer service ones. Good grief! I give up. Anybody got any ideas?

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 1/21/2009

By Karen, KC2OPX, secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Gordon at 5:45 PM.

TREASURERS REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT Gordon, KB2UB

Both Gordon and Ed are considering lower loss Transmission line possibilities for the Bethpage repeater. .

VE REPORT – Bob, W2ILP

Two applicants failed Commercial Element 1. VEs were AB2EF, AB2NT, AB2ZW and W2ILP.

NET REPORT- Zack, WB2PUE (not present)

Thursday night net on 330 had only a few people. Sunday morning 40 Meter net had few check ins.

OLD BUSINESS

The dues are coming in slow and steady, and our membership is going strong. Most have filed the Liability forms, as required by Northrop Grumman.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM

Dave, AB2EF brought in a DVD of the MFJ factory. He also handed out information about a new super speed USB for multimedia applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

GARC NETS:

40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays.

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

145.330 MHz (-600 kHz) at 8:30 PM EST Thursdays

[Tone for both repeaters is 136.5 Hz]

(ARES/RACES) Mondays

MEETINGS

General Meetings of the GARC are held on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM. The meetings are usually held at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale. Driving directions and maps 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 eight days before the General Meeting.

GARC WEB SITE

The web site of the GARC 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.

INTERNET LINK OF THE MONTH FOR INTERNERDS

The internet link for this month was suggested by Dennis Kopecky, WJ2R who sometimes travels from New Jersey to help us at our VE sessions at Briarcliffe. . He was unable to come to recent sessions but he sent this web address to me:-

<http://www.radioshack.catalogs.com/1939/>

This is a 1939 catalog from the original Radio Shack of Boston, Mass. before the name "Radio Shack" was sold to Tandy Leather-craft of Texas, and retail stores all over the USA, called Radio Shacks became as common as Burger Kings. The original catalog is presented in a very interesting way, so even if you aren't interested in what transformers or capacitors cost in 1939, take a look at this web site. As you click on <next> at the bottom tool bar, you will see the catalog pages turn as they would in reality, not just as usual next MS Word pages or scroll downs from Adobe.. If the print is too small to read you can magnify it and thus read the cost of anything that interests you in 1939 bucks. Unfortunately we can no longer buy many of the listed products, at any price, in new condition.. Many were better than the ones on sale today. Before transistors were invented most components had to work at higher voltages. Radio Shack no longer carries most of the high working voltage components that hams formerly needed to build vacuum tube transmitters and RF power amplifiers. We do however have some parts that work better at VHF frequencies today. The old paper tubular by-pass capacitors are now replaced by ceramic disc types, which are less inductive. Filter capacitors that were needed for high voltage power supplies are now hard to find, so are the large variable capacitors that were designed to work at high RF voltages.

PUZZLE

Here is another cryptogram: BZLJ XJL MXXN FSXOLO, RJXQZLN XALJO; ITQ BL XCQLJ

SXXG OX SXJU RJM OX NLUNLQCTSSP TAXJ QZL FSXOLM MXXN QZRQ BL MX JXQ

OLL QZL XJL BZEFZ ZRO XALJLM CXN TO. -RSLHRJMLN UNRZRK ILSS—

Solution to January's cryptogram: HOW MANY LEGS DOES A DOG HAVE IF YOU CALL A TAIL A LEG? FOUR. CALLING A TAIL A LEG DOESN'T MAKE IT A LEG. -ABRAHAM LINCOLN--

Lincoln's above quote reminds me of many politicians and salesmen (and even a few engineers) who start by mixing lies with truths and then try to refer to the lies in future oratory, (e.g. tails are legs) by quoting their own untruthful definitions with certitude.

-w2ilp-

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
All the members of GARC (we hope!)

CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the Grumman Amateur Radio Club for its members and friends. Send articles and amateur equipment advertisements to: W2ILP. Articles may be sent by e-mail or postal mail. They can be in MS Word format or simply in plain text. Articles will only be edited when permission is granted by the author.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS
For insertion to the WA2LQO website, information may be sent to Pat Masterson.
Pat Masterson's e-mail address: Pat-Masterson@tampabay.rr.com
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EDITORIAL

Hmmm...Strange things are happening! The noise that formerly drowned out my car's AM radio when I listened to WINS at the intersection of Commack Road and New Highway is no longer there!. At least it has not been there the last times I drove by in late January. I have always suspected that it was due to a form of BPL. It is considered a stretch by some who I spoke to...but perhaps the alleged BPL usage at the Commack- Huntington extension Library has been halted by the new FCC commissioner or his enforcement staff. I'll let you know if the "noise" returns.

The FCC's extension of the time for conversion to digital TV will not bother most of us who are using Cablevision or Verizon but those who are using antennas for TV will have more time to get the \$40 coupons and buy converter boxes. As computers get faster and drive larger flat screen monitors, it is probable that in the future few people will use TV sets. Most will be able to receive movies and TV programs with digital TV resolution via the Internet using their home computers. Radiated radio frequencies will only be used for cell phones and mobile communication.

w2ilp (Ignore Lousy Propagation)
Navigating Internet videos since they were flat!

GARC VE EXAMS

We are continuing to proctor exams for all classes of ham licenses on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 5:00 PM.

The present exams are:-
The Element 1 CW exam is no longer required.

Element 2: Technician
Element 3: General
Element 4: Amateur Extra Class

The fee for 2009 is \$14.00 for all exams taken in one sitting. The ARRL-VEC now charges \$15 but W5YI-VEC has decided not to change the required fee.

Applicants for upgrades should bring their present license and a photocopy of it and know their FRN number.

New, first time applicants should be aware that their Social Security number will be required on their application form, unless they register with the FCC for an FRN.

All applicants should bring picture ID such as driver's licenses.

Until further notice exams will be given at:-
Briarcliffe College
1055 Stewart Avenue
Room: Long Beach #5
Bethpage, NY
Briarcliffe, Bethpage is located in a building that was formerly part of the Grumman complex.

All applicants should contact W2ILP to register, so as to confirm location. If no applicants apply, the exam session will be cancelled.

For any information e-mail
w2ilp@optonline.net or phone-
(631) 499-2214

Study material is available at the web sites of the ARRL
<http://www.arrl.org>
or W5YI
<http://www.w5yi.org>
All VECs use the same Q&A pools.

Since the beginning of the VE program the GARC has provided opportunities to take the ham exams monthly, during all 12 months of every year.

Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP and the GARC VE team.

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008

President	Ed Gellender	WA2EAV	X02-14	516-575-0013
Vice President	Gordon Sammis	KB2UB	Retiree	631-666-7463
Secretary	Karen Cefalo	KC2OPX		631-754-0974
Treasurer	Ed Gellender	WB2EAV	X02-14	516-575-0013
2Yr Board Member	Zack Zilavy	WB2PUE	Retiree	631-667-4628
2Yr Board Member	Dave Ledo	AB2EF		
2Yr Board Member	Bob Christen	W2FPF		
1 Yr Board Member	Bob Wexelbaum	W2ILP	Retiree	631-499-2214
1 Yr Board Member	Jack Cottrell	WA2PYK	Retiree	516-249-0979
Trustee WA2LQO	Ray Schubnel	W2DKM	Retiree	

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Contact VE:	Bob Wexelbaum	W2ILP	Retiree	631-499-2214
Webmaster	Pat Masterson	KE2LJ	Retiree	813-938-4614

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Sixty Five Years 1944 -2009
P.O. Box 0644
Bethpage, NY 11714-0644

FIRST CLASS

DO NOT DELAY

HRU 2009

HRU 2009 is now history. It occurred on January 11th at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage. The attendance was approximately 200. That was less than HRU 2008 when the attendance was well over 300. As far as I know the only members of the GARC who attended were Ed WB2EAV, Karen KC2OPX and I. The low attendance was blamed on the weather conditions, the lack of a famous speaker and even the present bad economy. The keynote speaker was Kay Craigle, N3KN, who is the First Vice President of the ARRL. She delivered a pep talk but said that we are now going through bad economic times, when our spouses may not want us to spend lots of money on new ham equipment...but there are always lots of new things that hams can try. She said that we should all make a New Years resolution to try a new mode or join another

club or build a new accessory, so that we continue to stay active in this diverse hobby. Obviously I could not attend all of the HRU Forums. Those I did attend were quite informative. Connie Currie of the Friends of Long Island Wireless had a good video of a radio museum that is in New Jersey. Her group hopes to make such a museum on Long Island. This is a bad time to try to get funds for any museum. In fact the Hall of Science Museum in Queens is now attempting to throw the Ham Radio exhibit out of it. Next I attended the Young Hams Forum. There were no "young hams" there...only old retired teachers. They showed a video of active ham clubs in schools; both in the US and worldwide. They lamented that it is very difficult to start new ham clubs in schools now that there is more interest in teaching children to be computer users and communicators. The best Forum that I had the pleasure of attending was given by Neil Heft, KC2KY. Neil told about his

visit to a ham convention in Alaska and his own adventurous expedition in northern Alaska after the convention. His lecture was well illustrated by videos and finalized by a joke he told about compacted moose excretions, which are often sold or given to tourists. My forum, "The History of Ham Radio Licensing" was well received. I also worked as a VE at a VE Session that was conducted by Walt Wenzel, KA2RGI, using ARRL-VEC. There were 13 applicants and 7 VEs in attendance. HRUs often attract some applicants who decide to take tests on impulse, without having studied for them.

The HRU Committee is now starting to plan for HRU 2010. I believe that there will be an HRU 2010...but I dunno if it will be any larger than this year's HRU. Anyway all those who attended HRU 2009 got a free Yaesu hat. That was worth more than the two dollar entrance fee. 73,
--w2ilp (Inspire Lost Pep?) --