

# CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy One Years: 1944 -2015

*The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.*

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## **My Life as a Licensed Ham [Continued]**

**by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP**

Many things happened in the summer of 1951 when I was first licensed and became a General Class ham. It is hard for me to believe that I was able to accomplish as much as I did in that one summer but I did it all with great enthusiasm. I realized that I was now an adult at the age of 18 and would have to make my own decisions. I was motivated to do as much as I could to be a proud active ham. Never would I be so motivated in the future nor could I have the time to be, when going to school or working full time.

In July 1951, I received a confirmation certificate from the ARRL for copying W1AW's 80 Meter CW code test at the speed of 15 wpm. This is what gave me the confidence to upgrade to General Class and forget being a CW Novice and thus dropping the WN2ILP call sign.

I saw an article in "73" about joining the Military Amateur Radio System (MARS), which is now called the Military Affiliate Radio System. It promised that MARS members might be able to get free surplus radio equipment. I sent in an application and I received a membership certificate which gave me another call sign, A2ILP, to be used only on MARS frequencies which were outside of the normal ham bands but close enough to be tuned to with my Signal Shifter. I read the MARS literature and learned the times and frequencies that MARS nets ran. I disconnected one of the 300 ohm lines that came out of the Signal Shifter, making the other line more like an unbalanced long wire than a 10 Meter folded dipole. I was surprised to be able to sign into the MARS phone net on a frequency slightly above the 75 Meter Ham Band. I had to authenticate by receiving a code from the net control station, look it up in a table, and reply with the proper response. Once I did that I was recognized and asked if I had any traffic, which I didn't. Since there was no traffic for me I signed 73. I had asked for radio equipment in the hope of receiving an HF receiver and/or transmitter that would be better than what I was using. When several large boxes arrived, bearing return address labels from the U.S. Army at Governors Island, you can imagine how excited I was. I was somewhat disappointed however, to find no radio units, but instead a large amount of small radio components. I still have many of them. There were many mica and paper capacitors, and many resistors of all wattages and sizes. Some were the very old types of resistors that are no longer MIL approved. Among all the parts were two mysterious black objects that had binding post terminals on them. The mystery was solved years later when I was in military service. They were loading coils for wired field telephones systems that looked like they dated back to WW1.

My transportation from home to college at CCNY involved two trolley routes, with a transfer at 149<sup>th</sup> Street. The 149<sup>th</sup> Street area of The Bronx was known as "The Hub". It was an area of many business and stores. My friend Al Miller, W2ESU had worked at a store called "Square Deal Auto Radio" and he said I could work there part time as a radio puller, removing and replacing radios in cars. Depending on the car model and age, this was not always easy or clean work, but it was easier for a skinny kid to do than the boss at Square Deal. Even when some radios could be repaired without removing them, because tubes and vibrators were easily accessible, or even when a repair could be made by replacing the antenna, the boss wanted the radios removed so he could charge more money. I worked for less than the minimum wage, plus tips. I could get tipped as little as a dime or a quarter. The largest tips that I got came from Black customers who tipped as much as one dollar. While working as a car radio puller, the boss asked me to get a Social Security Card. Now babies get SS numbers as soon as they become dependents but in those days most people applied for SS

numbers after they began working for a business that wanted to comply “on the books”. There was a SS office only two blocks away from Square Deal, so it was no trouble to apply and quickly get a card. I valued the SS card only second to my ham license. It made me feel like a working man.

Although I had received no replies to resumes that I had mailed out, I did go for one interview. There was an ad in the NY Times that read: WANTED. Recent high school graduates, interested in telephone work and ready to take a training course. Good salary and benefits. Apply Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM, Bell Telephone Company, Bethune Street, NYC. It sounded like a good opportunity. When I arrived I was given two booklets by a receptionist. One was about the telephone company and how it was a great company to work for and the other was a math test. I was led into a classroom where there were about ten other applicants. All were young men wearing white shirts and ties, while I wore a blue shirt and the same ragged tie that I had worn every day for four high school years. The math test was easy. The most advanced questions involved solving simultaneous equations with two unknowns, and finding the roots of a quadratic equation. The tests were started and ended at the commands of the receptionist. I finished with time to spare, while the other applicants were working feverishly until the tests were collected. I had also completed an application that included my name and address and the name and address of my high school. I was the first to be called into the office of the man who made the oral interview and decision. I thought that this was a good sign, but it unfortunately was not. I told the interviewer that I had a Ham License and was interested in applying my knowledge of audio amplifiers to telephone work. The man asked me if I could draw a diagram of an audio amplifier on the black board. I said that I could and I started to draw a practical speech amplifier with a 12SX7, a 6C4 and push pull 6AQ5s, labeling all components with their values. While I was drawing the diagram, the interviewer made a phone call. He said something that I couldn't hear. I did hear him finally say “OK” and he hung up the phone. Before I could finish the diagram he said “Sorry but you are not exactly what we are looking for.” He called the receptionist and told her to show me the way out. She took back the company booklet and a pencil that I had been lent. There was a secretary in the office who whispered to the receptionist. My hearing was perfect in those days; maybe from copying CW in noise before being exposed to jet engines. I heard, “It's a shame the way we hire. Some of my best friends are Jewish.”

Before the summer was over I completed a 10 Meter converter which improved the sensitivity of my NC-57 and eliminated images. I bought a 0-1 Ma. Meter on Cortlandt Street and mounted it in a wooden box painted gray to match the NC-57. I made a new scale for it. It was mounted upside down so as read in S units.. I also built a Class C RF Amplifier with an 807 that could be driven by the Signal Shifter to produce 75 watts of RF plate input. Its heavy power supply used a power transformer from a TV set and two 5U4 rectifiers.

### **PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV**

Things are kinda slow right now, so let me tell you a little personal story. About ten years ago, I had to disassemble my HF station to allow some work on the house, and never got around to reassembling it until a few weeks ago. Once winter sets in, we spend less time outdoors, and have plenty of time to think about radio projects. Of course, some of these projects involve antennas, and we have plenty of time to get deep into the planning. Eventually we reach the point that we just have to get out there and try it, regardless of the weather. So the old adage about only doing antenna work in bad weather is not only true, but actually inevitable. So, I put back up my 40 Meter dipole, and set up the rig in the basement. I've always liked 15 CW, but my Morse is a tad rusty, so I just tuned up the rig and listened around. Heard a bit, but nothing exciting. I got called away and forgot I left the rig on. About an hour later I was relaxing upstairs for a few minutes before dinner when I started to hear beeping sounds. I realized the rig was on and somebody was calling CQ on the exact frequency I had left it on, strong enough to be heard throughout the house. This was as close as it gets to divine intervention, and not to be ignored, so I ran downstairs. He sent another CQ and I called him; Came right back with a 599 from Oklahoma. Not too shabby. Ed WB2EAV

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 1/21/2014  
By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was opened by Gordon at 5:30 PM

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV**

Finances continue to be in good shape.

**REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB**

Gordon spoke to Bill, N2NFI. We have a new antenna and are waiting for a length of coax for the 145.330 repeater.

The 146.745 is working.

**NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK**

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz nobody was able to hear anything.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had 2 check-ins.

Sunday morning net at 7:30 AM on 7.289 MHz had 2 check-ins

**VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV**

2 applicant applied; one for Technician exam and one for General exam. They both passed.

One passed General exam and upgraded.

3 VEs were present: Ed, WB2EAV, Bill, WB2QGZ and Ken, KC2YRJ

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussing holding our annual parties earlier.

The Board Meetings will now be held at Haypath Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon.

**PROGRAM.**

Ed brought in his hand held radio with a home made antenna. A relaxing social meeting followed with coffee and donuts.

**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.**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon *Meetings may be cancelled or relocated. Check the 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.

## INTERNET LINK OF THE MONTH FOR INTERNERDS

The internet link for this month is:

<http://www.zipscanners.com/resources/police-codes/>

The communication monitoring capability between police, sheriffs and Hams varies in different cities and states, and this is also a subject of interest for CBers and Scanners, as well as ambulance chasers and criminals. As hams we have learned the Morse Code and parts of the Q code that commercial shipboard operators used. But CBers and Scanners adopted the “10-codes” that were commonly used by police, less for simplicity than to keep the general public from understanding their messages. They became obsolete when the codes were published for all CBers and Scanners to recognize, and the outlaws did too. Eventually the police went to regular words rather than codes for best comprehension in emergencies. If you read the comments on the website above, you can see why. The 10 codes and the 11 Codes, as well as newer codes that police use, are inconsistent because no national standard has ever been set up for them. The international Q codes that hams use are regulated by the ITU and our FCC so that they are legally standardized. I know that hams have corrupted the code “QSL”. It used to be used by DXers in this way.: QSL? = Will you send me a QSL card? and QSL = I will send you a QSL card. But it morphed to have a different meaning: QSL? = Can you hear me? And QSL = I can hear you. Wouldn't it be better to send R? for Can you copy me? And RRR for I copied you... as commonly done by CW operators?

This month I have another link to a website for you that is related to the subject above. It is:-

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/sheriffs-want-popular-police-tracking-080441241.html>

There is an app called WAZE that provides maps and travel directions, similar to MapQuest. But, WAZE also displays police speed traps. The police want WAZE removed and this will become a test case as to whether the removal of an app can be forced by police authorities. The use of mobile ham radio transmitters was once banned (and the ban was often enforced by police) in some US states, including New Jersey. This was overridden with help from the ARRL and the FCC. The freedom of using a mobile digital app mobile or fixed is now being challenged by police. We need to pay attention to any decisions that may be made as they may be applied to ham radio communication as well..

## PUZZLE

*This month's question is:-*

What is meant by antenna gain?

- A. The numerical ratio relating to the radiated signal strength of an antenna to that of another antenna.
- B. The ratio of the signal in the forward direction to that of the signal in the back direction.
- C. The ratio of the amount of power produced by the antenna compared to the output power of the transmitter.
- D. The final amplifier gain minus the transmitter line losses (including any phasing lines present.)

*Last month's question was:-*

If 480 kHz is radiated from a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength antenna, what is the 7<sup>th</sup> harmonic?

- A. 3.360 MHz
- B. 840 kHz
- C. 3350 kHz
- D. 480 kHz

*Answer:* Correct answer is A.  $7 \times 480 = 3360$  kHz or 3.360 MHz. The wavelength of the antenna has nothing to do with it.

**GARC Officers**

President: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV 516-507-8969 wb2eav@yahoo.com

Vice President: Gordon Sammis, KB2UB Retiree 631-666-7463

Secretary: Karen Cefalo, W2ABK 631-754-0974

Treasurer: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV (see above)

WA2LQO Trustee: Ray Schubnel, W2DKM Retiree

2 Yr. Board Member: Jack Cottrell, WA2PYK Retiree 516-249-0979

1 Yr. Board Member: Dave Ledo, AB2EF

1 Yr. Board Member: Jack Hayne, WB2BED

1 Yr. Board Member: George Sullivan, WB2IKT

**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 w2ilp.RADIO@gmail.com

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: Element 2 – Technician, Element 3 - General, Element 4 – Amateur Extra Class. All applicants must pre-register to determine the location of a VE session by contacting Ed Gellender WB2EAV. Time and location of exams are subject to change. If there are no applicants VE sessions will be canceled. The fee for 2015 is \$14 for all exams taken at one sitting. New first-time applicants should be aware that their Social Security Number will be required on the application form unless they register with the FCC for an FRN. Applicants for an upgrade should bring their present license and a photocopy of it. All applicants should bring picture ID such as a driver's license. Study material may be bought from the ARRL-VEC or W5YI-VEC <http://www.arrl.org> or <http://www.w5yi.org>. All VECs use the same Q & A pools.

**Editorial**

For those who are getting tired of reading the story of my life on page one of these newsletters, let me give you good news. Next month's front pages will contain an article by Ed Whitman K2MFY instead of my historical words about being a humble Bronx urchin and growing up to become as proud of being a fully licensed ham as Ralphie was when he received his long hoped for Red Rider BB Gun in "A Christmas Story."

I will now talk about the weather here in Commack. I assume talking about WX is always safe, certainly more so than talking about politics or the economy. I can talk about the WX without expressing any personal opinions about it. I will stay clear of being opinionated about climate change, and just try not to slip on the ice that is here now. We had deep snow here in Commack; Only the east end of Suffolk got buried in more snow than we got here. The good news was that even though we were snowed in for three days, we never had a power failure, and our TV, Internet and telephones worked fine during the whole Emergency Period. I don't know if that was because of better management of PSEG, because the leaves had fallen off the trees and the snow didn't weigh them down to touch the power lines, or because the winds seldom exceeded 50 mph. At any rate we are lucky to have had good electrical service. Did I say "At any rate"? Not at any rate! I don't want to pay a higher rate for electricity at any rate. Stay warm and take care.

73 W2ILP (I Like PSEG) They kept the trees trimmed and kept us well informed.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
*Do Not Delay*

**WAG NET MEMORIES IN OUR CARDS**

**By Bob Wexelbaum. W2ILP**

The GARC WAG Net continues, but unfortunately there are only zero to four check-ins at each scheduled net these days. That was not the case during the 1980s to 1990s when I was a Grumman employee and a member of the GARC. There were often ten or more check-ins. In fond remembrance to all those GARC WAG check-ins of the past, I am listing many here in alphabetical order. Many are now Silent Keys. Some are unable to operate at present for various health related conditions. I only include those whose QSL cards I now hold. There may be others who I may have missed. Let me know if you have a QSL card from me and I lost yours. Here is my list:-

AB2EF Dave Ledo	KJ6XE Mike Swass	W2KPD Ralph Thompson	WA2OOM Paul Orr
AB2NT Larry Galante	N2BFY George Sprague	W2KTU Ed Pohlig	WB2FMP Herb Vines
AD4N John Erickson	N2PYV Pete Rapelje	W2NZV Erik Eriksen	WB2HFT Tony Bacchi
K2AAN Harry Collock	N5CIW Larry Bielski	W2QUV Howard Liebman	WB2MPP Jerry Bontempi
K2DOD BertWengler.	NN2C Marty Miller	W2UGH George Pierce	WB2PUE Zac Zilavy
K2MC Mel Cohen	W2WDD Jim Rauscher	WD4GOL Emmett Goodman	
KA2GVD John Marco	W2BLH Abe Berger	W2ZZE Hank Niemczk	
KB2QFT Stan Rogak	W2CJN George Klaus	W3BH Bob Harper	
KC2HNN Tom Lovelock	W2DT Dave Tanner	WA2JMC Tony Arroyo	
KD3BC Jim Bennet	W2III Don Smith	WA2LQO The GARC Station	

In most recent times I have been making WAG Net contacts with: KB2UB, Gordon Sammis, N2SFT, Bill Savage, W2ABK Karen Cefalo (Net Controller), W2RNC, Andy Fallsetta, W2IYS Joe Whitney, WB2EAV, Ed Gellender, and WB2IKT George Sullivan. I no longer ask for cards.

Among my most treasured QSL cards are the ones I received from GARC members when I operated as VK3FMU from Victoria, Australia on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2001, using the club station of the Moorabbin and District Radio Club when I worked KE2LJ Pat Masterson as well as WD4GOL , Emmitt and WB2PUE, Zac.

There are now too few WAG Netters alive and equipped to make QSOs. I don't know what can be done about that. When there is little activity I sometimes don't make the effort to turn on my radios and sign in myself. Those who can, should remember to sign in. If not, why have a net schedule?

Some may say that we should not list old our QSL cards here. We should not speak about our old QSL card collections. BUT what are QSL cards for if not remembering our old QSOs?