

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Four Years: 1944 -2018

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

JANUARY 2018 VOLUME 91 NUMBER 1

NEW MEETING DATE AND PLACE

**MEETINGS NOW ARE ON THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:
5:30 PM JAN. 24 AT HAYPATH ROAD PARK IN OLD BETHPAGE (pg 4)**

“MY MENTOR”

A reminiscence by Ed Whitman, K2MFY

Well I was on my way. In January 1961, I started my first real job after graduating CCNY-School of Engineering a few weeks earlier. Hired as a Junior Engineer at Servo Corporation of America on New South Road in Hicksville, I could not have been happier. I was making good money, really enjoyed the work, going steady with my girlfriend and felt that marriage would be in the future. Driving my dad’s car along the LI Expressway from my parent’s house in Forest Hills, I figured that a car of my own would also be something to purchase. Everything in my future looked hopeful and I recalled the expression “the future belongs to those who prepare for it”—and after almost five years working my tail off at CCNY—I had done the preparation.

The work at Servo Corporation was really interesting. It was a relatively small company—with only about 100 employees—mostly production people with about one dozen engineers working on Servo’s main product which was sensor detectors used in railroads. Recently the company won a contract with the FAA for a new direction finding system, and transferred some of their engineers to this project, recruited a few seasoned engineers, and hired a couple of new engineers, like me, straight out of college for this project.

After spending a week reviewing the company’s winning proposal, I was assigned to work on the design and development of one of the highly selective filters used in the unit. I was going to work directly with an experienced engineer, George Shaler, about 20 years my senior, who had years of experience in filter design, microwaves and radio communications. George and I went over the specifications of the filter and he suggested some design books and articles that I should review. I pored over this literature and brought the articles home to study along with my applicable college electronics books. I spent more time analyzing the literature than I did in studying for my finals!

An unexpected visitor named “Mother Nature” delayed my design work. In early February 1961, the New York area had a very heavy snow storm. This unexpected snowfall resulted in chaos on the highways, and thousands of cars were marooned or abandoned, triggering massive traffic jams. The storm occurred toward the end of an extended cold snowy period and reached blizzard proportions throughout much of the northeast. Falling on top of an existing snow cover the aftermath of the storm dropped record snow ranging from two to three feet in and around New York City and LI areas. All motor traffic on the LI Expressway was closed except for emergency vehicles.

How was I going to get to work? As a new employee I could not afford to take any time off. Many of the employees at Servo lived on Long Island, so after a day or two they were able to drive to work along alternate local routes. I decided that the LIRR was my only source of transportation to Hicksville. So for almost one week, I took the subway from Forest Hills to the Jamaica Avenue station, then walked several blocks to the LIRR terminal and got on the train to Hicksville. When I arrived at the Hicksville terminal I started to walk again. Back in 1961 the Hicksville station was not the massive terminal you see today. It was a low, wooden platform station that exited to the street. As a side note, this small station was demolished in November 1962 as the current elevated station was being built. This massive concrete structure opened in 1964.

Getting back to my commuting journey, I plodded through the snowy side streets of Hicksville until I reached Old Country Road. Trudging past the rustic homes on Old Country Road, the only large structure I recall seeing was the wide expanse of the LILCO property. As I made a right turn to New South Road I proceeded to walk the remaining mile or so to reach Servo. Luckily I was always able to get a lift back to the Hicksville station at the end of the work day. I was exhausted when I arrived home and had little time for my research work on the filter design. After a week of this extended commute, the expressway was open and my normal drive resumed.

As my filter design developed on paper, George reviewed my analysis and commented on my choice of components. He cautioned me to always pick electronic component values that were readily available. When I commented that those values were not exactly what my computations showed, he added that I must deal with “real-world” components that can be purchased. He said that the design would prove out in the development stage. When the analysis was complete he told me to prepare a bill of materials which would be sent to the Purchasing Department. During the time we were waiting for the parts to be shipped from the manufacturers, George instructed me in the use of different types of test equipment. Much of that equipment I had never seen or heard of in college.

Finally when all the parts arrived I spent a week or two “on the bench,” as they say, laying out all the hardware, wiring and soldering the parts to the circuitry according to

my schematic information. During this labor-intensive time I realized that wearing my necktie was not a desirable requisite for engineering work. After burning pieces of my ties off with the soldering iron, I removed this apparel from my wardrobe.

Finally the day came when I sat with George and he showed me how to align the filter using a sweep generator and an oscilloscope. The first cut of the filter showed that the response was fairly close to my design values; however, by using variable components where possible I was able to “tweak” it to the specifications required. At this phase in the development of the filter circuitry I also stopped wearing my college class ring. My ringed finger kept on touching the high voltage power supply leads, shocking me with jolts of electricity that almost toppled me off my bench!

After a couple of weeks George reviewed my final data and complimented me on my work— I felt so proud! Finally we documented all the results and sent the data package over to the Manufacturing Department for final development and production.

Over the next month George was given the design and development of a high frequency receiver (225-400 MHz) as part of a new Air Force contract. Although much of the design was already completed we worked side-by-side in a radio-free screen room which was impervious to outside signals. I was like a sponge absorbing all the information that George imparted to me and the related information I would gather from various technical sources.

But these times would not last. As the months rolled into late summer 1961, various management changes in the company resulted in George being transferred to another program. In turn my efforts on this program started to wind down and I sadly felt it might be time to “move on.” Now with a strong background in these electronics fields, in April 1962 I was able to get a new position with Hazeltine Research Corporation in Plainview. However I always remembered those instructive days sitting with George, my mentor, working together on the bench and screen room as he showed me the techniques and methods of circuit design that I used for years to come.

Several years later when I was working at Grumman, I happened to notice in their telephone book that there was a listing for a George Shaler. Calling him on the phone, I verified that he was indeed the same individual that I worked with at Servo years back. We reminisced for a while and promised to get together for lunch at a later date. We never did have that lunch or meeting but the mentoring that George provided remained with me forever.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

First, let's discuss the new meeting location and date. We are changing the date from the third to the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the location to Haypath Road Park in Old Bethpage. We will be maintaining our normal meeting starting time at 5:30PM. This month that is on Wednesday January 24.

We have held several Field Days over the past few years at Haypath Road Park. The directions I have given in the past are: Take NY 135 to exit 9 and head east. The road immediately turns north, becomes Plainview Road, and goes 0.4 miles to Haypath Road. Turn right onto Haypath and proceed 0.8 miles to the park on the right (just before Old Bethpage Road). [GPS coordinates: 243 Haypath Rd; Old Bethpage]

Next, we have to discuss business: Dues for 2018 are now due. The rates are unchanged at \$20 (\$25 for multiple members in the same household; \$10 for retirees living out of town). Please mail checks payable to "Grumman ARC" to Grumman ARC c/o Ed Gellender 215 Birchwood Park Drive Jericho, NY 11753

On Wednesday December 20, in lieu of our usual club meeting, we held our annual Holiday dinner party at Kwong Ming Chinese restaurant in Wantagh. As always we had a great time with huge amounts of delicious food. Everyone left with a package for the next day's dinner.

For the second month in a row, Ed K2MFY has provided us with an interesting story that appears here. A couple of years ago he took an informal writing workshop and used Ham Radio as his topic on several papers. He has now made them available to us. I am indebted to Ed for taking that course.

On Saturday January 6th I attended Ham Radio University at the new location at Hillwood Recital Hall at LIU Post College (formerly known as CW Post). The new venue is nice and it worked out well. The weather was an issue, being only 36 hours after a significant snowstorm and bitterly cold, which probably held down attendance a bit. I have to say the weather was not an issue at all ... at least for me anyway.

There were the usual seminars on a wide variety of ham radio related topics, and Hudson Division director Mike Lisenco N2YBB gave the keynote address. The only thing that really stood out is that it appears that the ARRL board has been fighting among themselves and Mike is not happy with it at all. The reasons are so arcane that I didn't really get a feel for them. Seems to me like they just need to calm down and talk to each other rather than at each other. Where have we heard that recently?

Ed WB2EAV

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

.TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Ed reports finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Gordon reports 146.745 Repeater is intermittent.

NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz had 0 check ins.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had 3 check ins

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Ed reports one candidate for technician who passed. VEs: WB2EAV, WB2QGZ, KC2YRJ, KD2EXM

GARC NETS: Net Controller Karen W2ABK 40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays

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.

ARES/RACES NETS: Mondays.

PROGRAM

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. Please inform Pat Masterson if you need to delete, update or edit your roster information.

MEETINGS

Board and General Meetings are now combined. Effective January 2018, unless otherwise notified, meetings start at 5:30 PM on the FOURTH Wednesday of the month, at HAYPATH ROAD Town Park in OLD BETHPAGE.

GARC Officers

President: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV 516-507-8969	wb2eav@yahoo.com
Vice President: Gordon Sammis, KB2UB Retiree 631-666-7463	sammigo@verizon.net
Secretary: Karen Cefalo, W2ABK 631-754-0974	w2abk@aol.com
Treasurer: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV (see above)	
WA2LQO Trustee: Ray Schubnel, W2DKM Retiree	schubnel@optonline.net
Board Member: Jack Cottrell, WA2PYK Retiree 516-249-0979	jjcottrell2@verizon.net
Board Member: Dave Ledo, AB2EF	ab2efdl@gmail.com
Board Member: Jack Hayne, WB2BED	wb2bed@arrl.net
Board Member: George Sullivan, WB2IKT	

Newsletter CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the GARC for its members and friends.

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, BUT sessions may be cancelled if no applicants make appointments. The fee is \$14. All applicants must pre-register with Ed Gellender wb2eav@yahoo.com All new applicants should be aware that they must write their Social Security number on the application form if they have not gotten an FRN number. Applicants for an upgrade must leave with the examiner a copy of their current license. All applicants must show a photo ID such as a driver's license. Study material may be obtained from ARRL-VEC at <http://www.arrl.org>, or W5YI-VEC at <http://www.W5YI.org>. All VECs use and update the same Q&A pools.

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