

CQ de WA2LQO

Sixty Nine Years: 1944 -2013

The official voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club

July 2013 VOLUME 86 NUMBER 7

.....NEWSFLASH - The July 17 club meeting has been moved due to a concert at Ellsworth Allen Park. We will meet just this one time at Haypath Road Park in Plainview. [NY135 to exit 9; east to Haypath Road and turn right. Park is 1 mile on right (500 ft before Old Bethpage Rd)]

How I Became a Ham (continued from June 2013)

By Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

Synopsis: As promised, Lou Pascal, W2LTQ phoned the ARRL Emergency Coordinator, W2DUP and told him about my avid interest in becoming a ham.

Because we had no telephone, I gave Lou the phone number of the family whose apartment was directly below ours. I got called on my neighbor's phone the next night and was greeted by Lenny Nachemov, W2DUP. Lenny told me when he would pick me up and drive me to a meeting of The Bronx Radio Club. Lenny was glad to meet me and from what 'LTQ had told him, impressed by my eagerness to become a ham. He arrived at 5:30 PM on the evening designated (after supper) and honked his horn. I ran down to meet him. His car had a 2 Meter antenna in the center of its roof and a 10 Meter antenna on a shock mount on the rear bumper. Another strange feature of Lenny's car I remembered because it was winter when he drove me to the radio club. His heater was not factory installed, but a gas heater that heated quickly, independent of the car's other systems. He later showed me the dynamotors and oversized generator and two 6 Volt batteries (in Parallel) that were under the hood. His homebrewed 2 Meter transmitter ran 100 watts AM and his 10 Meter transmitter ran 300 watts. He had home built separate receivers for not only 2 and 10 Meters but for all of the HF ham bands. The receivers could all be switched to his audio system that drove speakers or headphones. I later learned that Lenny worked in the communications department of New York City and he was not just an amateur. He was a professional.

The Bronx Radio Club met in the north Bronx in the finished basement of a private home. I don't remember the exact address but it was on or near Marsholu Parkway and near to a park. On the first meeting that I attended the basement was filled with over 40 members. Some sat in folding chairs, other sat on the carpeted floor. There were old timers and high school and college guys there, but I was the youngest attendee. Most of the members were hams, but there were some who were preparing to be hams, and not yet licensed. My name and address was taken but I was not asked to pay dues; I don't know if there were any. Some members did volunteer to provide coffee and cake for all. Yardley Beers presided over the meeting; I assume he was the club president. As an Electrical Engineering professor heading the EE Department at New York University, Yardley was a Class A Ham and highly regarded by the club members. Several members talked about technical articles that they had published in QST, as well as WW2 military surplus units and new vacuum tubes that were of interest to hams. The club meeting continued outdoors with a demonstration of Lenny's 10 Meter mobile equipment. Lenny parked his car a measured distance from the wrought iron fence that surrounded the park so its reflections made his quarter wave monopole whip antenna directional, and contacted

several western states (I don't remember which). I thought that demo would end the meeting...but no. More than half of the members, including Lenny, drove to a large fast food place on Boston Post Road. I think it was called "The Adventurers". Some bought hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, snacks, etc. Others just sat at the tables and chatted about their ham radio accomplishments and asked technical questions. I told Yardley that I wanted to become a Radio and TV repairman like 'LTQ. He knew 'LTQ since most of the Bronx hams knew each other from the 10 Meter nets that they belonged to. Some of the nets were official ARES nets; Others were just local chat groups. Yardley said that I shouldn't want to end up like Lou Pascal; instead I should set my goal to becoming an Electrical Engineer. I was in seventh grade in elementary school at the time. I knew that I would have to decide on what course I would take in High School when I graduated from eighth grade at PS 77. There were Academic, Commercial and General Courses and since I was in the honor class I was eligible to take the Academic Course to prepare for college. It was surprising that all of the intelligent boys and girls in my class did not expect to go to college. Some expected that they would have to go to work when they graduated high school because their parents could not afford to send them to any college. In those days many of the girls expected to learn only commercial skills like typing and stenography and eventually get married and become full time housewives. It was Yardley who I believe set my goal to becoming an engineer, which proved to be more difficult as well as more diverse than learning to be a TV technician. I did not realize it at that time that reliable TV sets would be made in Japan and that the need for TV repairmen would eventually diminish when it became cheaper to replace a TV set than repair it. I was luckier than some of the guys who went to vocational schools like RCA Institute, Delahante Institute, or the schools that prepared one to be an aircraft mechanic, which often limited their final career by making them low paid technicians. Thus my ham radio mentors, who helped me become a ham, also guided me into the path of becoming an engineer which I will relate about later although some might say that I am wandering away from the subject of how I became a ham. My school teachers and guidance counselors lacked the knowledge about what the future would hold for academically trained and industrially trained professionals. Hams with imagination knew better about what future inventions might bring in the new wonderful world of *Electronics* !

All this was before the transistor, before the integrated circuit, before the microprocessor, before digital calculators and computers...but not before the imaginations of innovative hams.

(To be continued).

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

Save the date –This summer the Picnic is on Wed. August 21 at Marjorie Post Park in the Gazebo. Nominally we start at 5:30 as usual, but if you can help out, Jack starts the fire at 4:30. Directions are: NY135 south to last exit, then Merrick Road 3 miles east to Unqua Road. Turn left then left again into park. Make yet another left and then a right to get to the far end of the large parking lot.

Field Day is over now. The weather cooperated and as usual a good time was had by all. Be sure to see the dedicated article on Page 6 of this newsletter.

I am also pleased to report that last month's letter-writing campaign to stop a new NY State law that would inadvertently outlaw most mobile amateur radio operation was a success and the problematic legislation was withdrawn. Even better news is that the State Assembly people have agreed to consult with ARRL Hudson Division Director, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB before they try again. Mike has been a long-time friend of the club and he really has jumped into the Hudson Director job with both feet....Way to go, Mike.

I took over the job of Contact VE in the amateur radio licensing system six months ago and for a variety of reasons I have not actually run a VE session yet. I have had several near misses, with people cancelling at the last minute, but this time I have two applicants who seem to be serious about going through with it. I am getting ready for my performance. As you may know, theater people believe that wishing good luck only brings bad luck, so now is the time to tell me to "Break a leg!"

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENEFRAL MEETING 6/19/2013
By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was called to order by Ed, Gordon at 5:40 PM

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working OK.

NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz had 2 check-ins.

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 0 check-in. (Net controller, Gene, not available)

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

No June VE Session.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Day is here!

NEW BUSINESS

Discussing spots for the Bethpage Repeater.

PROGRAM

Gordon brought in pictures of his trip to the Canadian Rockies. Taking a train though the mountains was a trip of a lifetime.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

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

Net Controller: Eugene, W4JMX

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 third 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 a week before the General Meeting at the Bethpage Skating Rink. *For July, the general meeting is at Haypath Road Park, and for August, it is the picnic at Marjorie Post Park Gazebo.*

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.naturalnews.com/040448_solar_radiation_global_warming_debunked.html

This is an article titled “Global Warming Debunked – NASA Report Verifies That Carbon Dioxide Actually Cools Atmosphere.” The concept that the melting of the polar cap is being caused by increases in man-made CO₂ is now known as Gore’s theory. Gore produced a documentary video about this subject but he is not himself a scientist. I must admit that the greatest number of scientists do believe Gore’s theory. When famous people propose theories, for that reason alone those theories become famous, which can lead many scientists to go along just because they think it is universally accepted. However, there are always some skeptics who don’t go along and try to punch holes in popular theories. Everybody knew Nikola Tesla, Hedy Lamarr and Al Gore. Gore ran for President of the US. Few people know about Steinmetz (Promoter of AC distribution), Fessenden (Inventor of amplitude modulated radio telephony), or Dixon (Discoverer of the mathematic advantages of Spread Spectrum). I don’t even remember the names of the Dutch engineers who first designed practical Spread Spectrum systems or the names of the NASA experts and Russians who disagree with the Gore theory. To be recognized it seems that one must become famous or infamous for doing things that have nothing to do with real science. Surprisingly people (even many scientists) fall into the trap of believing famous people rather than scientists. Lord Kelvin believed that Tesla had communicated with Mars! The idea that some famous people can advertise a product that they have absolutely no technical knowledge about runs rampant in the culture of most societies and often spills into academia (gets taught in schools) without scientific verification. How can an ex-baseball player advertise a coffee maker or an ex-boxer promote an electric grill? How can an ex-vice president advertise man-made Global Warming? I can’t understand it myself. IBM not only used an actor who mimicked Charlie Chaplin, but even used pictures of Hedy Lamarr to advertise their modern computer systems long after the real Charlie and Hedy were dead! Why didn’t they publicize any of the nameless IBM innovators? So influenced by the Gore theory were many scientists that some calculated the exact decrease in Global temperature that a given number of incandescent lamps that would be replaced by CFLs would produce! Even if Gore’s theory was exactly correct, this sort of calculating is very fuzzy because many other factors are involved in predicting average global temperatures. Saving energy is good when it saves money. Reducing carbon emission is good where it reduces local pollution. Neither energy saving or reduction of carbon emission has been actually proven to significantly affect average global temperature trends. Why are the polar caps melting when there are no industries producing CO₂ in the arctic zones? Why is there cooler than usual temperatures being recorded at some locations in our planet’s temperate zones, where most of the smoke stack industries exist? Read the link. It may take some time for the Gore theory to fade away unless it can be verified to the satisfaction of ALL scientists. I must admit however to one thing: Gore’s theory now remains accepted by a majority of scientists.

PUZZLE

Last month I asked the following question from the Amateur Extra Class Exam:-

When using a transceiver that displays the carrier frequency of phone signals, which of the following displayed frequencies will result in a normal USB emission being within the band?

- A. The exact upper band edge
- B. 300 Hz below the upper band edge
- C. 1 kHz below the upper band edge
- D. 3 kHz below the upper band edge.

The correct answer is: D.

This month I again ask a question from the Amateur Extra Class Exam:-

What is the definition of “baud”?

- A. The number of data symbols transmitted per second
- B. The number of characters transmitted per second
- C. The number of characters transmitted per minute
- D. The number of words transmitted per minute

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Newsletter

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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 2013 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

I was going to write more about how nice Melbourne, Florida was when I was working there on the JSTARS program. Other subjects now take precedence. Aside from which Melbourne, FL has changed a lot in the years since I was there. The Platinum Coast Radio Club (PCARS) is no longer what it once was. Members who I was most friendly with are silent keys and I am told that there are few new or young members. Also, I learned that the Northrop-Grumman drone program is being moved to California, probably to work more closely with the Northrop group, which I know nothing about.

I missed FD entirely this year and was glad to get the report from Ray and Ed, which appears on Page 6. I just got over a bad case of a strep throat cold, which in addition to my other ailments kept me very limited.

There has been a lot of discussion about Mr. Snowden, who leaked government information, not only in the newspapers but on the Internet. I won't discuss it here but if you are interested you can go to QRZ ragchew and follow a thread titled "Where is Snowden?" to see some of my own opinions about that subject.

I recently learned that there is going to be a museum in Yonkers, NY, which was the home of Edwin Howard Armstrong, the inventor of regenerative receivers, superhet receivers and frequency modulation (FM), while here on Long Island money has been granted to build a radio museum on the site of Tesla's faulty tower!

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

FIELD DAY 2013 - New Location; Same Old Murphy

The best part of Field Day is the gathering of Club members to enjoy some food, socialize, set up and operate our emergency stations, then overcome whatever Murphy throws us.

Our Field Day location at Marjorie Post Park featured a nice large room with plenty of tall trees outside. We selected three trees in an L-pattern to support a 75 Meter dipole on one leg and 20 and 40 Meter dipoles in line on the other leg. Dave, AB2EF, Andy, W2RNC, and John, KA2YIY all brought different versions of a combination slingshot / fishing reel that flings a weight and line over a high tree branch. We had to try every combination of the parts on hand before we could get it going well enough to allow us to pull up the sequence of string, rope, and antenna.

Meanwhile, Jack, WA2PYK did his usual magic getting heroes, soda, water and other goodies to keep us all fed and hydrated. He even found a pizza joint for a nice pizza party for Saturday dinner!

After lunch, it was time to set up the two stations and get ready for the 2 PM start. With the club's TenTec, match box and ground straps in place, the antenna was connected, the station tuned up, and Ray W2DKM and Karen W2ABK were ready to go for the 2 PM start. Not so lucky with station number 2. We could not get Ed's rig to deliver RF output. Hours later we learned that an innocuous switch on the back prevents transmission and it somehow ended up in the wrong position. Not only do you have to wonder why such a switch is even there, but you would think that at least it would be clearly labeled...no such luck. Meanwhile Gordon, KB2UB set up his new Elecraft K3, and we anxiously watched his on-the-air demo. Unfortunately, the little rig could not cut through Field Day QRM and Gordon graciously went home for his main rig until we got Ed's rig up and running. We had to shut down at 11 PM – Park rules.

Returning Sunday, it was evident that our 20 and 40 Meter antennas had come down. (We heard that there had been kids on motor bikes who may have snagged a coax.) The 40 Meter antenna was too damaged to put up, so we replaced it with a piece of rope and left it with just the 20 Meter dipole. We then folded back the long antenna, sacrificing 75M to get back on 40. Ed, K2MFY and Bill Savage, N2SFT with XYL Carole then came in and provided fresh relief operators for a strong finish. Things finished smoothly, including a quick teardown.

While the final score has yet to be calculated, we did manage to make at least 300 QSOs on SSB and almost 100 on CW. Not bad for the relatively short operating time and all the dealings with Murphy's Law.

--Ray W2DKM and Ed WB2EAV--