

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Two Years: 1944 -2016

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

JULY 2016 VOLUME 89 NUMBER 7

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**Our Summer Picnic Will Be Held on Aug. 17th
See President's Message on pg. 2 for Details**

How Ham Radio Prepared Me to Become an Engineer

by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

(Continued from June 2016)

Joseph Raymond "Joe" McCarthy (1908 – 1957), a Republican Senator from Wisconsin from 1947-1957 was notorious for his exaggerated claims of Communist subversion during the "Cold War." The term "McCarthyism" refers to his reckless and unsubstantiated claims of Soviet spies and sympathizers inside the US government, and his impugning the character and patriotism of his political opponents. Widely disliked by his fellow senators on both sides of the aisle, McCarthy was nick-named "Tail-gunner Joe" and "The Pepsi Kid." President Truman did not like McCarthy but would not officially say so, leaving that up to his successor, President Eisenhower. In 1952 Eisenhower toured Wisconsin with McCarthy, and avoided public criticism of McCarthyism for political considerations ... while making his personal disgust known to a New York Times reporter.

McCarthy's Witch-hunt began with claims that there were a number of subversives in the US State Department. He claimed to have a detailed list, but its origin was fuzzy and the number varied with the audience. Nonetheless, many State Dept. people were laid off without any chance to prove their innocence. He next attacked the Voice of America; tasked with broadcasting propaganda to the USSR in the Russian language. Obviously they had to have had members who had studied Russian culture, folk lore, classical music, etc. to create broadcasts that would appeal to Russians. Most VOA staff members were only doing their job, but all the accusations of being Communist sympathizers brought morale so low that one member committed suicide. The next group that "Tail-gunner Joe" attacked was the Protestant Clergy, which turned out to be a big mistake. The final group and his biggest mistake ... was the US Army. Here is where my story comes in.

When I completed the Field Radio Repair Course 1648 MOS at Camp Gordon, GA it was at a precise turning point of what came to be called the McCarthy era. It is obvious that the US Army did not want McCarthy to find any Soviet spies within its ranks, and with a background that appeared similar to that of convicted Communist spy Julius Rosenberg, it is not surprising that I attracted some attention and was investigated. When I completed the 1648 MOS school there were several other things going on, and it all combined to leave me without a promotion when I graduated, remaining an E-2 – the rank one earns by completing basic training.

The Army had a great need for certain specialties, including experienced FCC Commercial radiotelephone operators to work as broadcasting engineers. The Army has always had its own broadcasting ability in order to entertain soldiers overseas in all territories, keeping them up to date on the news, sports events, and the top ten songs on the "Hit Parade." Morale is always given some priority, as we don't want our troops to depend solely on propaganda broadcast by our enemies, such as the famous "Tokyo Rose" of WW2. A specialist school grad Private First Class would now be given the rank of Specialist 3rd Class and a new arm patch. At the time of my graduation, McCarthy had voted for a similar act to allow critically needed medical staff to quickly become

officers, until one such dentist turned out to be member of the suspect American Labor Party. McCarthy then railed “How the hell did that non-patriot ever get commissioned as an officer?” until he was reminded that he himself had voted for the bill. With all the confusion swirling around me at that specific time, I was not promoted to either the older Private First Class, or the newer Specialist 3rd Class rank.

In the autumn of 1953 McCarthy opened an investigation of the Army Signal Corps laboratory at Fort Monmouth, NJ, gleaning some headlines with his stories of a spy ring, but after weeks of investigating he was unable to prove any signs of subversion. Then the Army accused McCarthy and his lawyer, Roy Cohn, of pressuring the Army to give favorable treatment to G. David Schine, a friend of Cohen and a former aide to McCarthy, and thus the “Army - McCarthy hearings” began. The Army decided not to pursue McCarthy because it was impossible to counter McCarthy’s generalized claim that he was kicking Communists out of the government, but the hearings damaged McCarthy’s popularity so much that political cartoonists began poking fun at his exaggerated claims in the daily newspapers.

The most famous retort to McCarthy came from the Army’s lawyer, Joseph Nye Welch, who challenged Roy Cohn to provide McCarthy’s list of 130 Communists in defense plants “before the sun goes down.” Cohn could provide only a false claim that the National Lawyers Guild was a Communist front organization. It was then that Welch confronted McCarthy, as no others had dared to do before, by saying, “Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness... You’ve done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir at long last? Have you no sense of decency?”

The most prominent attack then came when the widely admired TV news personality Edward R. Murrow used his show “See It Now” to publicly challenge McCarthy head-on.

Next month I will continue with why 1954 was a turning point for McCarthyism, as well as how my many similarities with convicted spy Julius Rosenberg led to the initiation of my military orders to proceed to the Far East rather than Fort Monmouth ... even at the exact date that McCarthyism became McCarthywasism.

PRESIDENT’S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

Every August we dispense with our usual meeting to have a picnic or dinner out. This year, as we have for the past few years, we will be going for the dinner out option. Two years ago we had a good time at the La Casa Café on the Long Island Sound at Crab Meadow Beach, and have decided to go back this year. Meanwhile save the date – Wednesday evening August 17th.

Field Day was a nice low-key operation this year, with perfect weather and good band conditions. As always, everyone had a great time. It is truly the high point of the Amateur Radio year. We had 219 SSB contacts (67 on 80M, 99 on 40M, 39 on 20M and 14 on 15M) and 132 CW contacts (122 on 40M, 10 on 15M). With a 2:1 multiplier for medium power (100W), 2:1 multiplier for CW contacts, and bonus points for being in a public location (100) and filing online (50), our total score is 966.

I had my own little Field Day panic, but it seems to have worked out. We typically have two rigs – the club TenTec and my old Kenwood TS-830S. Years ago, when an acquaintance’s elderly father passed away, he decided rather than hassle with selling the ol’ man’s HF rig, he just gave it to the only ham he knew. Now it is getting pretty old and I am worried that it may be on its last legs. When it blew a fuse I worried that this is the end. However once the fuse was replaced it ran for the rest of the Field Day, so I guess it’s still hangin’ in there.

Ed WB2EAV

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING / EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 6/15 /2016

The meeting was called to order by Gordon at 5:30 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances are in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working, but need attention.

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

3 Applicants applied: 1 for Technician Exam, and 2 for Extra Exam. All Passed.

VEs present were: Ed, WB2EAV, Bill WB2QGZ, Ken, KC2YRJ, George, WB2IKT

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

It was decided that our Picnic/Dinner on August 17th will be held at the La Casa Café. There will be separate checks. Those who wish to attend might want to see the menu, which is at :
[http:// www.lacasacaferestaurant.com/dinner/html](http://www.lacasacaferestaurant.com/dinner/html) There will be more information in the August Newsletter.

PROGRAM

Discussed Field Day plans to meet at Haypath Park on Friday 6/24 at 3:30 PM to set up antennas, and on Saturday, 6/25 to set up radios.

MEETINGS

Board Meetings of the GARC are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, starting at 5:30 PM they are combined with General Meetings that start at 6:15 PM, at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale.

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.

SILENT KEYS

Former GARC Board Member Bob Christen, W2FPF passed away on June 27th after a long illness. He was a close friend of the late Zak Zilavy (WB2PUE) and often drove him to GARC meetings. The news of W2FPF's death was reported by Zak's daughter, Julie-Ann Zilavy, N2XOB.

We learned from Bill, N2SFT that GARC Member Marty Getzelman N2CRD is a silent key. Marty was active on the 2 meter WAG net for many years. He was also a very active member of the Eastern LI Grumman Retiree Club. Marty was well known for his terrific sense of humor. He will be sadly missed.

WATCHING DVDS

I recently bought a new Samsung Blue-Ray DVD player. It connects via a HDMI cable directly to my Samsung 40" TV set. My wife has a pile of movie DVDs that we had never looked at before, so I decided to play some of them to test the new player. First I played a group of Abbot and Costello movies from the 1940s when Abbot and Costello were top ranking stars. Most were based on old burlesque shticks like the "Who's on First?" routine, but there was lots of action with Costello being the victim of many physical slapstick gags. They seem dated and not so funny now, but I noticed some surprising differences with modern movies. They were originally made on 35mm black-and-white film that was designed to be projected onto large movie theater screens. Today's mega digital pixel cameras and TV sets just do not seem to have that sharp focus. Today's color comedy action movies also use extensive computer simulation to synthesize superstars that appear real, but in my opinion are not as real as in the old films. It also is just my opinion, but I wonder if modern movies are purposely shot with a dark and cloudy look so they can get away with cheap scenery and props.

The best DVD that I watched is called "Hugo". It is based on a book called "The Inventions of Hugo Cabret," a strange combination of real history and science fiction, directed by Martin Scorsese. Most of it takes place in a Paris Railroad Station Center (Like New York's Grand Central Station), where an urchin boy lives by stealing food and other stuff, including clock parts and mechanical toys, from shops in the center. Familiar with the passageways behind the shops and the clock towers, he takes it upon himself to maintain all the clocks. There is a lot of symbolism in clocks, marking the passage of time as we all age. When the boy finds what seems to be a strange robot driven by wind-up clockwork, he goes through great effort to get it working. Once complete, the robot picks up a pen, dips it in ink, and draws a cartoon of a smiling faced Moon with a rocket smashed into it; A picture famous for its origin in an early silent film. It turns out that the robot was the masterpiece of the now-dead director of the early film. The boy then dreams that he himself is only a wind-up toy ... and an ironic wonder if we are all wind-up toys that exist only to amuse a master artist who designed us just for fun!

PUZZLE

Last month's question was:

Who was the first to accurately measure the diameter of the Earth?

- A. Plato
- B. Eratosthenes
- C. Aristarchos
- D. Copernicus

Answer; The correct answer is B. See page 6.

This month's question is:

What theory was Albert Einstein given the Nobel Prize for?

- A. Special Relativity
- B. General Relativity
- C. Photoelectric Effect
- D. Special gravitation Effect

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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

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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 – Technician: Element 2, General: Element 3, and Amateur Extra Class: Element 4. Time and location may be changed, and sessions may be cancelled if no applicants make appointments. The fee for 2016 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. 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 am not going to write about present day politics here, although I feel safe discussing political history and modern technology. I do not want to offend anyone's political opinions. The only thing I want to comment about pertains to all politicians of all parties who want to "bring back the jobs." My question is "What jobs?" Modern industrial technology can manufacture, process and test anything and pack it for shipping, using advanced robots and be virtually untouched by human hands. We have sent robots to Mars to dig for mineral samples. Why can't we send robots down into mines, where human life is threatened by harmful gasses, toxic dust and the lack of air as well as cave-ins and explosions? Surely remotely controlled robotic machines can do the job. The cost of lifetime health care for miners alone will probably exceed the cost of robotic mining machinery. Machines can go where humans fear to tread. Boeing is now testing an unmanned submarine that can be used for warfare or for peaceful deep sea exploration. We now have unmanned drones that are remotely controlled. There will be more unmanned household sweepers and vacuum cleaners. Yes...Robots can do everything...usually cheaper and safer than people can and they don't need to be legal citizens. So...Where are the jobs?

---The future ain't what it used to be---Yogi Berra---

73 de w2ilp (Ignoring Laborious Past?)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

A BOOK REPORT

Continued from June 2016

I highly recommended that you all read a book titled “Our Mathematical Universe – My Quest for the Ultimate Nature of Reality” by Max Tegmark. I’m now only half way through the book. The topics are difficult for me to comprehend and they require several rereading for me to feel that I can understand what they really mean, especially when it deals with strange recent hypotheses pertaining to sub atomic physics and the coexistence of wave and particle observation.

The answer to last month’s puzzle is B. Eratosthenes was a Greek who lived over 2200 years ago. He knew that the Earth was a sphere because of the way that ship sails disappeared in the horizon; he knew that the ocean was curved. What is remarkable is that he was able to calculate the diameter of the Earth by using simple algebra. He knew that the Sun was straight overhead in the city of Syne at noon on the summer solstice and was 7.2 degrees south of straight overhead in the city of Alexandria. He knew that Syne was 749 kilometers from Alexandria. That told him that 7.2 degrees out of 360 degrees would make the Earth’s circumference equal to: $794 \text{ km} \times 360 \text{ degrees} / 7.2 \text{ degrees} = 39,700$ which is close to the modern value of 40,000 km. Cristopher Columbus knew that the Earth was a sphere, but when he confused Arabic miles with Italian miles he erroneously concluded that the circumference of the Earth was so small that he would only have to sail 3700 km to reach the Orient instead of 19600 km. He was lucky that America existed; Otherwise his journey would have been a disaster. Few sailor-navigators believed the Earth was flat. This kind of reasoning is easy enough for me to understand but after Tegmark finishes explaining how distances were calculated I get lost worse than Columbus did. Max says that two protons colliding to produce a Higgs Boson is as counter-intuitive as a collision of two automobiles producing a steamship. I will continue next month to attempt to explain ultimate multiple parallel universe theories and what they might mean for the life or death of Schrodinger’s cat and of Max Tegmark when he dares to replace the cat with himself.