

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy One Years: 1944 -2015

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

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FIELD DAY on June 27th - 28th. See President's Message.

How Ham Radio Prepared Me for Full Time Employment

by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

Last month I wrote about my miserable performance as an engineering student at CCNY in 1951-1952. As a result I was advised to quit college and get a full time job as a technician. This was not as easy as it might seem because I could only apply as a High School graduate. I had no formal technical training, such as some of my ham friends had who went to vocational schools, such as RCA Institute. I was able to attempt to prove Fermat's hypothesis and to discover factorials independently while in high school but it would be impossible to get a prospective employer to believe that I was a genius. My Commercial Second Class Radiotelephone license was not of much value to me at that time. I had passed the test for it when I was at the FCC office taking the General Class ham exam, without ever studying for it. *I now hold a BSEE and an MS in ED but those degrees came after many years, obtaining the required college credits at night. I had failed Physics One at CCNY but I was able to use what I had learned about the resolution of forces to set up a ham radio antenna and tower with guy wires that made it technically calculated to be safe for use in up to 125 mph winds. When working with Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) at Collins Radio, I recalled all that I had learned about Newton's kinematic calculus equations. (The relationship of acceleration to velocity and to distance) at CCNY, although I had failed the course. The concepts of Newton's kinematic equations now permit me to understand how GPS functions....perhaps better than some engineers who may have forgotten what they learned in Physics One.*

I sent out letters about my experience as a ham and as a self-employed radio and TV repairman before 1951. The letters must have appeared unprofessional, as they were hand written. I owned no typewriter but I proudly used my stationary that had my WEXEL Radio and TV Service heading. The only job interview I went for was for a Bell Telephone job and it seemed that I was considered unsuited because I was Jewish. I discussed my dilemma with members of the CCNY Amateur Radio Society. My friend, Herman Richards W2EPT suggested that I apply for a factory job at Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corp. He said that there would be no problem because they are hiring anyone who can show up regularly. They hire Negroes, Latinos, Men, Women, handicapped people, even blind people. They find productive work for everyone. Jews? Emerson is owned by Jews - the Abrams Brothers. I would be able to start working at the minimum wage, which was then \$1.25 per hour. At that time factories had to pay at least the federal minimum wage because they were involved with interstate commerce. Small Mom and Pop retail business did not have to pay the minimum wage, although they had to collect Social Security taxes for all employees. I looked up Emerson Radio in the NY telephone book. The address given was 111 Eighth Avenue. I later learned that the building was known as The NY Port Authority building.. I arrived at the lobby of the building and was stopped by a security guard. I asked where I could apply for work at Emerson. The guard grinned. He said that only the Emerson Headquarters remained in the building. He told me that Emerson had changed its name to be Emerson Radio and *Television* Corp. They used to manufacture small radios in the Eighth Ave. building but now all the radio and TV manufacturing was being done at 14th and Coles Streets in Jersey City, NJ. He said that I should go there if I want to apply for work. I managed to go there on the following day. The trip from the east Bronx

to Emerson required shuttling over from the Lexington Subway Line to a line that brought me down to Canal Street and then taking a bus through the Holland Tunnel. After exiting the tunnel I was surprised to see that the Emerson factory building was the first NJ stop that the bus could make. The factory was less than a mile away from the tunnel exit. I had anticipated a long trip so I started out at 4:00 AM. I got to the factory before 6:00 AM. When I approached the factory building I found the entrance to the employment office. There was a sign there that said that it would not be open until 8:00 AM. I had to kill two hours and remain in suspense wondering if I could get a job and what I would be expected to do. It was the first week of July 1952 and the weather was hot. Too hot for me with my tie and sport jacket that I thought would be appropriate for an interview. Across the street from the Emerson factory there was a factory that manufactured automobile parts. The side of that factory was open with only a screen slightly limiting the view of a sweating worker pounding a red hot steel ingot. Finally the door of the Emerson employment office opened. I was given an application form to fill out but it contained no spaces where I could brag about my electronic experiences. It only asked if I was a high school graduate. I had brought my diploma to prove that. It asked for my address and a phone number where I could be reached and my SS number and date of birth. It asked for my nearest of kin who could be reached in an emergency. I was then given the only test that I had to take. I was given the test with the colored dots that can prove that you are not color blind when you read numbers. I was told that I could get hired even if I failed the test but Emerson needed to know if I was color blind. *That was in order to know if I could read the color codes on resistors, capacitors and wires which might only be required for certain jobs.* Next I had to get interviewed by a nurse. She took my temperature and blood pressure and asked if I had any known illnesses or allergies. I wasn't asked if I smoked or drank alcohol. I had to tell her whether I had gotten through the usual childhood sicknesses.. After that I was led to my first job, which was in a very large area ...larger than a football field, where there was a production belt running. Upon the belt were TV chassis in various states of completion. At one side of the room there were people who were dealing with components that were on bands of paper. Leads had to be cut to specific lengths by machines.. Two blind people put insulated spaghetti tubing on some of the components. Some leads had to be tinned in solder pots. After the chassis were wired they were removed and clipped to wooden boards. The boards had ball bearing rollers on their bottoms. Then they were able to roll to testing and troubleshooting stations. The belt began when sockets terminal strips and transformers were riveted to the chassis.. Then components were wired to the sockets and terminal lugs, When all required wires were connected to some lugs the belt moved on to an operators who soldered the lug(s) as required using large hot 100 Watt soldering irons.. There was no air-conditioning in the production area; only fans. I was handed a box cutter and told to unpack TV tuners and feed them to a large lesbian who mounted them on the chassis using a noisy pneumatic automatic screw machine. This I did for the entire summer of 1952. I finally advanced to be a TV troubleshooter. I'll write about how in my next article.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

The end of June features the high point of the ham radio calendar for the year – Field Day. June 27 and 28 is that time again and we are planning to participate just like we have the past few years at Haypath Road Park in Old Bethpage. Take NY135 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 mi to the park on the right (just before Old Bethpage Road).

Every year the club's ARRL liability insurance policy needs to be renewed in late May or early June, so we have insurance coverage to show the Parks Department. As usual I did not get a renewal notice, so I started making some phone calls. I was surprised to find out that the ARRL is changing the company handling the insurance. When I went to the ARRL website and saw no reference to the change I was baffled. I called the new outfit and found out that they will be putting up a new website and updating the ARRL on Monday June 1

What I also found interesting is when I pointed out that they should make sure that things get up to speed quickly because the last weekend in June is critical for liability insurance since every club sets up for Field Day in a park that needs proof of insurance. The fellow missed my point entirely, assuming it had to do with Independence Day. Meanwhile, they missed the June 1 opening. I hope that things get going quickly or it will be a real hassle to get things done in time.

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 5/20/2015
By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was opened by Karen at 5:35 PM

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Gordon spoke to Bill, N2NFI, and he reported that the repeater has been installed in a new building and is operating with a new antenna. He plans to tune it up and add a controller that can cycle it on and off. He has ordered a new battery for the UPS.

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 1 check-in; unable to hear the net controller.

Sunday morning net at 7:30 AM on 7.289 MHz had 0 check-ins

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Two applicants applied for Technician Class; both passed. Two applicants applied for General Class; one passed, one failed .

Three VEs were present: Ed, WB2EAV, Bill Fastenau III, WB2QGZ and Mark Tanenbaum, KC2PTG.

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 2nd 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/wa2lq> . 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 *Websites* OF THE MONTH FOR *Everyone*?

No need for http addresses to link us to whatever may interest us. Most young children know how to find what they want to see by clicking, touching, or dragging screen icons. They need not know how to read words to get to apps. Exploring the Internet without caution can be dangerous...but some folks actually enjoy some risk of danger. This must be so because why would people go in for white water rafting or mountain climbing without risking dangerous results? To make a trip through a snake-infested jungle even more dangerous; there is a couple on TV who do it in the nude.

In spite of all of our good updated security software somehow our "secure" data gets to be available to scammers and spammers who may be able to find our passwords, e-mail addresses and credit card numbers. Don't think you are safe. Don't think your credit card numbers can't be used by hackers who reside in China, Russia or Brazil. Even secret government files have been known to be exposed recently. I learned that our government is now using small private aircraft in an attempt to track suspected harmful hackers in the US...without a warrant. I recently was warned by the bank who issued my favorite credit card that it had been billed for what the bank recognized as a bogus claim. I confirmed the fact that I had bought nothing with the card recently, other than local groceries. I gave the bank the right to deny the claim and to issue me a new card with a new number. This seems like a simple, at least temporary, solution...but now if I want to buy stuff from Amazon I have to send them my new number because the old number that they have on file is no longer valid. I also ran into trouble with a pharmacy who charged my wife's prescription refill to my old number, which was in their file rather than the new number which I swiped when I ordered the medicine. The bill for the medicine was only one dollar after insurance paid for most of the cost but because I was billed on the old card that had been on record and it bounced I was tagged for a loss of my good credit rating. I got an e-mail telling me to have them check the credit agencies for recent changes. I don't know if they monitor the credit agencies for changes or they just pick people to bother randomly. I found out that that e-mail was pure phishing that was recognized by my security gate.

Another problem has arisen that many of us old hams had predicted long ago. It is now too easy to get a Technician Class ham license and too cheap and easy to get on the air without any license and even without the kind of responsibility that many Citizens Banders and truckers once took seriously. They are selling cheap Chinese HTs in Walmart to anyone who wants to play with them. Some can be programmed for parts of ham bands that are exclusively for hams but I learned that there are now frequencies which are supposed to be shared by hams and non-hams. How can any rules be enforced under those conditions? Is marketing HTs more important than preventing chaos? Does anyone care? I think that there are entrepreneurs who want to destroy ham radio. Why?... because there is no legal way to attach commercial advertisements to our QSOs.

PUZZLE

This month's question is:-

How does the length of the reflector element of a parasitic element beam antenna compare with that of the driven element?

- A. It is about 5% longer.
- B. It is about 5% shorter.
- C. It is one-half as long.
- D. It is twice as long.

Last month's question was:-

What is a parasitic element of an antenna?

- A. An element polarized 90 degrees opposite the driven element
- B. An element dependent on the antenna structure for support.
- C. An element that receives its excitation from mutual coupling rather than from a transmission line.
- D. A transmission line that radiates radio-frequency energy.

Answer: The correct answer is C.

GARC Officers

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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 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 ARRL-VEC or W5YI-VEC <http://www.arrl.org> or <http://www.w5Yi.org>. All VECs use the same Q & A pools.

Editorial

I'm late getting this newsletter out because of conditions beyond my control. I probably will not make it to Field Day. I must commend Ed for continuing to make VE sessions available even during summer months when some ham clubs shut down. As of now we expect to continue this monthly newsletter in July and August. The NG Retiree Club will not print and distribute their newsletter during the summer months and many Chapters have no meetings scheduled, however we of the GARC plan to continue our traditional schedules. Persistent aren't we? Stay cool.

73,

Bob W2ILP (I Live Perennially)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

Hello

When the first land line telephone was invented it was decided to initiate a call by having the phone ring. Upon hearing the phone ring, one was expected to answer the call by acknowledging with a single word that would tell the caller that the call was being answered by a human who had been within audible range of the telephone. Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the first working telephone system said that that word should be “Ahoy.” Legend has it that Edison (or someone working for him) thought is sounded too nautical for a land-based system, and wanted the replying word to be “Hello,” which is used in many countries and of course in all English speaking ones. The first phone system of Asia was installed by the Japanese in Tokyo, where they answered their phones by saying “Mushy Mushy.”

Answering the telephone does present a scenario that differs from conditions when you meet and greet in person and can initially see who you are greeting. When you answer the telephone you initially may have no idea as to whom or what is calling you. That’s how it was before caller ID.

Today, we keep getting unwanted robo-calls that always seem to occur just when we are eating supper, showering or flipping pancakes. This has bothered so many people that complaints have been made to the FCC and to the telephone companies. Although robo-calls are illegal and callers may be fined, there is little enforcement of the law, even when specific callers are identified. The “don’t call” system has proven to be ineffective. Consumers Union has decided to do something that would positively eliminate unwanted calls. To that end they have collected 1,500 signatures and donations in an attempt to force telephone companies to eliminate unwanted calls at their source and not charge any phone user for that service.