

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Three Years: 1944 -2017

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

JUNE 2017 VOLUME 90 NUMBER 6

**JUNE MEETING: JUNE 21 5:30 PM; ELLSWORTH ALLEN PARK IN FARMINGDALE
FIELD DAY 2017 IS JUNE 24-25 - See President's Note**

How Ham Radio prepared me to be an Engineer by Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

(Continued from May 2017)

I will now continue telling about my experiences as a GI at the 181st Signal Depot in Young Dong Po, Korea. The details I remember are significant because they altered my own philosophy about life in general and I feel that I want to share them with you because of their humor as well as their sadness and because of the honorable American guys and South Koreans that I served with.

After dinner each weekday there was mail call, when all GIs not otherwise performing their duty, waited in front of the orderly room to receive mail from home. The mail clerk had one leg much skinner than the other; probably from polio. He was excused from standing in inspection formations and from marching at any time. When I was in the US I was told that only soldiers that had Class A physical profiles could serve in Korea, while those who wore thick eyeglasses or had flat feet could not serve overseas, but it was obviously not true. I did not understand the reason that people who were officially unfit were here in our company. It took many years for me to realize why people volunteered to do things that they could have easily avoided. I'll get to that subject again when it is appropriate ... but back to mail call. The mail clerk sat in a chair on a pedestal and used an amplifier and loudspeaker to address the guys who were waiting for their mail. He had both a microphone and a phonograph plugged into the amplifier, and he played background music appropriate to holidays as well as romantic popular stuff that might resonate with the messages, greeting cards and packages from families and loved ones. One time I got mail from home he was playing a popular single Spike Jones record that was a parody of Rossini's "William Tell Overture". It was about a horse race where the horses had names similar to real horses, and it was announced by Doodles Weaver, who was impersonating the famous sports announcer Clem McCarthy. A horse named Feedlebaum, running at 20 to 1 odds, initially kept falling behind. It was Girdle in the stretch but... Fee...dle...baum won the race.!

The clerk always sorted the mail in alphabetical order, and when he called out Young and then Zillinsky, I got up to leave. Then, as Spike Jones' musical hoofbeats finale ended, the clerk yelled as loudly as he could to drown out "Fee...dle..baum!" with "WEX...EL...BAUM!" The guys all laughed and I'm sure the officers, who had a separate mail call, also heard my last name amplified as it echoed all over the compound. Later, some of the guys kept reminding me about this incident and/or called me "Professor Feedlebaum, the Private who came in ahead of Girdle." Others wondered why I didn't seem insulted. Heck... I'd been called far worse than Feedlebaum.

It was a package from my mother. I knew immediately what it was because it smelled of pungent garlic. The guys wouldn't let me bring it into our tent. My mother thought I would miss New York style deli, and had sent me a large kosher soft salami by sea-mail that had completely spoiled in travelling unrefrigerated for at least three weeks. My mother thought that I would miss NY style deli. Anyway, I gave that fermented salami to a KATUSA when he said he didn't mind its smell because it smelled exactly like authentic Kimchi, the Korean national dish. I wrote to my mother to never mail me food again. Sometime after that I received a package of hard kosher salami that my aunt sent via air mail, and it arrived in good shape. I brought it into the mess hall the following morning and had the cook slice it and fry it with dehydrated eggs on a larded cooking surface. I shared it with three of my friends and we enjoyed it. Most GIs didn't like the garlic smell. German

and English folks don't use garlic as frequently as others. French cooks mask garlic with fragrant wine or use shallots (cousins of garlic) which are not as smelly. Those who don't like garlic seem to think that all garlic eaters are low class trash. Anyway that was the opinion of Hitler who specifically stated that concept in his autobiography, "Mein Kampf". Garlic was worn on strings around the necks of superstitious people in the middle ages to ward off evil spirits. There were lots of superstitions about the smelly bulbs. It is interesting that in the US garlic has been cultivated to be almost odorless, while in Eastern Europe and most of Asia it has been prized for intense fragrance. Garlic had been commended because it is a source of Zinc, but recently Zinc has been declared unsafe when used in denture fixatives. Garlic had been claimed to be a preventative of many ailments, including stomach and prostate cancers but not enough data has been collected to either prove or disprove that theory ... although people won't kiss people who have bad garlic breath, holding down the spread of contagious diseases. Koreans and other Asians often use garlic with an herb called mugwort which is believed to have medical benefits. I'm getting too far off the subject, so let us get back to my tent at the 181st Signal Depot.

I got to talk to Monte as we played chess. He told me that he was interested in Ham Radio and had practiced Morse Code, but he never had a chance to go to an FCC office for a ham test. Since Korea was more than the prescribed 125 miles from an FCC office, I volunteered to give him a mail order ham test for the Conditional license. There was another guy in our company who also wanted to take a ham exam. He was not living in our tent and I can't remember his name; only that he was from Oregon. We practiced Morse using an HP audio signal generator, JK-47 keys and HS-33 earphones. I applied to the FCC and received sealed exams to administer to both of the guys. Both sent and received Morse 5 character words groups at better than 13 wpm, which I witnessed using a stop watch. We had to get the paperwork signed by an officer. We did not ask Capt. Crawley; Instead, we asked an officer who was the oldest man in our company. He turned out to be an understanding friend, although he wasn't himself a ham. We expected the applicants to receive Conditional licenses but they received General Class licenses. Apparently they got extra credit for being tested in Korea. The entire process took 12 days. Hams stationed in Korea were only allowed to operate in US MARS stations. We could not operate as individual hams although there was plenty of radio equipment, both military and commercial available at our depot. We wanted to set up a MARS station but were told that there could only be one MARS station in the 8th Army and that one already existed in Seoul.

We were not permitted to transmit but we could receive. Dual diversity antennas were set up to receive AM, CW and RTTY HF signals in the radio huts but we could not erect large permanent antennas. We managed to almost always receive the 10 MHz signal from WWVH in Hawaii and it was used to calibrate test equipment and radios. We checked the ham bands which were at that time active with signals from all continents. (To be continued.)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

It is now time to get ready for the most significant weekend of the year on the ham radio calendar. This year Field Day is on Saturday June 24th and Sunday June 25th. As we have been doing in the past few years, we will be operating from Haypath Road Park in Old Bethpage. We will meet at 10AM on Saturday June 24th to put up the antennas. The contest itself runs straight thru from 2PM Saturday to 2PM Sunday, when we take down.

We operate two stations (2A), using the call sign WA2LQO on 80, 40 and 20 Meters, both SSB and CW.

I cannot recommend it enough. It is a unique experience and I strongly suggest you pay us a visit. Just stopping by to say hello and watch a bit to see how things in operate is fine too.

To get there take NY135 to exit 9 (Broadway Bethpage) and turn east. The road immediately turns left and parallels northbound 135 for half a mile. Turn right at the first traffic light for Haypath Road and continue about 2 miles to the park on the right, just about a block before the traffic light at Old Bethpage Road. (To program your GPS best to load in the house next door – 232 Haypath Road, Old Bethpage.)

Ed, WB2EAV

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD/GENERAL MEETING 5/17/2017

The meeting was cancelled this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working.

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.

Sunday morning net at 7:30 AM on 7.289 MHz had 1 check in.

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

One applicant applied for the Technician Class exam and passed.

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

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed, WB2EAV renewed the club's liability insurance for Field Day.

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. Unless otherwise notified they start at 5:30 PM at the Ellsworth Allen Park in Farmingdale.

PUZZLE

Last month's puzzle was:-

When your lip touches a metal part of your microphone you feel a tingling sensation which tells you that it is not at RF ground. What is the best way to be sure that your transceiver's ground is RF ground?

- A. Use heavy copper braid to bond all your equipment together.
- B. Move your station to the basement of your home.
- C. Use a balanced antenna system.
- D. Connect your transceiver chassis to a cold water pipe.

Answer: The correct answer is C.

This month's puzzle is;

Who was the first man to use cathode ray tubes (CRTs) to view transients and waveforms and to experiment with the use of CRTs for radar displays, microscopes and television?

- A. Nicola Tesla
- B. William Crookes
- C. Philo Farnsworth
- D. Denis Gabor

Numbers? Constants? Atoms? Waves? Quantum?

(Continued from April 2017)

I continue this topic after listing Nobel Prize winners up to the present time.

First off I want to correct an error that I made on Page 6 last month I had listed:-

2013 Francois and Peter Higgs are awarded the Nobel Prize for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles and which recently was confirmed through the discovery of the predicted fundamental particle (boson) by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at CERN's Hadron Collider.

It should have been:-

2013 Francois Englert and Peter Higgs... I had left out *Englert*. Englert is Belgian. Higgs is British. To be fair the boson discovery is also credited by scientists to additional physicists who did not receive the Nobel Prize. Several groups had figured out and predicted the same results from the collider collision but only a maximum of three people can win the Nobel Prize for Physics in the same year. This subject is so political that their recent work is the subject of what started my interest in the topic of Quantum Physics. To be fair to our readers let me explain what the acronyms in the 2013 note stand for:- ATLAS = A Toroidal Large hadron collider Apparatus System. CERN = Conseil European por la Rocherchr Nucleaire (the European Council for Nuclear Research) which is located in Geneva near the Swiss-French border. CMS = Compact Muon Solenoid.

The topic of modern physics can't be discussed without relating it to Chemistry, Mathematics and all scientific studies that overlap it. Any chronology relates to History and historic descriptions relate to Sociology, Philosophy, etc. I am not about to list all the Nobel Prize winners in fields other than Physics here.

A very interesting book that I recently read is called "Radioactive!" by Winifred Conkling. It explains how Irene Curie and Lise Meitner revolutionized science and changed the world. "Radioactive!" is not about active hams. It is about Irene Curie (1897-1956) and Lise Meitner (1878-1968). Irene Curie was a daughter of the more famous physicists Marie and Pierre Curie who had won Nobel Physics Prizes in 1903 and 1944. In addition, Marie Curie alone won a Nobel Physics Prize and another one in Chemistry. Lise Meitner was the granddaughter of Jewish Austrians. Her parents had converted to the Lutheran faith and she was an agnostic but she was considered to be a Jewess by Hitler's definition. Both of these women had a difficult time getting educated and earning doctorates simply because they were women and most men at that time believed that women belonged at home in their kitchens but not in nuclear physics labs. During WW1 Irene served as a French nurse using a mobile X-ray lab and Lise served as a German nurse doing precisely the same work. The use of X-Rays to locate bullets and shrapnel in wounded soldiers was new at that time. Both of these women were curious about science at an early age and mastered math as well as the known sciences of their times. Both worked in labs with partners. Irene worked with her husband Frederic Joliot. Irene kept her maiden name: Curie. Frederic changed his last name to Joliet-Curie. Frederic was younger than Irene but no less accomplished. Paul Langevin had been his teacher. There was a scandal about a love affair between Irene and Langevin as well as guessing the reasons why Frederic had teamed with Irene. Irene wore only baggy clothing and was not interested in music or art. She did not dress fashionably like her younger sister, Eve Curie, did and did not care much about her appearance. When Frederic and Irene were invited to attend the 1933 7th Slovay Conference, along with 40 of the world's best nuclear physicists, they were the youngest to attend. It was there that they first met and debated with Lise Meitner about neutrons within the nucleus of atoms. Lise insisted that she had never seen a single neutron and was not certain that they existed. Lise had teamed with German Physicist Otto Hahn. The rest of this story is not only a "soap opera" of human affairs, but a discourse about the nature of natural and man-made elements and isotopes on the chemical periodic chart, as well as atomic and subatomic structure, and the danger of exposure to radium (which happens to be another element that has been found in the ground water below the Grumman plants of Bethpage, according to an article in Newsday.) I have to cut this story short here because this newsletter is getting late. I'll have to continue next month after Lise Meitner working with her nephew Otto Frish described nuclear fusion by applying Einstein's equation $E = MC^2$ to their own lab work with uranium. Other teams saw potential nuclear fusion almost simultaneously. All thought only of building nuclear power plants...not weapons of mass destruction.

(to be continued next month)

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

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Editor: Bob Wexelbaum, Retiree 631-499-2214 radio.w2ilp@gmail.com Contributing writers: All GARC members and friends. To submit articles or ham equipment advertisements contact the editor.

GARCWEBMASTER 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. 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 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 first obtained a FRN number. Applicants for a license upgrade must bring and give us a photocopy of their present license to send in. All applicants need to 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 the same Q&A pools.

Editorial Last month I wrote about a meeting of the LI IEEE Life Member Affinity Group which was held at NYIT. I got lost and arrived late but now I have come to recognize why. I do not have a cell phone and I do not have GPS. I have fallen behind current technology because I am mostly home bound. I am satisfied with my 2002 Toyota which has very low mileage on it. I recently renewed my driver's license. It is good until 2025 but I have come to grips that I likely won't be around to renew it again. Recently two of my neighbors have died. One who was my age succumbed to extreme dementia; another who was younger than me, died when prostate cancer invaded his bones.

That being said; now that the weather is warmer I may be able to venture out to events that are within Suffolk County. I was called to attend a meeting of the American Legion in Kings Park. I hadn't attended meetings during the winter months and I decided to go. This meeting included supper, as it is a traditional celebration when the elected officers are installed, yet there were few members in attendance other than the officers. My xyl was not with me and I did not stay to eat. On my way home I thought about why there weren't any wives or ladies there. Explaining the reason would get political so I'll let you figure it out yourself.

I was able to register for a Webinar and listen to it from my desk-chair at home, using Windows 10 technology. This webinar described IEEE 2030.1, a standard which is an all-inclusive communication design for the delivering and pricing of electrical energy. It includes remote control of all the appliances, lights and thermostats in homes and logging and graphing all household uses or generations of energy. It includes the charging of electrical automobiles, the generation and storage of energy from solar panels, wind power, etc. It may eventually become required all over. As of now its full featured use is only being implemented in two locations: One is the State of California, USA...and the other is the nation of South Korea!

I started out getting a rotted attached shed rebuilt and wound up having three sides of my house resided. The plastic latch mechanism on my dishwasher cracked internally. I started to fix it myself, but realized that the washer is 9 years old and I need to replace it with a new unit. New.. but not yet in compliance with IEEE 2030.1. This has kept me busy looking for the best dishwasher at the best price at the same time that I was bargaining with the siding contractor. Enuf Sed. I must get this out now.

Bob w2ilp (Isotropic Loaded Plutonium?) ...Why?...The H bomb? The power plant? (I Like Peace)

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

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