

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Four Years: 1944 -2018

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

MARCH 2018 VOLUME 91 NUMBER 3

NEW MEETING DATE AND PLACE

**MEETINGS NOW ARE ON THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:
5:30 PM MARCH 28 AT HAYPATH ROAD PARK IN OLD BETHPAGE**

You Can Never Go Back

By Ed Whitman K2MFY

Here it was, the beginning of October 2011 and we had just made our visit to the 9/11 Memorial in downtown Manhattan and paid our respects to the edifices that represented the names of the nearly 3000 dead. The two sunken pools were ringed by bronze plaques with the names of the fallen. We watched as some visitors made pencil and paper rubbings of the names to take back home. Others sat on benches or clustered for photos.

As we rested on the benches I recalled my teenage years when I would walk over to this neighborhood, pre-Twin Towers, and strolled along the streets of "Radio Row." Once this area was a collection point and for tons of war surplus electronics and excess radio parts and equipment. With my interest in electronics it was a veritable Mecca for me. I cherished walking into the radio stores along the blocks and delighted in touching, examining, and disassembling electronics devices that were easily accessible on the storefront tables or resting in the large buckets by the shop windows.

My dad was the owner of a very small business several blocks away from Radio Row, on the second floor of a four-story building at 53 Ann Street. He was a commercial supplier of marking devices such as stencils, badges, plaques, etc. Summers I would work there delivering these products to local businesses or machine shops for additional modifications. As my mind transpired across those past fifty years, I thought it might now be interesting to walk back to his building and see if the office was still around.

I convinced my wife that a detour to the Fulton Street subway stop on our way back to Penn Station was not really out of our way, and was close to my dad's old office. We left the 9/11 Memorial, glanced at the ancient spires of Trinity Church, proceeded along Liberty Street, passed the crazy "hippies" in Zuccotti Park, and walked north along Broadway. We then cut across John Street and headed up Nassau Street. I was looking for some familiar sights. I remembered that dad would spend hours walking along Nassau Street, which was the heart of this business district, to browse and shop. Being avid philatelists, he and my brother, who worked full-time for my dad, would stop along the countless postage stamp stores that

proliferated in the area. This section was so congested that cars were unable to pass and people would swarm like locusts along the streets and roads.

Now it all seemed different. Although it was a weekday, the streets were remarkably empty. Absent were many of the recognizable and long-standing department stores. Instead there were numbers of “mom and pop” shops. Signs were posted in Spanish and Korean and other foreign languages. As we approached the corner of Nassau and Ann, I realized that my landmark, the familiar “Chock Full of Nuts” café, where I had countless lunches with my dad and brother, would probably be gone. In its place was a boarded up corner building that could never resemble the coffee shop. As we turned right along Ann Street, I still remembered just how narrow this street was. At least this geometry remained the same after fifty years. Some of the few parked cars still rested with their two side tires on the sidewalk. I looked up at the building numbers and counted down...79 Ann, 67 Ann, 63 Ann...vacant lot...an apartment loft at 47 Ann Street. Wait a minute! Where is number 53? I then realized that the large building which contained the addresses 53 through 49 Ann Street was gone! All that remained of the building that housed my dad’s business, founded in the late 1800’s and which my father worked for since 1925, was just an empty lot protected by a ten-foot fence.

I took several pictures of the area, hoping that some magical camera could bring back those fond memories of a grand time and the life styles of a New York City neighborhood decades ago.

PRESIDENT’S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

We learned that GARC Vice President Gordon Sammis KB2UB is home, recovering from some very-personal plumbing work he had at St Francis Hospital. St Francis has an excellent reputation in that area, and adding our wishes and prayers, we all hope Gordon has a quick recovery.

Right now, I have absolutely nothing else that is ham-radio-related to report on. I guess I have to violate one of my usual rules, and go off-topic. Sorry. Maybe you might find interesting a description of a recent trip I had into New York City.

Everybody knows that medical progress has been quite impressive in our lifetime. The good news is that many people are now losing their elderly relatives in their 90s; Certainly more than ever before. In the past those people would have died years – even decades – earlier. On the other hand, we do spend a lot more time visiting doctors and having medical procedures than we used to. As far as I am concerned, considering the medical stuff I have been through, it is a miracle that I basically am in good shape and feel great. I guess the system is working. I am so thrilled about this that I figure it is a good idea for me to keep up my end of the bargain and do what my doctors tell me to do.

One of the medical specialist doctors I see occasionally recently moved her office from Long Island to Manhattan, and requested if possible I go a bit out of my way to continue to see her at her new place at Lenox Hill Hospital at 77 Street and Lexington Avenue. To date I have been able to do that, and it has worked out well – so far, anyway.

The other week I had a pretty much open day except for my trip into the city to check in with that doctor, and I was finished by mid-afternoon. It was a fairly pleasant winter's day and I had a crazy idea I decided to walk back to Penn Station. Well, that is 45 blocks south, and 4 avenue blocks west; a good hike. One thing that made it interesting is that the route can go through a good bit of Central Park. When I was young I was in Central Park all the time, but I haven't really had a nice stroll through the park in over 20 years now, so it was just about time to do so again.

Entering the park at 5th Avenue and 77th Street, the first thing I saw was a nice small lake with a boathouse and a few sculptures around it. My first stop was a larger-than-life statue of Alice in Wonderland surrounded by the Mad Hatter, March Hare and other characters from the book and children's movie. They definitely reflected the movie artwork rather than the book. Of course, it had about a dozen little children climbing on it, and even a couple of mother sitting on the more convenient places, watching the kids. Very nice. Further along the shoreline is a life-size sculpture of Hans Christian Andersen, feeding a life-size sculpture duck.

Leaving the lake, I soon came across the Bethesda Fountain next to another lake. The fountain is an unofficial symbol of the park, and has to be about 40 or 50 feet high. Quite impressive. Keep in mind that this was a winter day just above the freezing point; I can only imagine how impressive it must be in the warmer weather with the fountain operating.

Walking further south, I passed a number of life-size statues of famous characters. What stood out to me were statues of William Shakespeare and Christopher Columbus. The Columbus statue looked familiar, and I may be wrong, but I'm pretty sure that recently it was shown in the newspapers, when the city announced that it would evaluate the statue at Columbus Circle (huh? It's a good quarter mile away) to see if Columbus' mistreatment of the natives he encountered detracted enough from his popularity with the Italian immigrant community to warrant possibly removing the statue. As I understand, the discussion is ongoing, and I left ol' Cristoforo Colombo to ponder his fate.

I then came to the ice skating rink at the southern end of the park, where I had skated a couple of times when I was 12 and 13. It has apparently been renovated several times since, and did not match my memories. What also did not match my memories is that right near the rink is an impressive rock outcropping that I have absolutely no recollection of. I can assure you, however, it has not moved one millimeter since the last ice age.

My last memorable sight in the park was yet another lake at the southwest corner of the park that seems to be a favorite of photographers, and it did not disappoint. There is a nice stone arch footbridge over one narrow part of the lake with a large group of ducks swimming in the non-icy parts of the water. Very artistic; especially when contrasted with the huge buildings looming over it only a few hundred yards away.

I left the park by Grand Army Plaza at 59th and 5th. I have been there fairly regularly over the years, but there was something there that I have missed in the past. An impressive pedestal, crowned with a golden (gold leaf?) statue of Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman on his horse, with some mythical woman (symbolizing liberty or whatever) providing moral support. How have I missed anything so impressive all these years?

The rest of the trip was down Fifth Avenue, past Rockefeller Center, to the NY Public Library at 42nd Street. I then walked through Bryant Park behind the library, and then past the Times Square area to get to Penn Station and the train ride home. Took me about an hour and a half of brisk walking and I enjoyed every moment.

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

No applicants this month

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. **[This month's meeting is Wednesday March 28]**

GARC Officers

President: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV 516-507-8969 wb2eav@yahoo.com
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Newsletter CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the GARC for its members and friends.

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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, 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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