

CQ de WA2LQO

Seventy Three Years: 1944 -2017

The official independent voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club.

NOVEMBER 2017 VOLUME 90 NUMBER 11

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 5:30PM

ELLSWORTH ALLEN PARK IN FARMINGDALE

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

First, save the date for the annual holiday party that will take place in lieu of the usual meeting on December 20. We will be meeting at Kwong Ming Chinese restaurant in Wantagh (been there before) at 5:30 PM and sitting down to eat at 6. Next month I will provide directions.

I'm pretty sure I have referred to something I have been thinking about for some time now. I think now might be a good time to delve a little more deeply into it, and maybe even start some discussion.

Back when I was a kid I occasionally heard a little about ham radio, but nothing significant. Then when I was in high school my family moved and my brother and I became friendly with a new neighbor who was my brother's age. He had a friend whose older brother was a ham, and they were working with the older brother to get novice licenses. In those days General class and higher hams could volunteer to give novice and technician exams through the mail. It was much less organized than the current VE system (for example, no team of examiners needed), and I joined the group. Shortly we had our novice and then technician licenses.

While this was going on I was learning about ham radio and read every issue of QST from cover to cover, as soon as it came out. I soon found out that the school library had a subscription to QST and I could borrow past issues and take them home. At the time I was taking the subway to school and spent many a commuting hour buried in an old QST.

I found the entire ham radio experience to be, in a word, exhilarating. Everything I came across was a new, exciting adventure. My school had a ham station and we were allowed to use it lunchtime. I was almost never in the cafeteria again. Now I was commuting with my personal J-38 straight key in my pocket, and the library's QST of the day in my bookbag. It was unlike anything I had experienced before. Every time I turned the page in the magazine I faced a new adventure. If you haven't seen any issues of QST from the 1940's through the 1960's you are truly missing something. Every issue had about five or six interesting construction articles. Since the 1970's, an issue with even one interesting construction article is a rare gem to be savored And two such articles is almost unheard of. Yes, it was a different time.

My level of excitement held pretty constant until the 1970's when two things happened. First, I grew up and was now a college graduate and working. I even had a serious girlfriend (something that I never had in school). The end of many of the old radio manufacturers like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Heathkit, etc. contributed to the gradual reduction in construction articles in QST. That trend seems to have held pretty constant until today.

Today, when I get a new issue of QST in the mail, I go immediately to the table of contents and look under the “technical” heading. Usually I am disappointed and put the magazine aside to (maybe) leaf through it when I get the chance. Every once in a while I see a suitable construction article and the old excitement comes right back. Sometimes it is just a disappointing tease, and in the age of the internet, too many of the articles leave me unsatisfied, just referring me to a disjointed collection of web pages. Bummer

I still have a batch of old QSTs from that golden era, and occasionally I leaf through one and feel the old excitement rush right back. Sometimes I fall over some old piece of radio gear or something similar, and it has that same effect. The magic seems to be limited to that era from when I was about 15 until I was in my late 20’s, with a virtual trip back in time when I see an old magazine from the 1940’s. All I have to do is open up an old magazine and I am right back there, like life never happened. Career, wife, kids, house, all disappear into the mists of time for that moment.

Now, here is the philosophical question of my life: Was there really something special about that time? Or was it simply the excitement inherent in youth? When I see those old articles about a mobile receiver, or putting a pair of 6GJ5’s on 15CW, does the “rush” I feel come from revisiting a special time in ham radio or is it revisiting the time when I had so many more tomorrows to look forward to than yesterdays to look back on? Does everybody have their story of the time? Some music of the era has a similar effect (... and the 60’s were definitely a unique time for music). What about watching Mickey Mantle or Yogi Berra go up to bat?

Here is an interesting data point that may contain some answers: My tastes in ham radio have remained pretty constant over the decades. Basically, operating medium power CW on 15 and 40 meters to a simple antenna (dipole or the like). When I was first licensed, a new rig was out of the question financially, but I salivated over quite a few new offerings I saw advertised. Over the decades since, I have had a series of “nice enough” rigs, but never one that really excited me. A few months ago, when Yaesu introduced the FT-891 it brought back the old fire. Here, for a very affordable price, is the kind of rig I always wanted. I felt the same rush of excitement I remembered from a time long ago. Of course, it had new features that were beyond dreams back then (DDS, FFT), but that is pretty much expected today (and I do not miss VFO drift in the slightest).

So, I go on wondering.

–Ed, WB2EAV

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD/GENERAL MEETING 9/20/2017**

By Karen, W2ABK

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

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Ed reports finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Gordon reports 146.745 Repeaters is not 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

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Ed reports no VE session 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. Unless otherwise notified they start at 5:30 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, at Ellsworth Allen Town Park in Farmingdale.

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	

Newsletter CQ de WA2LQO is published monthly by the GARC for its members and friends.

GARC WEBMASTER 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, 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.

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

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