

CQ de WA2LQO

Sixty Nine Years: 1944 -2013

The official voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club

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How I Became a Ham (continued from September 2013)

By Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

Synopsis: Stanley Milgram, led me to a visit of W2NSH, where I saw the first ham station in operation. 'NSH got me an invite from W2LTQ who interested me in starting my own repair business. 'LTQ told W2DUP that I wanted to be a Ham. 'DUP brought me to meetings of The Bronx Radio Club, where I was encouraged to become an EE. In order to explain Stanley Milgram's resistance to being obedient to authority I told about his refusal to sing-along with his classmates. This caused a music teacher to have a fit of temper and to use an expletive. Stan reported the music teacher's expletive to the principal.

Before I get back to Stanley Milgram's visit to the school principal, I will give you some background information as well as explain why music appreciation is relevant to human emotional communication and thus technically relevant to Ham radio as well and how Milgram came to believe that music was just a "Silly Symphony." Both Stanley and I had seen a Walt Disney cartoon movie called "The Three Little Pigs". This short cartoon was produced during the Great Depression. It showed two of the pigs that were musically talented and happy. One played a fiddle. The other played a flute. The third pig was "The Practical Pig". He didn't play music like his brothers. He was the pig who knew how to lay bricks. He was the pig who built a brick house that kept out the Big Bad Wolf. This was an appropriate fable for that time. The moral of that story was that musical talent could not make you secure, and if you wanted to survive you had better learn a constructive trade. When talking movies became popular many vaudeville entertainers and musicians were out of work. There were out of work entertainers on both sides of my parent's families. The most notable was one of my father's brothers who could play music on a saw, as well as on any stringed musical instrument. He and another of my uncles, who was a hilarious comedian, formed a singing quartet with two other men. Their act was called "The Four Rubes". Unfortunately the Rubes were all out of work. I guess that they couldn't compete with the Marx Brothers who were making movies in Hollywood, California.

In the days before everyone had a radio at home most large families had a piano. There was always at least one member of the family who could play the piano well enough to entertain the family. My mother was the best piano player in her family. We never had a piano so I could only enjoy her talent when we visited relatives who had one. You have to learn to play a musical instrument by starting when you are very young. Somehow we learn to speak and to read by starting young and it would be best to start learning the Morse Code as soon as we learned to read...but in my case I started to learn Morse when I was in fourth grade and it was difficult for me. I had discovered that I wasn't musically talented. My mother bought me a used violin when I was 8 years old. We couldn't afford music lessons so I tried to teach myself. I had music books that showed how to press on the strings to produce the sound of each note and I had a little four tone whistle that was used to tune each of the violin strings. My "ear" was not good at tuning and I suffered from a lack of timing control. I did learn something from my fiddling and that is that the length of a vibrating string determines the frequency of the sound wave that it can produce; the longer the string the longer the wavelength and the lower the frequency of the tone; the shorter the string the shorter the wavelength and the higher the pitch and thus higher the frequency. I believed at the age of 12 that everything is a wave. We can see light waves. We can hear sound waves. In between them there is a great spectrum of silent and invisible waves. Radio waves were somewhere in there, and they were similar to the waves that we could sense by eye and ear. I realized this long before I learned about Maxwell's equations, at the same time that I was learning about Ham radio antennas.

Now back to P.S. 77. The principal's name was James R. Fennell. The kids called him "Jazz-Are", behind his back. Once a week we were entertained by him in the school auditorium. He played the piano by ear. When he played "The Star Spangled Banner" it was in a honky-tonk style that I can't exactly describe. He spoke American English, with a Brooklyn emphasis that was somewhat like that of Jimmy Durante. At each assembly he would call one class to the stage and challenge them with questions. Most of the questions were about history and geography, that wasn't covered in the text books. He would ask where coal was mined, where autos and tires were manufactured, where wheat and corn was grown, where the Amazons lived and why they cut off one of their breasts and about music and art as well. He would ask, "Who painted Mona Lisa?" and "What was the name of the woman who Goya painted nude?" He would often play classical music on the piano and ask what it was called and who wrote it. This was long before there were similar quizzes (such as "Jeopardy") on TV. This exposed us to knowledge and trivia that my own kids never learned about in school. We learned to identify some of the background music in movies that communicated human emotions. At the time when most people didn't own TV sets we needed a man like Jazz-Are to get us aware and updated.

When Milgram told Mr. Fennell that the music teacher had called him a "Crusty bastard", Fennell immediately went to the music room and made the music teacher apologize to the class, as well as to Stanley, for using the kind of language that might be expected of an Army Sergeant, but not of a school teacher. This was not the end of the story because Milgram's parents were summoned and asked to appear in a closed session on the very next day, along with the music teacher and James R. Fennell himself. Mr. Fennell could not excuse Milgram's disobedience to authority easily. He considered it anti-social and it had to be dealt with. Milgram's father and mother operated a bakery store. Milgram's mom was believed to be more intelligent than his dad but she had a nervous stammer that caused her to cancel her trip to speak to the principal. Thus Stan's father was elected to be the one to represent both parents. The store had to be closed however, because both parents were needed to run it. I did not hear what transpired at the closed session myself, but Stan related what had happened. His father entered the session wearing a gray shirt and pants that were sprinkled with white bread flour. Mr. Fennell blamed the music teacher for his inexperience. It would have been better to have not taken notice of Stanley when he wasn't singing...Then this whole affair would have not happened. Stan was now to be permanently barred from the Music Appreciation class and ordered to spend its time period in the "study hall". (Since music appreciation was optional, this could not lower his academic grades,) Milgram's father apologized for Stan's disrespect, however he blamed himself. He told the principal that he had told Stan that America was the land of the free and you were free to have your own opinions and voice them or remain silent in ways that you could not be free to do in Europe...but he knew it wasn't so free for "wise guy" kids.

(To be continued)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

Last winter I took over the job of being the "Contact VE" of the club Volunteer Examiner program. Things started off quite slow and we didn't really have any applicants until the summer, when things picked up nicely. In August we had five applicants; I think that is something of a record. While we have had applicants fail exams, I am pleased to report that in all cases they had just passed the Technician exam immediately before trying the General exam, so everyone has left with a new license. I am too much of a gentleman to ask, but what I am really curious about is what drives the Technician applicants to get a license, and then what do they expect to do with it.

The other day I took a ride on the Valley Railroad in Essex, Connecticut on what is known as the "Steam Train and Riverboat". It was a perfect day and the trip was magnificent...and it's not even fall foliage season yet. I highly recommend it. Just as we arrived, the train was returning from its previous trip, so I grabbed the camera, jumped out of the car, and snapped two pictures of No. 3025 chugging by. We parked and bought our tickets in time for me to go up front and take some more pictures of the locomotive coming around for the next run. To my shock and dismay, up came a small diesel. OH NO! Apparently they were having some problem with the locomotive and took it out of service while they started to fire up No. 40. It takes hours to get a steam loco ready, while a diesel needs little more than turning a key. It was such a delightful ride that I overlooked the horror of it all, and when we returned I did get photos of both parked steam locomotives.

**GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 9/18/2013
By Karen, W2ABK**

The meeting was called to order by Gordon at 5:46 PM

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

Finances continue to be in good shape.

REPEATER REPORT – Gordon, KB2UB

Repeaters are working OK.

NET REPORT – Karen, W2ABK

Thursday night net at 8:15 PM on 146.745 MHz had 2 check-ins.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had 3 check-ins.

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

One applicant applied and passed the Technician exam.

3 VEs were present: Ed, WB2EAV, Dave, AB2EF, and Karen, W2ABK.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussing VE sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

Marty Getzelman, N2CRD has moved to a new address:-

1065 Smithtown Ave. Rm #53

Bohemia, NY 11716-380

PROGRAM

Karen, W2ABK brought in her pictures and memorabilia from Denmark.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

GARC NETS: 40 Meters: 7.289 MHz at 7:30 AM EST Sundays

Net Controller: Eugene, W4JMX

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 third 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 a week before the General Meeting at the Bethpage Skating Rink.

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.

SILENT KEY

Wayne Green passed on September 13, 2013 at the age of 91. Please see the internet link for this month on page 4. There you will find a link to Wayne's website and related comments by your editor.

INTERNET LINK OF THE MONTH FOR INTERNERDS

The website for this month is:-

[Http://www.waynegrreen.com/wayne/news.html](http://www.waynegrreen.com/wayne/news.html)

If you scroll down carefully you can read my own comments about Wayne. Here I'll say more. Wayne used Hugh Heffner as a model, when he published "73". He became the "shock jock" of ham radio, in contrast to the very conservative editorials of the ARRL's "QST". Wayne was probably correct when he claimed that "73" did more to publicize or predict the use of RTTY, clamp tube modulation, Amateur TV, SSB, VHF repeaters and home-based digital computers than any other publication. The early computer enthusiasts will remember "Byte," another of Wayne's magazines, which was often as large as 600 pages. It beat all competition for presenting the most complete analysis of digital computer software and hardware progress when it was originally published. Wayne claimed that he stopped publishing "73" and "Byte" because of a loss of subscribers and advertisers. That was not entirely true. Wayne's personal and financial problems (as reported in "W5YI Reports", which is also no longer being published) were significant in ending Wayne's publishing efforts. Wayne's comments and blogs were usually critical of our nation's political and economic policies, most of which had no direct relationship with ham radio or computer science. If you scroll down on the website linked to above you can read Wayne's opinions about health care, medical science, Muslims, Jews, doctors, prescription drugs, fast food, guns, cold fusion, hot food, conspiracies, and our President's birthplace that he typed recently (in 2013). Don't think that these are just a symptom of an old age brain. I remember the essays he wrote about the Japanese during WWII. His Blogs range from the extreme right to the extreme left...so that anybody with any opinion of his own can't agree with most of them, except to say that many of his topics give us some cold or hot food for thought! However you couldn't entirely hate Wayne, because he seemed to be saying it all with good humor or tongue in cheek, and maybe he didn't even believe much of it himself. Wayne certainly was a maverick who refused to be governed by higher authorities. Hams knew that when they changed FCC call areas, for example, from the 2 district to the 1 district, they would have to change their entire callsign. This is no longer true - possibly due to Wayne's persistence - but it was the law when Wayne moved from Brooklyn, New York to Peterborough, New Hampshire. Wayne refused to give up W2NSD because he liked to sign phonetically as "Never Say Die", just as I like to sign with "I Like Peace". Wayne claimed that he was only a temporary resident of New Hampshire, which gave him the right to sign W2NSD/1, although his QTH and work address was in the one district where he had been a permanent resident for over 50 years. Yep...Never Say Die slash one. Wayne expected to live to be 120 years old but sadly he didn't quite make it. He said that one should never eat any cooked food if he or she wanted to live long. He claimed that he ate mainly cold salads and protein food such as raw fish and raw liver....Ugh... I would prefer to die at only, say, 100 myself. In spite of it all I recently asked Wayne to be my friend on Facebook and he responded, accepting my friendship. I guess that Wayne has influenced me, because like Wayne, I often stray too far off topic, and become opinionated and egotistical....although I try not to... -w2ilp—

PUZZLE

Last month I asked the following physics question:-

The rotating wheels on a speeding bicycle or motorcycle provide lateral stability due to the gyroscopic effect. True or False? Why? Why not?

The statement is generally FALSE. The wheels cannot produce lateral stability due to the gyroscopic effect when they are touching the ground. However when a stunt rider drives off a ramp there may be milliseconds of lateral stability provided by the freely spinning wheels in mid-air due to the gyroscopic effect.

Now here is another physics question for next month:-

As a motorcycle or bicycle increases its forward velocity (speed) its lateral stability increases? True or False? Why? Why not?

GARC 2013 Officers

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Treasurer: Ed Gellender, WB2EAV (see above)

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1 Yr. Board Member: Dave Ledo, AB2EF

1 Yr. Board Member: Jack Hayne, WB2BED

1 Yr. Board Member: George Sullivan, WB2IKT

Newsletter

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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: 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 2013 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 the ARRL-VEC or W5YI-VEC <http://www.arrl.org> or <http://www.w5yi.org>. All VECs use the same Q & A pools.

Editorial

Bert, K2DOD sent me an article for our newsletter. It is quite long so that it will take two issues to include all of it. The beginning is on page 6 and the remainder will be in next month's CQ de WA2LQO. I was very happy to receive this article from Bert and I hope that this will serve to motivate more GARC members to submit articles. Bert's topic of "The History of the Car Radio" is indeed a story that should be of interest to hams. Even after automobile EMI was tamed well enough to hear AM broadcasting MF radio signals without noise, sensitive HF ham radios presented new and larger EMI mobile problems.

Unlike Wayne Green I will not write about politics here...although I am tempted to do so by the current events. Maybe I should take a hint from Ed during this present U.S. Monopoly Game, and pick a card that says "Take a ride on the Reading Railroad and do not pass GO" and remain silent.

VY 73 --Bob, w2ilp (I Like Peace) --AR--K

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

HISTORY OF THE CAR RADIO

By Burt M. Wengler, K2DOD

Seems like cars have always had radios, but they didn't. Here's the true story:

One evening in 1929, two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering, drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset. It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car. Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios (Lear had served as a radio operator in the U.S. Navy during World War I) and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car. It wasn't as easy as it sounds: Automobiles generate ignition noise, generator brush noise, and noise from other electrical equipment that causes radio interference which makes it nearly impossible to listen to a radio when the car's engine is running. One by one Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference. When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago. There they met Paul Gavin, owner of the Gavin Manufacturing Corporation. He made a product called a "battery eliminator," a device that allowed battery-powered radios to run on household AC current. But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios. Gavin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it. He believed that mass produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business. Lear and Wavering set up shop in Gavin's factory and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker. Then Gavin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking he might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard. Good idea, but it didn't work – half an hour after the installation the banker's Packard was on fire. (They didn't get the loan.) Gavin didn't give up. He drove his Studebaker 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention. Too broke to afford a booth, he parked his car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio volume so that passing conventioners could hear it. That idea worked—He got enough orders to put the radio into production.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? That first production model was called 5T71. Gavin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier. In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio business used the suffix "ola" for their names. Radiola, Columbiola, and Victrola were three of the biggest. Gavin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle he decided to call it Motorola.

(to be continued next month)