

CQ de WA2LQO

Sixty Nine Years: 1944 -2013

The official voice of the Grumman Amateur Radio Club

September 2013 VOLUME 86 NUMBER 9

How I Became a Ham (continued from August 2013)

By Bob Wexelbaum, W2ILP

Synopsis: My classmate, 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 built a radio & TV repair shop and interested me in building my own repair business. 'LTQ told W2DUP, the ARRL Bronx EC, 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.

I will now get back to Stanly Milgram. It was Stanley who first led me to meet a real ham and it was Stanley who had first informed me that I potentially had what it takes to become a ham myself. But Stanley himself had no reason or great desire to be a ham. He thought that he had other ideas and special needs himself.

Stan and I had something in common when we first met in the 5th grade talent class at P.S. 77. We were both new kids on the 5th grade block, so to speak. I had just moved to the Sound View district from the Hunt's Point district. Stanley had just moved from Camden, NJ, where his father worked as a welder, to the Bronx River District, where both his parents operated a bakery shop. I was able to transfer to an honor class because I showed exceptional talent for art work and for building original airplane models that were scaled from diagrams of actual aircraft (not from kits). I did not know it at the time, but Stanley had attended first and second grade in P.S. 77, before his family had moved to New Jersey. It was then that Stanley was recognized to be a genius! The story about how that happened is that Stan's father was discussing Abraham Lincoln with Stanley's sister. Stan's father had explained to Marjory, who was older than Stan, that Lincoln should not be remembered as a "Great Emancipator", because he only freed the slaves to punish the South after the North won the Civil War. Before the southern states seceded from the union, Lincoln was willing to continue to accept slavery if it would prevent the south from forming a Confederacy. Stanley understood all he heard about Lincoln and the Civil War and repeated it to his first grade teacher, who was amazed at Stan's ability to express himself about such a controversial subject. There are smart kids who learn to read before starting school, but few who have the kind of comprehension that Stan showed in first grade. He was not only able to present his knowledge to his class but to the school principal, who then took him around to speak to higher grade history classes...and that's the rest of this part of Stan's story.

Stan showed no modesty. He wanted to let me know that he was smarter than I was and he was the second smartest kid in our 5th grade class. The smartest genius in the class was Billy S. who was reported to have a photographic memory. Billy read "The NY Times" and could tell you the names of all the US Senators and Congressmen and how they voted on every political bill. I'll not change the subject to Billy now, except to say that he finally became a Medical Doctor in California, after many years of self-imposed unemployment and several years spent in a federal penitentiary.

I wanted to be Stan's friend because I respected his talent and wanted to learn stuff from him. I met with him after class and told him about my own personal problems and Stan told me about his. Stan was born with a serious heart condition, which he called a "heart murmur". He was told that unless he would undergo open heart surgery he might expect to have a short life. He was afraid to undergo the surgery, which might have been more risky at that time than it is today. Another fact was that his family had no medical insurance and his father told him that he would rather save money for Stan's future college expenses than risk it for

hospital and surgeon bills. I asked Stan if he wanted to be an engineer...but he said that it was difficult for Jews to get hired by large corporations in that field, which was generally true in the 1940s and early 50s. Stan believed that the best opportunities for Jews would be in professions where they could deal directly with their customers. Stan said that he wanted to be a psychologist. He didn't want to miss anything that was taught in school so he didn't try to skip any elementary terms, which he might have at that time. He did eventually get through four years of high school in less than three. Both Stan and I were both nerds during our school days. Neither of us was interested in sports. Neither of us dated girls...although we were interested. Neither went to any prom. Stan was able to avoid most of the physical training gym classes because of his heart condition.

Most Bronx kids were NY Yankee Fans at that time. My Father took me to see several Yankee games in Yankee Stadium which were in The Bronx. I also saw some for free with the Police Athletic League. Hank Greenberg, the first Jewish player in the major leagues grew up in The Bronx and had graduated from James Monroe H.S. In spite of all that I was never a Yankee fan...nor was Milgram.

Now let me take you back to 8th grade at P.S. 77. The talent class had to take a class called Music Appreciation and a class called Art Appreciation. Those who were in the school band or in specialized art painting classes were exempt. Stan and I were in the Music Appreciation class which had a new teacher. The teacher was a veteran of WWII, who told the class that this was his first full time teaching job. He told us that he had worked for the US Post Office while attending college and he was happy to get the job as a music teacher because he loved music. He flawlessly played Chopin's "Minute Waltz" on the grand piano that was in the music room, which convinced me that he was musically talented...and then the trouble began when he asked the class to sing-along, while reading lyrics in a book about American Composers. The song selected by the teacher was Stephan Foster's "Camp Town Ladies"...which starts, "Camp Town Ladies sing this song Doo Dah Doo Dah..." The class had gathered around the piano while the teacher played the music and we were all expected to sing-along. The teacher noticed that Stanley was the only one who was not singing.

Teacher: Why aren't you singing? Stanley: I don't have to tell you any reason. Teacher: It isn't a religious song. There is no reason that you can't sing it for fun. Stanley: I won't sing it for any reason. [At this point the teacher lost his cool.] Teacher: Sing it you crusty bastard! At that point Milgram bolted out of the classroom and went down to the principal's office.

I'll let you know what happened after that next month... after a short break for our sponsor (president's note)....

(To be continued)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE by ED GELLENDER, WB2EAV

The picnic is now over and it was quite delightful. The weather cooperated for once, the turnout was nice, and a good time and good food were had by all.

I am sure that you have noticed that this newsletter traditionally includes the column "Internet Link of the Month for Internerds". Well this month I am providing my own internet link that I think we would all benefit from. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles provided a letter to the ARRL Hudson Division Director, K2YBB, stating that amateur mobile radio operation is not included in the law against using cell phones while driving. Please also read Mike's commentary. The link is: www.hudson.arrl.org Click on the "NY State DMV" link at the bottom section of the home page.

Keep in mind that this has no bearing on what might happen if a police officer pulls you over; nor is it guaranteed to sway a traffic court judge, but it certainly should help. Quietly and courteously stating the point would be the best way to approach such awkward issues. Arrogance is always counterproductive.

The overriding point is that hams have shown every day for decades that we do not let our mobile operation distract us from our driving. It is critically important that we continue to demonstrate that level of responsibility.

Ed, WB2EAV

GRUMMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES OF GENEFRAL MEETING 8/21/2013

*Since the meeting of 8/21/2013 was an informal picnic no minutes were recorded.
Therefore the Minutes of the Board Meeting of 8/14/2013 are presented instead.*

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING of 8/14/13.
By Karen, W2ABK

The board meeting was called to order by Jack at 12:10 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 one check-in.

Thursday night net at 8:30 PM on 145.330 MHz had two check-ins, but difficult to hear net controller.

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

VE REPORT – Ed, WB2EAV

There were five applicants. One passed the Extra Class exam and two passed the General Class exam. Two passed the Technician Class exam; one of which then tried for General but failed.

4 VEs were present: Ed, WB2EAV, George, WB2IKT, Dave, AB2EF, and Karen, W2ABK.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussing the Hudson Division Cabinet Meeting of 7/28/13 with Mike Liscinco, N2YBB.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning the September 2013 Picnic.

PROGRAM

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 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.

INTERNET LINKS OF THE MONTH FOR INTERNERDS

This month Ed provided a link to a NYS Motor Vehicle Dept. letter concerning exemption of hams from a law prohibiting cell phone use while in motion. See page 2.

After reading the report by Karen W2ABK on page 6 about her trip to the Scandinavian YLs Radio Amateur club, I wanted to provide a link to their website, but I found that their main SYLRA page at <http://www.qsl.net/sylra> has not been kept up to date. Guess they don't have a webmaster as active as KE2LJ.

I wanted to find more details about Karen and OM Bruce's recent trip to Denmark. I looked in QSTs for information about the meeting but found nothing there. Once there was a monthly column in QST devoted to YL activities, but like a lot of regional news, it is no longer there. Instead we now must refer to specific websites such as the one devoted to our own Hudson Division.

Surely there had to be a website that had announced the SYLRA Denmark meeting. With the help of a Google search engine, I found it! Here it is: <http://oz.sylra.is>

That very short address, with its Icelandic suffix, takes you to "SYLEA – OZ2013 SYLRA – 10 Years Anniversary Meeting in Denmark 2013, 22 – 25 August in Roskilde." You can click on "Delegates" and find Karen W2ABK and Bruce listed there among the attendees. There are also links to pages that show information about the Roskilde area for tourists. Denmark is full of museums, parks, bars and cafés that certainly seem to be interesting and Roskilde's old world atmosphere appears much more romantic than any life style we have here in the US. There is a museum that displays very old Viking ships and a museum that follows the evolution of tools that were made in Scandinavia. There were Norse long before there was Morse. I'll have to write a limerick about that someday.

PUZZLE

For a change of pace, let me puzzle you with a physics question that came up on QRZ ragchew

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

Last month I asked this question from the Amateur Extra Class Exam:-

What is a liquid-crystal display (LCD)?

- A. A modern replacement for a quartz crystal oscillator which displays its fundamental frequency
- B. A display that uses a crystalline liquid to change the way that light is refracted
- C. A frequency-determined unit for a transmitter or receiver
- D. A display that uses glowing liquid to remain brightly lit in dim light

The correct answer is D

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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.

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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

My XYL, Ethel, and I did attend the GARC picnic. We had a good time. It was great to meet up with our old friends. I want to especially thank Jack, WA2PYK, as usual, for his good work in serving up the hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.

Because of her trip to Denmark, Karen was unable to attend the picnic. I had tried to contact her in Denmark by HF radio but was unable to do so because of my limited antenna capabilities and not knowing the time schedule or exact frequencies that would be used. It turned out that much of the SYLRA operation was 20 wpm CW on 40 and 80 Meters, which would be hard for me to copy even if propagation was favorable. I did manage to speak to Karen on the Thursday night WAG Net. I asked her to write a trip report for this newsletter. It is on Page 6. I also wanted to learn more about the SLYA meeting in Roskilde, Denmark, so I made a search for the information that was posted when the SYLRA was seeking registrants for that event and made my result the Internet Link for Internerds of this month. I hope that the web page will still be available for you to read now that the SYLRA meeting is over. It was good to read about the old world charm and how YL brass pounders from 16 countries celebrated with candles for lighting and CW for communicating.

This is your newsletter. I have been hogging it too much talking about myself. I think that GARC members would like to read about other members. I especially would welcome trip reports from other members, even if trips are not specifically to ham events. As always, please do not write about political meetings or politics. I won't do so now that world events and opinions are highly controversial. –w2ilp (Including Less Politics)--

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Do Not Delay

My Trip to a Meeting of the SYLRA in Denmark

By Karen, W2ABK

My OM Bruce and I went to Denmark August 22 – 25 for a meeting of the Scandinavian Young Lady Radio Amateurs (SYLRA) Roskilde. Since it is not the location of the SYRLA headquarters, where their 20 Meter club station is housed, before we arrived they put up antennas for 40 and 80 Meters on the hotel roof as well as echo link. Most of the YLs operated CW at 20 wpm, which was too fast for me and made about 6,000 contacts by the second day. I won't know the final count for a while. There were 55 YLs from 16 different countries present, with 4 OMs and only 3 Americans.

On the first day we took a bus ride to the host's home for a BBQ on the beach by the North Sea. There were candles lighting the way from the street to the beach. Everyone ate big steaks, string bean salad, potatoes, beer or wine, and cakes. A singer who wore a kilt played the guitar and got everyone to sing karaoke style.

The next day we saw an amazing presentation about the Clipperton Island Dxpedition that was given by Kenneth, OZ1IKV while the OMs went to Ringsted's Radio Museum. At night there was a gala dinner served in the hotel dining room, with some of the YLs in traditional native costumes. I was glad that I had bought a new dress for this special dinner. We had large steaks, bacon, potatoes, beer, wine, ice cream, and cake. The room was lit by candles while we danced and played a game.

We went sightseeing to the Roskilde Cathedral, where Kings and Queens are buried, and to the Viking Museum where we saw ships that had been found buried in the mud for centuries. There were tools and stories about the Vikings. We were near the sea and took a boat ride around Roskilde where people were swimming and water skiing. The weather was great the whole time; 64 degrees and sunny.

There was plenty of time between scheduled events for shopping, mostly for clothing. We did a lot of walking on cobblestone streets where there were no cars. The hotel had no working telephones or computers, which was nice! There were lots of candles everywhere instead of electric lights. Everyday a band marches down the street to the park and people follow it singing. It was an amazing trip. The YLs were so nice and fun to be with. Now I'm recovering from jet lag.

-73 & 88, Karen, W2ABK--

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