

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



www.egara.club

February 2020

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Vice-President - Nick Field, KD2JCR
Treasurer, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ
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Starting the New Year Right! EGARA Licenses Six Hams

The club's January 4th VE test session was a big success, with six hams either passing their Tech ticket or upgrading to their General class license. One applicant, Zak Ford, KD2TGT, passed his Tech exam and went on in the same session to score his General ticket as well.

"Our annual Winter test session was very early this year, but it drew a sizable field of seven applicants," said EGARA President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. "Seems like getting their Amateur Radio license was a New Year's resolution for these applicants and they made it happen." Of the seven who took their tests, only one failed to pass.

The new license holders are:

- Zak Ford, KD2TGT, of Rotterdam, General
- Gary Parks, KD2TGP, of Burnt Hills, Technician
- Randy Brinson, KD2TGR, of Schenectady, Technician
- Ryan Stewart, KD2TGQ, of Poestenkill, Technician
- Tom Merante, KD2TGS, of Hudson, Technician
- Andrew Pulver, KD2RBO, of Kinderhook, General



Zac Ford proudly displays his VE test certificate. He passed both his Tech and General exams at the January test session.

Gary Parks, a law enforcement officer, said he had decided to get his Amateur license as a backup to his department's communications system. "Sometimes our regular radio system goes down, so having the ability to use Amateur Radio when that happens will be vital to maintaining emergency communications."

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ARRL Affiliation Depends on You

EGARA receives many benefits as an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League -- better known as ARRL. As the hobby's advocacy group, the League works to protect Amateur Radio spectrum and to ensure that issues concerning ham radio are brought to the attention of lawmakers and regulators.

ARRL affiliation also give EGARA exposure for its VE exam sessions, as well as publicity for its Hamfest and prizes and giveaways that help make the event a success.

However, in order to remain an affiliate, at least 51% of the club members must also be ARRL members. If you wish to join or renew your membership, the club can assist in processing your application. ARRL also allows the club to retain a portion of the dues in return for handling member applications.

Next Membership Meeting - - February 12, 2020 - ARES Update

January Meeting Project: Making a J-Pole for Your HT

EGARA's annual antenna building workshop featured an easy-to-make portable 2-meter J-Pole antenna that's portable and outperforms those rubber duckies that come with almost every HT radio.

The ever-popular Twin lead J-Pole lends itself well to emergency use or as a portable antenna for hotel room operations while traveling. There are several features which make this antenna a good addition to your emergency grab-n-go kit. When rolled up, it is an extremely compact, pocket-sized antenna. In use, it makes for a very effective antenna and provides about 3db of gain with a low take-off angle. Most users find it will dramatically out-perform the stock antenna on their HT radios. And finally, it can be built in no time for a few dollars of readily available materials.

Technically-speaking, the J-Pole is an end-fed, half-wave antenna with a quarter-wave matching section to allow feeding with 50-ohm coax. Being a half-wave antenna, it is not-dependent on a ground or radials for proper performance. That's also a plus for portable operation.



If you didn't build one at the January meeting, here's what you'll need to build one for the 2 meter band:

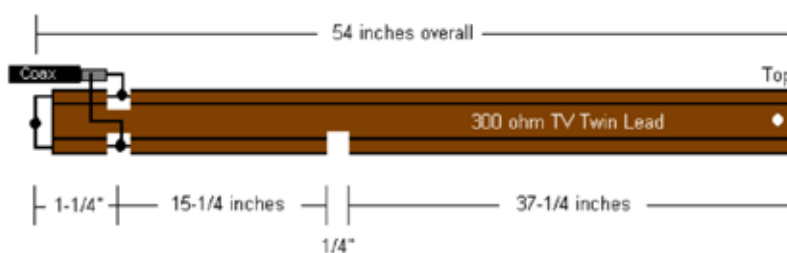
- A 60-inch piece of flat TV twin lead. Use the inexpensive twin lead. Don't use the more expensive foam-filled line.
- Six feet or more of coax cable. RG-174/U miniature cable makes for a very portable antenna but don't use more than 6 feet of it; it's very lossy. Use RG-58/U if you like, but it will be a bit bulkier.
- Ferrite bead, type 43 material (optional - see below)
- BNC connector (or other connector of your choice)

Now, here's how you build it:

First, take the 60 inch piece of twin lead and strip back about 1/2 inch from one end. Twist and solder the two wires together. Keep the connection as short as possible. This will be the bottom of the antenna. Next, measure up 1-1/4 inches from the bottom and carefully remove the insulation, exposing both wires, as shown in Figure 1. Keep the notches small (1/8" or so) and be careful not to cut the wires. This is where we will be attaching the coax later.

Now, attach your coax as shown in Figure 1. [Note: A ferrite bead (type 43 material) can be placed over the outside of the coax near the feed point to choke off any RF that might get coupled onto the coax shield. Many plans for this antenna, however, omit the ferrite bead, so it's your choice. If you experience problems with RF on the rig, go ahead and add the ferrite bead. Alternately, you can wind the coax into a coil of about 5 inches in diameter with 4 turns to create a suitable RF choke.

Measure up 15-1/4 inches from the point where the coax braid is attached and make a 1/4-inch notch. This time, you want to cut through the wire. Only cut one notch and make sure it is on the side where the braid is attached. This will form the 1/4 wave matching section. Tape the coax to the twin lead for strain relief. Also, tape all solder connections and add some tape at the 1/4-inch notch for added strength. Now, measure up from the bottom of the antenna and cut it to an overall length of 54 inches. That's about all there is to it. To facilitate hanging, punch a small hole in the top of the antenna. Use mono-filament fishing line or other non-conductive line through the hole for hanging. The J-Pole is very broad-banded, so it shouldn't require any tuning. (An SWR check, however, is recommended.) Just unroll it, hang it up, and communicate!



Note: Not to scale

Figure 1. J-pole

January VE Test Session Starts the New Year Right...

The testing was held at the East Greenbush Community Library and kicked off promptly at 10 am. The club's VE team found the seven applicants ready to go when they arrived. VEs staffing the session included: Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; Russ Greenman, WB2LXC; Dave Williams, N2VLQ; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR; and Bill Leue, K2WML.

The club's next testing session will be held in May, with the date to be announced.



Left: Dave Williams, N2VLQ, leads the applicants through their paperwork prior to testing



Right: Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU, checks over the exam sheets with Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP



Left: Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, checks an applicant's test answer sheet as Peggy looks on

Right: Members of the EGARA VE team double check all of the exam paperwork. The club prides itself on accuracy, as mistakes and oversights can cause licensing delays for the applicants



Left: Randy Brinson signs the exam certification form for his new Technician license, fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming an Amateur Radio operator. He has joined both EGARA and ARRL. Please welcome him!

Photos by Steve VanSickle & Bryan Jackson

Have You Tried... AM?

Ancient Modulation – the Roots of Single Sideband

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Back in the day, AM transmission was eclipsed by the “new” phone mode, SSB, or single sideband. It offered reduced power requirements, which led to the development of our modern-day transceivers. Solid-state devices replaced vacuum tubes and electronic equipment began to shrink in size, and more operating flexibility became possible by incorporating microprocessors into our present-day gear. Now, there is little outward resemblance between our modern solid state radios and the old tube-type radios, known affectionately among Hams as “boat anchors”.

There is no doubt that the vintage ham equipment of those times can't hold a candle to the current offerings in the radio communications realm. But there are many ham operators who still operate the old tube-type Amplitude Modulated phone equipment (with some operating tube equipment exclusively) – enjoying their simplicity as well as the challenge of keeping these relics alive and preserving their history (a couple of my restored AM “boat anchors” are pictured below.



A typical Ham shack from back in the day when running AM was the norm.

The heat from the vacuum tubes alone could often warm the whole house.

Of course, part of the fun of operating these old AM rigs is the weekend AM phone round tables (nets), as well as the annual AM rallies that are held.



If you have ever wondered what it is like to operate AM, you can still use a modern solid-state rig to participate in these rallies. To set up your rig, refer to the unit's operating manual. Usually, most 100 watt SSB rigs have the ability to produce a 25 watt carrier -- and with a well-matched antenna in the clear, you too can successfully operate on AM.

While it is true that most of the rally participants will be using vintage tube gear, you can still join in the fun of operating AM with your newer equipment. The dates for this year's AM rally events are January 31 to February 3, and February 15 - 16. Additional information such as time and suggested frequencies can be found on the web at: www.AMRally.com and www.antiquewireless.org.

So save the dates and try to join us in some old-fashioned AM QSO's. You can keep a log and submit it if you wish, but these rallies are by no means a contest per se. If you aren't able to join these rallies, there are other AM operating events and you can find them with a quick search listed in QST and in on-line resources. It's just plain fun to relive the very early days of the AM phone transmission - all of which started us on the way to where we are today in Amateur Radio.

I hope you can join us on AM!

On the Beam

News & Notes

Another CEO Shake-Up at ARRL

At its January meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors dumped CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer and replaced him with Barry Shelley, N1VXY, as interim CEO. Shelley was ARRL's Chief Financial Officer for 28 years and CEO during 2018 after Tom Gallagher, NY2RF quit the top job. The board has created a search committee to select the next CEO.

ARRL's announcement of the shake-up was terse and offered little insight as to why the change took place, with only the following placed on the League's website:

"At its meeting this weekend, the ARRL Board of Directors did not elect Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer. Beginning Monday, January 20, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, will become interim CEO.... More details on this and other matters which took place at the board meeting will be released shortly."

Michel, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, had only been in the CEO's office since October 2018. Prior to that he was Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President of UBTECH Robotics. It appeared the change wasn't expected by Michel, who had penned a piece in the January issue of QST about his vision for the next five years.

The top spot at ARRL has had a rocky history over the past few years. Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, lasted only two years as CEO before he resigned amid controversy over his policies and management style. Sources said information has been limited because of the potential for litigation involving Michel's departure.



Howard Michel, WB2ITX,
the latest CEO casualty at ARRL

ARES Update Will Be Topic of EGARA's February Meeting

If you're looking to learn about Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) or want to find out what's new, make sure to attend the February club meeting. Eastern New York Section Emergency Coordinator David Galletly, KM2O, will be on hand to provide a presentation on the latest developments involving the ARES program.

If you're unfamiliar with ARES, this will be an excellent opportunity to get up to speed. ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for public service communications duty in the when disaster strikes.

Amateur radio operators belonging to ARES (and its predecessor, the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps) have responded to local and regional disasters since the 1930s, including the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the category 5 storms Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Michael. During the Katrina event, more than one thousand ARES volunteers assisted in the aftermath and provided communications for the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and other individuals related to the relief effort. After Katrina Hancock County, Mississippi, had lost all contact with the outside world, except through ARES operators who served as 911 dispatchers and message relayers.

Information on how to participate in the program will be available, along with the opportunity to ask questions. ARES groups are generally organized by city or county and are made up of volunteers from the local area. The only requirements to join ARES are a willingness to serve and a valid amateur radio license



EGARA January Meeting Minutes

- The January meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:10 PM by Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR. After a new year's welcome, new member Ben Johnson was introduced. Also recognized were Stanley Paddock, KB2ZAT, and his son Shayne Paddock. Raffle tickets were drawn for prizes.
- The monthly treasurer's report was given and approved. Dues were accepted, and members were reminded they may renew by using Paypal on the EGARA.club website, as well as in person. Some members have opted for 5-year renewals, enjoying a saving of \$5. Also, ARRL dues can be submitted through club Treasurer, Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ.
- A VE session was conducted on January 4th, with Seven applicants. Six passed their exams, including two General class applicants. A VE training session is being planned, with the date to be announced.
- Members were reminded to mark their calendars now for the annual hamfest – May 9th at the Phillips Road firehouse. Please consider volunteering to help on one of the committees.
- The February meeting will feature David Galetly, who will present an update on area ARES activities and organization. Club election of officers and board of directors will be held in April. Interested members may contact Steve VanSickle to be included on the ballot.
- Other new business presented by Ridge, KB2HWL: The Albany radio club will be setting up a station during the winter field day on January 26th from 2-2. Also, the Hoosick Valley club will hold its annual hamfest at the Hoosick Valley School on February 1. See page 11 for details.
- After the business meeting was concluded, detailed instruction sheets for the roll-up J-pole antennas were distributed. Members were invited to make their own antennas. All the required materials were supplied by the club to the members at no cost, except for the twin-lead which was generously donated by Bill Leue, K2WML. Members were supplied with the proper connector to fit their transceiver. Tested antennas showed surprisingly good radiation as measured using a field strength meter. (If you weren't able to attend the January meeting, and still wish to build one of these j-pole antennas, the club can supply all the materials at no cost – see Steve, WB2HPR.
- The meeting was adjourned by 9:15 PM. As customary, refreshments of coffee, soda, and pizza were provided.
- --de Steve VanSickle WB2HPR / Secretary



It's That Feeling You Get When You Pay Your Dues

Let's face it, you always feel better when you've done your part to help the team. So take a moment right now to support EGARA by sending along your annual dues for 2020.

Pay quickly and easily online at:
<https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>

or mail your check to:
EGARA
c/o Jackson
983 Sterling Ridge Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144.

\$15 / individual - \$25 / family
Multi-year rates also available

W1AW Winter Operating Schedule

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East	UTC		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	1400z			Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7 - 9 am	8 - 10 am	9 - 11 am	10 am - Noon	1500z to 1700z		Visiting Operator Time (Station closed from 1700z to 1800z - 12 PM to 1 PM ET)				
10 am -12:45 pm	11 am -1:45 pm	Noon - 2:45 pm	1 - 3:45 pm	1800z to 2045z						
1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	2100z		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	2200z		Code Bulletin				
3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	2300z		Digital Bulletin				
4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	0000z		Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	0100z		Code Bulletin				
6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	0200z		Digital Bulletin				
6:45 pm	7:45 pm	8:45 pm	9:45 pm	0245z		Voice Bulletin				
7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	0300z		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	0400z		Code Bulletin				

Morse Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm. Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm.

Digital Transmissions

Frequencies are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule.

Voice Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Voice transmissions on 7.290 MHz are in AM, double-sideband full-carrier.

The History of Ham Radio: Liberty

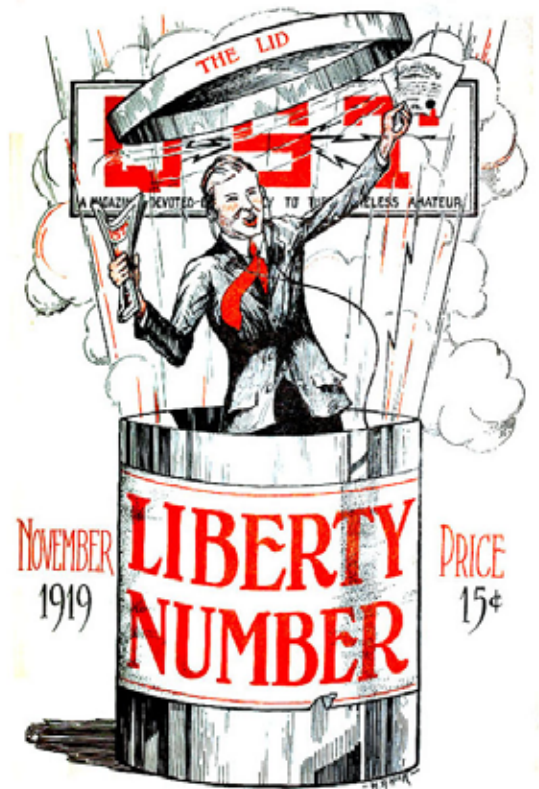
Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

Finally, nearly one year after the armistice, a breakthrough: A single, tacked-on page, after the end cover of October QST, a hastily added special announcement proclaimed: "BAN OFF! THE JOB IS DONE AND THE A.R.R.L. DID IT. See next QST for details"

The HR Hick cover drawing for the November issue depicted a joyous ham bursting from the top of a can, popping off the lid (which, just to make sure the metaphor was understood, is labeled "the lid")—he clutches a copy of QST in one hand, a certificate in the other. The can's label reads "LIBERTY NUMBER" in big letters.

The issue opened with Maxim writing on the importance of organization, citing both the establishment of the League and radio clubs as prime examples. Only by having a national organization were hams able to influence the government on the one hand by preventing legislation that threatened amateur radio's existence, and assist it on the other by providing wartime operators on very short notice. "It was a noble effort for all concerned, and lifted amateur radio from the realm of toyland to the dignity of a valuable National asset." Aside from self preservation, another benefit of organization was to enable doing momentous things, such as the transcontinental relay work, impressive to outsiders. "Up to the time that we amateurs began relay work, the limit which one could transmit intelligence without paying tribute either to the Government or the Western Union or the Postal Telegraph Company, was the distance one's voice would carry."



William S. Greene

Amateurs also had received help from friends in Congress. William Steadman Greene, the 78-year-old Chairman of the House Committee on The Merchant Marine and Fisheries, representative from Massachusetts, and "loyal protector of amateur rights," was credited with the successful reopening. Greene had been the one who introduced the resolution, on the League's behalf, asking the Navy to supply a reason for the continuing ban. Receiving no reply, he had then introduced Joint Resolution 217 directing the secretary of the Navy to remove the restrictions.

The League headquarters staff had to scramble to add the "ban off" insert to the previous issue when the news arrived just at press time. It would now take some hard work to get everything and everyone up and running again. "The days of real sport are at last with us," noted ARRL secretary Kenneth Warner, directing readers to "Come on, fellows, and get into the air again."

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History of Ham Radio...

An incredible array of new gear developed and manufactured during the war was becoming available, and that meant increased advertising revenue for QST—its life blood. The editor predicted a day when QST could be 132 pages long—twice the size of this issue. It would actually take until September of the following year for the magazine to again reach 100 pages, a size previously seen in April 1917, nearly three and a half years earlier.

Getting back on the air meant everyone had to be relicensed. Though some still had unexpired commercial licenses which the government would count as operator licenses, all amateur operator and station licenses had expired. As before the war, a Second Class license would be granted without examination to applicants located more than 50 miles from a district office. One could take a test given by the district inspector by appointment, and receive a First Class amateur license on successfully passing it. The new test format was a bit different, requiring longer answers from the applicant to demonstrate depth of understanding. The government published a document called “Radio Communication Laws of the United States,” containing the regulations one must know for the test.

On receiving an operator license you could next apply for a station license using a form to describe various aspects of your station. That information, and how well you had complied with the law in building it, determined whether or not the license would be granted. Radio Inspectors were authorized to disclose the call sign that an applicant would be issued once a station license was granted. The licensee would then be permitted to begin operation without waiting for the actual license to arrive in the mail. Hams were encouraged to send their new call signs to ARRL as they were issued so that they could be published and help everyone to once again recognize one another on the air.

The first directory of calls appeared in December, listing only new first district stations, apparently the only district reporting new licenses to that point. The list included the Harvard Wireless Club, 1AF, M.I.T., 1AN, Maxim, 1AW and Tuska, 1AY. Some stations in other districts had been given permission to use their old calls, possibly because they held unexpired commercial licenses. Some of these stations were prominent pre-war relayers, organizations, and operating department officers, including Mrs. Candler, 8NH, F. H. Schnell, 9AH, R. H. G. Mathews, 9ZN, J. O. Smith, 2ZL and Charles Service, 3QZ.

On the air, things were still very quiet even though the winter, the prime radio season, approached. The Atlantic Division manager reported hearing mostly silence on the first night of reopening, and only a few locals. Activity returned gradually as everyone worked to connect equipment and erect antennas. Licensed or not, amateurs had refrained from reassembling their stations before the reopening, perhaps due to uncertainty about when it would occur given the long delay, or perhaps because they stuck to the letter of the law that prohibited even assembling a station during the shutdown.

“In Memoriam” for December listed 11 more amateurs, some killed while serving in the military.

WCC on Cape Cod had a long history in a medium with a short one. Wired telegraph services such as the transatlantic cable were Marconi’s natural initial competition. In 1914 he established a station at Chatham, Mass., to replace his earlier one in Wellfleet. That one had made history in 1903 by relaying a message from President Theodore Roosevelt to the King of England directly via wireless using its 35-kW spark transmitter feeding a 200-wire conical antenna supported by four, 210-foot towers. WCC—originally simply “CC” for Cape Cod—became one of the most prominent wireless stations in the United States, and Irving Vermilya had been a station manager there since early 1916. Answering the Navy’s call for radio operators, he enlisted in 1917, served during the war, and then returned home to Massachusetts and WCC.



Irving Vermilya in 1920

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Liberty... The History of Ham Radio

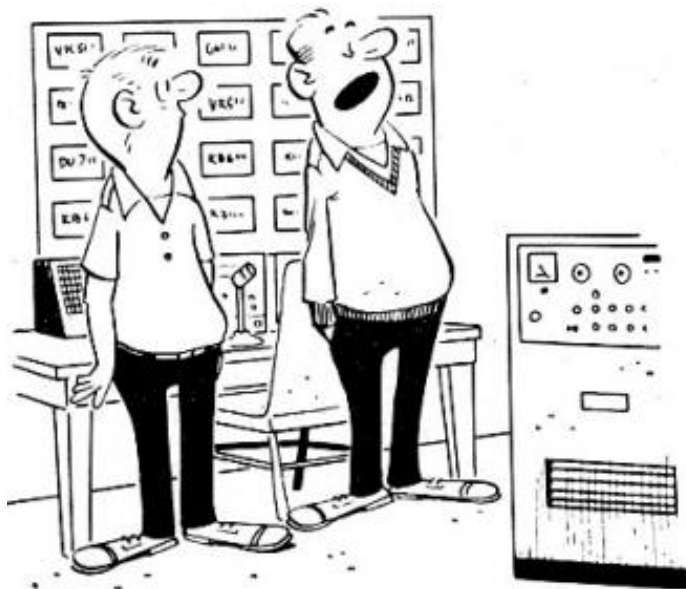
He was back on the air and in print again in December 1919, publishing another QST humor article, "S.O.L." (meaning "shit outta luck," though not labeled as such in the article), telling of his early days in the Navy. By this time he had become well enough known among hams to be often identified by his last name alone. Everyone else in QST was referred to as Mr. so-and-so, or by their complete name—but "Amateur Number One" was just Vermilya. Everyone finally got a look at him in the February 1920 issue's installment of Who's Who in Wireless, identified as a shift engineer at the Marconi station. The article paraphrased him as admitting that "he'd rather fuss with wireless than eat, and his record shows it."

In October, pictures of his station appeared too—he was now 1HAA, "a good call for a funny man"—in Marion, Massachusetts. His antenna was a fan array of vertical wires, narrow spaced at the base and wide at the top, connected to a horizontal wire suspended between wooden supports, very similar to Maxim's antenna and considered a leading-edge design. Two interior pictures depict a neatly arranged, high-power spark station. Another change in call sign came in July 1921, when he received a special station license and QST announced that "1HAA is no more. Vermilya is now 1ZE, using 200, 250, and 375 meters."

He continued to work for United Wireless after its acquisition by Marconi, working as manager of WCC until he left the Radio Corporation in 1922 to become manager of the radio department at Slocum & Kilburn, a parts and equipment company.

Vermilya would continue to play a role in two camps—as professional and amateur.

Ham It Up



"I built it myself with just the basic tools.
You know... pliers, money, soldering iron, money, screwdriver, money..."

Three Lead the Way with Five Year Club Memberships



Dave Smith, WA2WAP, was the first to take advantage of the club's five-year membership plan

Dave Smith, WA2WAP, Al Plouff, KB2MVP, and Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, have become the first club members to take advantage of the savings and convenience provided by EGARA's new five-year membership options. They are one of three payment levels available, providing membership for one, two or five years.

The five year plans offer the convenience of not having to remember to pay dues every year, while providing savings of up to \$10 off the regular cost of dues. They are available for both individual and family memberships.

The multi-year programs are easily accessed on the club's website at:

<https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>

The drop down menu on the page lists each of the membership levels and allows for easy and safe payment through PayPal, or by mailing a check.

Dues can also be paid at any club meeting.

Beat that Cabin Fever with a Winter Hamfest!

Don't let the cold days of winter keep you homebound! Get out and enjoy the Winter Hamfest being sponsored February 1st by the K2FCR Hoosick Amateur Radio Club. Once again this year, its annual swap meet will be held at the Hoosick Falls High School, 21187 Route 22 in Hoosick Falls.

Things kick off at 8 am and run until noon. Admission is just \$2.00, with kids under 16 free. And, if you have gear to sell or trade, tables are just \$5.00. To reserve a table, email: hoosickfallshams@yahoo.com.

There will be giveaways throughout the event, with the highlight being a 50/50 raffle. Food will also be available, with proceeds helping the Hoosick Falls High School Youth program

Talk-in is available on 146.655 (PL tone 100)



The Hoosick Falls Winter Hamfest features plenty of vendor tables... and inside warmth!

Local Ham & GE Pioneer Honored at Century Mark



Rudy Dehn, W2JVF

Rudy Dehn, W2JVF, recently turned 100 and was honored with a special proclamation from the New York State Assembly. Rudy worked as a General Electric engineer for more than 40 years and played an integral role in the development of the microwave oven, among his many other accomplishments. Today, he still holds six patents. He's an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Schenectady and regularly volunteers at MiSci - Museum of Innovation & Science, Schenectady. A Schenectady native, expect Rudy to be around quite a while longer, as his Amateur Extra license doesn't expire until January 2026. Happy Birthday!

CALENDAR

February 1, 2020 - 8 am to Noon - Hoosick Falls Winter Hamfest. Hoosick Falls High School, Route 22.

February 12, 2020 - 7 pm - Monthly club meeting, ARES update presentation by Dave Galletly, KM2O.

May 9, 2020 - EGARA Hamfest - 8 am to 1 pm - East Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department, Phelps Road.

Pro Tip: Troubleshooting

Troubleshoot core elements first when you first start trying to fix a circuit. They are most likely to fail, and, as they are at the center of things, one of these pieces can take out the whole system. By starting with the main parts, you can eliminate many possibilities.

It's smart to check the things that are easy and fast to check first. For example, if you check power before all the other connections, you can eliminate that problem faster than the other way around.

Common issues can be power hooked up incorrectly or a blown fuse.

Check connections and polarity... all of them, no matter how sure you are. There's nothing worse than having an LED installed backwards and you spend three hours on every other connection except that one.

Check parts. Sometimes parts come damaged (or, more likely, they were damaged during installation). A ruined IC or capacitor could very well be the culprit.

Use good tools. Often hobbyists make do with what they have, but when troubleshooting, that can cause problems.

Get a decent multimeter that you can trust and will give you accurate readings. Another tool is an oscilloscope. In a nutshell, an oscilloscope is a voltmeter that will graph the change in voltage over time. They are especially helpful in a project where an oscillating signal is present.



For Sale

- **Daiwa CN 103 L SWR power meter**, covers 140-525 mhz. Asking \$30.
- **Jetstream JTWXHF SWR/watt meter**, covers 106-60 mhz. Asking \$30.
- **Yaesu HM-34 Speaker Mic**, Asking \$10.00.
Contact Walt Snyder at: n2wjrr@earthlink.net

- **Ameritron 811h 800w**, four new 811a tubes from MFJ. Sells new for \$850.00. Asking \$650.00
- **Alinco dxsr-8t hf 160-10** with 11 meter mod, includes separation kit. Sells for \$460. Asking \$250.00
- **RG8U Coax** - 50+ feet - \$20.00
- **RPI-3B+** with dual hotspot board, lipo battery pack, real time clock board. Just add micro SD, antennas, and pi-star - \$75.00
- **Rpi3+ /Atrix Lapdock /Lipo Battery Pack/Duplex Dmr Pi-Hat/ Baofeng DM-5R Dmr Radio Package** has 32G SD Card With Raspbian, Power Brick. Atrix Lapdock has Hdmi Touchpad Keyboard All Cables And Charger. Rpi Lipo Battery Pack And Cable. Duplex Pi-Hat Is On But No Software Installed. Baofeng Commercial Digital Dm5r Never Used. Package Deal \$160.00

Contact Dave @ WA2WAP@Verizon.net

- **IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope.** Tested and Calibrated last year. AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, Very good condition. \$900.00
- **Military Watt Meter AN/URM-120 B/U 2 to 1000 MHZ** Complete and with Carrying Case. In excellent condition. Great Shack / Bench Watt Meter. \$100.00
- **Yaesu FT-2900 Programing Software by RT Systems** Cable included. used once. Registered, with PW. \$35.00
For above, contact John at: Radiowizz@aol.com

- **Arrow Model 52-S4** - 4-Element 6 Meter Yagi antenna in good condition. \$75.00

For above, contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com

Send your listing to W2RBJ@Outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.