

The Propagator



Garden State Amateur Radio Association

8 DONNER ST.

HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

EDITOR: BOB BUUS, W2OD

MARCH 2017

IT WORKED FOR MACGYVER – OR DID IT?

By Blair Hearth, KD2EPA



At the March 1 GSARA meeting, I'll be showing 10 fun segments from the show's first two seasons (30 years ago). Each segment from the show involves electronic tinkering and/or radio propagation that helps the hero get out of tight situations. Club members will be asked to judge whether the solution would work or not.

NEW MEMBER AND AN UPGRADE

Please welcome the newest member of GSARA. He is Bill Ogden, KD2MTK from Belford, NJ. Bill passed the Technician exam in January. He is a Senior Electronic Technician. Please add to your Roster:



Bill Ogden, KD2MTK

81 Lenison Ave.

Belford, NJ 07715

732-787-5111

billogdenjr@gmail.com

Also, the new member from last month's Propagator, Denis Commette, KD2MOO has upgraded to General and changed his call to N2NPT so please change your Roster accordingly.

Arek, who was AC2FC changed his call and is now K2KP

Welcome to GSARA, Bill, Arek and congratulations to Denis, N2NPT on his upgrade and new call.

GSARA MEETINGS

The next GSARA meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. The program will feature Blair Hearth, KD2EPA with "It Worked for MacGyver – or Did It?" (see article on left). Light refreshments will be served and guests are welcome.

The second meeting in March will be held on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting. Refreshments will be served.

GSARA NET

GSARA members meet on the Asbury Park repeater every Tuesday at 8:30 pm. Everyone is most welcome to join the net. It is a good way to meet people, say hi, and find out what is going on in the club from week to week

GSARA NET REPORT

JOIN THE NET: 8:30 PM TUESDAYS

In the last 4 sessions we had 36 check-ins for an average of 9 per session. The following 17 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

K2NPT (4), W2OD (4), N2AJ0 (3), N2BMK (3), KA2F (3), KC2YNL (3), K2CYS (2), N2HGI (2), W2LAF (2), KD2LLJ (2), WA2PCY (2), K2ARK (1), N2GT (1), N2JNG (1), KD2KOA (1), KD2MGE (1), and W2NAZ (1).

Mark your calendar so you remember to participate. The more participation, the more fun!

QUICK INFO

- GSARA Patches are available at all meetings for \$3
- The Propagator is now on the web at the club web site at www.gsara.club
- Outgoing QSL cards can be sent to the ARRL directly from the GSARA. Simply bring them to the next meeting with proof of ARRL membership and John, KA2F or Len, WA2PCY will send them on.
- Every Friday at noon anyone is welcome to join the group for lunch at the Blue Swan Diner in Ocean Township.

FIELD DAY 2017 PACKET AVAILABLE

The Field Day 2017 packet now is available from the ARRL website. Field Day 2017 is June 24-25 -- always the fourth full weekend in June. There have been no significant rule changes from 2016. The Field Day packet contains everything you or your club will need to succeed in June, including explanations, FAQs, articles from experts, and even a log page template, if you log on paper for FD. For more information on Field Day, contact the ARRL Contest Branch.

From The ARRL Letter, February 16, 2017

VE TEST SESSION

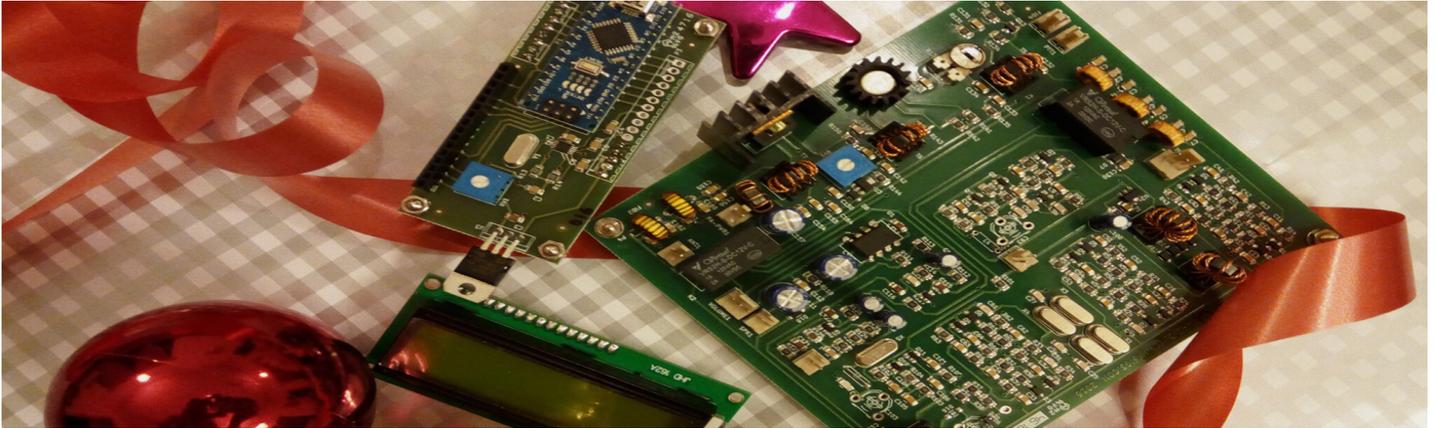
MARCH 25

The GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Red Cross on Saturday, March 25 at 11 am. The fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and the original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms that you have (copies will be sent in with your test results). Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a photo ID. For more information, contact Rich Bilon, N3RB at 732-972-1397 or n3rb@arrl.net

GSARA Club Event!

Build your own 40 M TXCVR

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 am



When was the last time you used a radio you had built?

The GSARA is going to host a 'Build Your Rig and Picnic' at the home of Cy, K2CYS on June 11 at 10:30. We will build the BITX40. Art, N2AJ0 will be our guide and inspiration as he built one and showed it to the club recently. We were impressed!

The BITX40 board is a two board, 40 meter SSB transceiver module kit with digital control! Inside an afternoon, you can be on-air with this digital SSB transceiver, chatting with the local gang or chasing DX. Plug in the earphones, the included electret mic, tuning and volume controls and you are on air! Included are high quality connectors, all the needed sockets and jacks, tuning and volume controls, mounting hardware, etc.

You will need to buy the kit for \$59 at <http://www.hfsigs.com/>. The kit comes from India and will take at least a couple of weeks to get to you so order it as soon as you can. Take a look at the page at their website and learn about this fun project.

Cy's wife, Stella, will host lunch for us all and we will have a wonderful social picnic in the backyard of K2CYS at 44 Lambert Johnson Drive in Ocean Township.

Please let Cy K2CYS k2cys@arrl.net or Art N2AJ0 olson339@comcast.net to let them know you are coming.

Let's enjoy our hobby building something together!

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 1

By Bob Buus, W2OD



President Howard Suffill, W2HTS called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. There were 18 members and one guest present. The guest was Joe Kruszewski, KC2SVS from Toms River. After the pledge to the flag, all members present introduced themselves and summarized recent amateur radio activities. Bob, W2OD showed some low-power dummy loads he constructed from some 249 ohm resistors in his junk box. He offered to give resistors to anyone interested in building a dummy load. John, KA2F is working on his DXCC on phone and is awaiting confirmation from a few more countries. Art, N2AJ0 showed a 40 meter, 5W SSB transceiver he obtained from India for \$60. This might make a good GSARA club project if there is enough interest (*Art and Cy have put a build date and picnic together on June 11 - see flyer on page 3 - ed.*). Marty, N2BMK is picking up new countries on 80 meter SSB. He pointed out that as the sunspot cycle declines, 80 meters generally gets better. John, KD2LLJ has his 40 meter dipole working well and has made several new contacts on that band. Matthew, N2UG has just completed building a 12 volt power distribution box which will reduce the wire clutter in his shack. John, KC2YWL is studying for his General and hope to be ready to take the exam in March.

Health and Welfare

Len, WA1PCY is back in rehab but is doing well. He was on the Tuesday 8:30 GSARA net with an HT he borrowed from John, KA2F.

Tony, KA2ZSI is in the hospital and in a lot of pain. He needs our prayers.

Laura, N2HGI is housebound but did get on the Tuesday night net and sounded good.

New Member

An application for membership was received from Bill Ogden who recently passed his Technician exam and is awaiting his call. He lives in Belford and is a Senior Electronic Technician.. A motion was made by Rem, K2REM and seconded by Arek, AC2FC to accept Bill as an active member of GSARA. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Arek, AC2FC checked out the two Kenwood TS-430 transceivers from the Jon Lowing, N2DPC estate. One was cleaned up and is in good working condition. The other is missing filters and has a bad driver transistor. He's not sure it is worth fixing up but might be retained or sold for parts. There seemed to be no consensus on this so he will look at it further to see what is involved in getting it working.

Program

At the suggestion of Howard, W2HTS, we had a discussion of potential operating activities for W2GSA in the field this year. He suggested the following candidates:

- Rookie Roundup for Phone, CW, and/or RTTY

- Sweepstakes in November
- Winter Field Day
- New Jersey QSO Party
- Lighthouse Weekend in the fall.
- Field Day in June.

There was a lively discussion about Field Day. Joe, W2KQ and Jim, K2EI have looked into going back to the ball field at the old Fort Monmouth (where we had some past Field Days). The membership supported this proposal and Joe, W2KQ volunteered to chair this project. Jim, K2EI will be in charge of the antennas. Arek, AC2FC will be responsible for the radios and computers. We will run one or two transmitter positions, depending on how many operators volunteer. We will probably have to rent a Port-A-Potty but that and food should be our only expense. We still need someone in charge of Tents, Chairs, and Toilet. Also someone to take care of the power generator and wiring. Finally, we need someone to take care of food and beverages. June seems a long way away but it will be here before we know it.

Close

The door prize of \$17 was won by John, KC2YWL. There being no further business, a motion was made by Rem, K2REM and seconded to adjourn the meeting which was closed at 9:07 pm.

FEBRUARY 15 MINUTES

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS was absent so the meeting was called to order by Vice President Rem, K2REM at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. There were 11 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all present introduced themselves and some briefly described their recent amateur radio activities. John, KA2F worked South Shetland Island on 40 CW and stated he is easy to work. There is also a Russian station in Antarctica on 40 CW. Bob, W2OD finished reading “The Brasspunder” donated to the GSARA library by Rem, K2REM. A review will be in the March Propagator.

Health and Welfare

Tony, KA2ZSI is out of the hospital and now at Meridian Rehab on New Bedford Road in Wall. He is in room 212A and his phone is 732-312-1723. He might appreciate a call.

Laura, N2HGI is still homebound but has been on the GSARA net

Len, WA1PCY is again back home and slowly recovering.

Secretary’s Report

A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Ted, N2KPS to accept the minutes of the February 1 meeting as will be published in the March 2017 Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer John King, KA2F reported that we have collected another \$125 in dues for 2017. We had expenses of \$381.69 for Cy, K2CYS to obtain new web addresses, \$459.35 for equipment and liability

insurance, and about \$100 for updating the silent key plaque and ink cartridges for our printer. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Ralph, KC2YNL to accept the report as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Hamfest

Rem, K2REM announced that the MOESC site is not available on May 28 due to the Memorial Day weekend so he has proposed moving it to June 11. He is awaiting to hear from KJI Electronics before setting the date officially.

Field Day

Joe, W2KQ wants maximum participation of GSARA members for Field Day 2017 which will be held at the old baseball field of Fort Monmouth. Response to the sign-up sheet has been poor. We will try again and have a revised sign-up sheet published in the March Propagator (see next page - ed.). A motion was made by Ted, N2KPS and seconded by Arek, AC2FC to publish the latest sign-up sheet in the March Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

If enough volunteers sign up for Field Day, we plan to have two operating positions – a phone position and a CW position. Sign up for whatever mode (or both) that you are most comfortable with.

Old Business

A motion was made by Ted, N2KPS and seconded by Joe, W2KQ to approve spending \$459.35 for liability and equipment insurance for the coming year. The motion passed unanimously.

John, KA2F reported that the silent key plaque has been brought up to date with the addition of 7 new names.

Announcements

Rem, K2REM has applied for permission to use the Sea Girt Lighthouse for the lighthouse weekend this fall. He has not yet heard back from them.

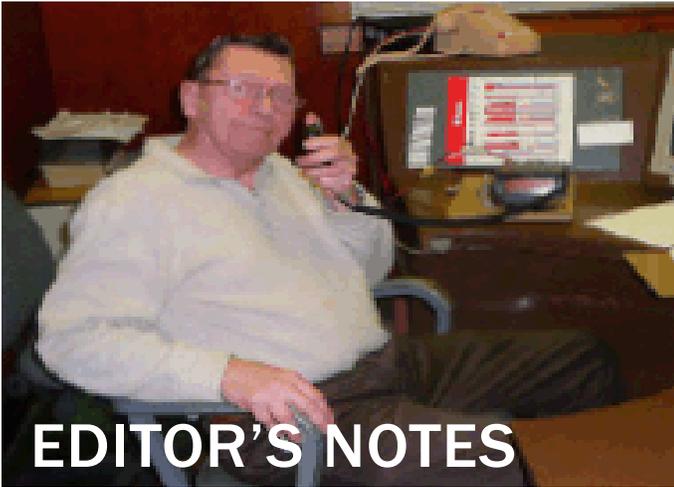
OMARC has moved and now meets at the Firehouse in Spring Lake Heights.

Bob, W2OD brought a dual-band Diamond antenna from the Jon Lowing, N2DPC-SK estate. It is now in the storage cage and might be erected at the Red Cross for use by W2GSA.

Close

The door prize was won by Bob, W2OD. There being no further business, a motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by John, KC2YWL to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:10 pm.





EDITOR'S NOTES

BOB BUUS, W20D

The new format for The Propagator is a work in progress and several changes have been made in this issue to reflect comments and feedback we have received from you members. Please let either Cy or me know about possible improvements for future issues. We strive for continuous improvement!

There are three things you should do while reading this issue. The first is to take the ARRL survey mentioned on page 13 to express your views on what, if anything, should be done regarding a revised entry-level license for amateur radio. Let ARRL know what you think about such a license. Should it be renewable? Should it include some HF phone privileges? HF digital? What do YOU think?

The second thing is to order your BITX40 SSB 40-meter transceiver. Newcomers with a General license (or those anticipating getting their General) are not likely to find a lower-cost means of getting on HF SSB. Putting this rig together in the presence of experts almost guarantees a working rig that will give you many memorable QSOs (including some DX). See page 3 for details.

The third thing is to sign-up for operating and/or logging time slots for Field Day. I know that June seems far away but it is important for the committee to know how many operators are willing to participate and that will determine how many transmitters we will run. So, fill out the form on page 8 and make sure it gets to Jim, K2EI.

Finally, I would like to remind you that if you haven't done so already, it is past the time to renew your membership in GSARA for another year. Per our Constitution, if your dues are not paid by March 1, you will be dropped from our roster. So please take care of this important function as we'd like to have you with us for another year.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for The Propagator. The deadline for the April issue is March 15.

NEW ROOKIE ROUNDUP RULES



Changes to the rules for Rookie Roundup will make it possible for more radio amateurs to qualify for the "Rookie" category. Rookie Roundup is a 6-hour operating event aimed at radio amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. Operators first licensed in 2015, 2016, or 2017 already qualify as Rookies for the next Rookie Roundup, which will be the SSB event on April 17, 1800-2359 UTC.

Starting with the SSB event in April, operators licensed before 2015 may enter as Rookies if they made their first Amateur Radio contact during 2015, 2016 or 2017 -- or if they have never before made a contact using the mode of the upcoming Rookie Roundup (i.e., SSB for April, RTTY for August, and CW for December). These operators should send 2017 in their exchange, and those qualifying for either of these reasons will be Rookies only for 1 year.

Rookie Roundup is the third Sunday in April (SSB), August (RTTY), and December (CW). Stations send the year they were first licensed as part of the exchange. Rookies attempt to make as many contacts as possible and may work everyone. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event, multioperator teams can compete, and veteran operators are encouraged to participate!

From The ARRL Letter, February 2, 2017

FROM JOE, W2KQ - FIELD DAY SIGN UP FORM

In order to provide operating opportunities for as many members as possible, to get as much as possible out each band and mode, and to ensure a full 24- hours of operation, Field Day 2017 planning is based on scheduled hours, modes, and\ operators. Looking for both seasoned operators and those who haven't yet experienced the enjoyment of making contacts on a 1000-foot antenna up 70 feet.

Select your mode and hour on the chart below and send to Jim kzei@arrl.net or call him at 732-741-1613.

Please make your commitment ASAP and well before June.

Adjustments will be made to accommodate digital operations. Two operators may commit to the same hour or multiple hours only after all 24 one-hour slots are covered.

Some operators may prefer assistance of Loggers, some won't. We will need help with antenna installation Friday afternoon, tent and equipment set up on Friday and tear down/clean up on Sunday.

Hour	Mode	Operator	-Logger--	Hour	Mode	Operator	-Logger--
1400	CW			0200	CW		
1500	Phone			0300	Phone		
1600	CW			0400	CW		
1700	Phone			0500	Phone		
1800	CW			0600	CW		
1900	Phone			0700	Phone		
2000	CW			0800	CW		
2100	Phone			0900	Phone		
2200	CW			1000	CW		
2300	Phone			1100	Phone		
0000	CW			1200	CW		
0100	Phone			1300	Phone		

CY, K2CYS WANTS YOUR SHACK! (WELL, NOT LITERALLY)



Cy, K2CYS, the club webmaster, is looking to feature shacks and faces of GSARA on the club website. Send a picture of you in your shack (or just your shack if you wish) to Cy at k2cys@arrl.net and he will upload it to the Member's Shack Page (<http://www.gsara.club/members-shacks>) of the club website. Send along a .jpg or .png and don't forget to include your name and callsign in the e-mail!

GREETINGS FROM ALAN, W2NIR

The Florida weather has been spectacular these past few days and we are sopping up the rays as they say. Last August (8/27/16) when I returned home from rehab, I could barely walk. I used a wheel chair and graduated to a walker. Anyway last Sunday I completed the Half Marathon in Miami as a race walker in the driving rain. Not a good advertisement for the Miami Chamber of Commerce.

On another note, I have been using my rig in the car and have made a few 20 meter contacts. The band is sluggish so the contacts have been far and few between. Driving down here is a peril. People run red lights and pass parked school buses unloading youngsters. Hardly a day passes without a fender bender or worse. The crowds are thinner this year and that could be attributed to the seniors not coming down and/or they have sold their places and are living in senior residences in their home state. Hope all is well with you and look forward to the meetings in the spring.



Toma la suave (take it easy in Spanish)

Regards, Alan, W2NIR

PROPAGATOR IMPROVEMENTS

- Hyperlinks are underlined and in blue and in a bigger font for easier recognition
- Colors to easily identify headers and links
- Important news applicable to the club has been moved to the front page
- All pages now list the month and year of the issue and the page number (at the bottom)
- There are now more interactivity features to make your experience more enjoyable
- Officers list now includes email addresses
- Bookmarks for simple and quick navigation



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gsara.club
w2gsa.org

Should I set up an
EME station for
Field Day?



NJ CALL LETTER LICENSE PLATES

If you are an amateur radio operator in New Jersey, you can purchase call letter license plates for a \$15 fee for passenger vehicles. Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Call the MVC at (609) 292-6500 ext. 5061 to request an application. When you call the number and the extension listed, you will wait on Hold. They will tell you that's the wrong extension, and will connect you to the right one. They will take your address. A card will be sent to be filled out and to that you attach a copy of your FCC license, a check for \$15, and a copy of your registration.

Mail it back to:

NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
Special Plate Unit
PO Box 015
Trenton, NJ 08666-0015

CHINESE OVER THE HORIZON (OTH) RADAR INTRUDER

FROM ARRL NEWSLETTER- JANUARY 26, 2107

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System newsletter reports a mysterious “foghorn” -- a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst radar -- is operating in Amateur Radio bands.

“We observed the mysterious foghorn on 7, 10, and 14 MHz,” the newsletter recounted. “This is a Chinese OTH radar, which is often jumping, and sounding like a foghorn.” The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

Other intruders include a Russian frequency shift keying (FSK) signal from Kaliningrad on 7,193 kHz and a Russian FSK signal on 7,193 kHz (50 baud, 200 Hz shift). German telecommunications authorities have filed another complaint.

The latest IARUMS newsletter also reports strong splatter from Radio France International (RFI) on 7,205 kHz down to 7,186 kHz. The French REF has informed RFI and French telecommunications authorities.

Intruders still reported, and the subjects of complaints from German authorities include Radio Hargeysa in Somaliland on 7,120.0 kHz; Radio Eritrea with Ethiopian interference on 7,175.0 kHz; Radio Taiwan and a Chinese jammer on 7,200.0 kHz, and a Radio Tajik harmonic (from 4765 kHz) on 14,295.0 kHz.

From The ARRL Letter, February 16, 2017

PARITY ACT SPEEDS THROUGH HOUSE

FROM ARRL NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 26, 2017

Just 10 days after being introduced in the 115th Congress, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, H.R. 555, passed the US House of Representatives on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 cosponsors, but failed to clear the US Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was launched on January 13 with initial cosponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the US Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with [thousands of] e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to im-

pose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners' associations seeking to enforce the restriction.

BOOK REVIEW

The Brasspounder by D. G. Sanders is a book recently donated to the GSARA library by Rem, K2REM. Sanders, born in 1899 was a railroad telegrapher from 1915 until his retirement in 1965. I related to this book because my father in law followed a nearly parallel path as a railroad telegrapher only a few years earlier than Sanders. The book also brought back many childhood memories of the glory days of steam engines and the many hours I and my friends played along the railroad tracks with fear and awe as each huge steam engine passed through my town.

Sanders started his career early at age 15 by lying about his age and was promoted to the responsibilities of station agent before he was 18. Needless to say, he was proficient with the American Morse code.

Many of his stories and anecdotes relate to railroad operations and will probably not be of much interest to younger people who do not remember when the railroads were king and linked almost every city and town in the United States with passenger, freight, mail and telegraph service.

Sanders telegraph stories about the result of mixing up the letter "T" (a 3-unit dash) with the letter "L" (a 5-unit dash) or mixing up the letter "I" (2-dots) and the letter "O" (2-dots but separated by two units instead of one) are humorous and easy to relate to. His description of handcars and speeders brought back memories of my childhood when I would see railroad workers scooting along the tracks on these contraptions.

I would heartily recommend this book for old timers who have nostalgic memories of the railroads and for those with an interest in American Morse code. Others may find the book a bit on the quaint side and unable to relate to the stories. However, it is a short book (180 pages) with short chapters so can be read rather quickly.

...AND NOW FOR SOME FIELD DAY HUMOR

(Click on the picture when .pdf mode using a computer and enjoy!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAZcuUAZzI>

WANNA GET GREY(ER) HAIR? TRY THE ARRL DX PHONE CONTEST! MARCH 4-5, 2017

This is what the ARRL says the DX Contest is: "To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations."



Not true.

It is a contest where 10,000 stations chase one station each one operating with 25,000 watts clobbering the DX station in "rare" places like France and Germany to get the 3 points!

But really, it is a fun contest and will improve your phone skills like nothing else can. It is a good way to chalk up a few new countries and, though the chances of winning are slim, you might win in your power class in your neighbourhood! Really, enjoy. It is a lot of fun to work, especially with a partner.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

A NEW CLASS OF LICENSE? TAKE THE SURVEY



ARRL is considering a new "entry level" license to propose to the FCC with the thought of making ham radio more enticing, something the existing Technician license does not do well.

Although the number of licenses is at an all time high, the number of hams using them is dismally LOW.

Read the rationale and take the survey presented by

ARRL at this link,

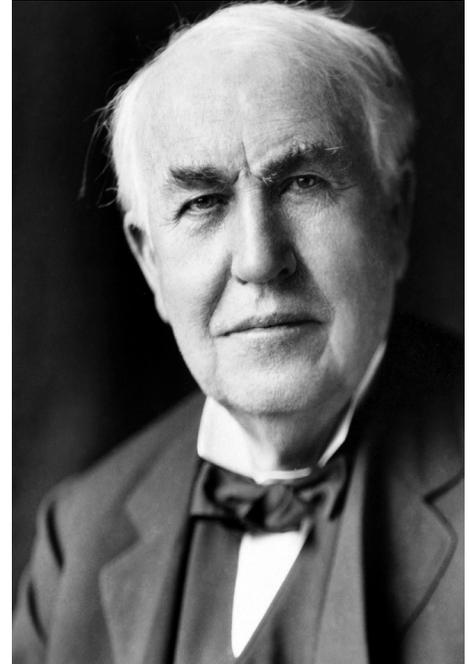
<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>

ARRL Newsletter

THOMAS ALVA EDISON...NOW YOU KNOW

We've all heard of Thomas Edison who invented many practical devices such as the phonograph, the light bulb and motion pictures. He had over 1000 patents awarded to him. Here I'd like to explore two fields that Edison explored but missed developing into radio and vacuum tubes.

In 1875, Edison was investigating what he called an "etheric force" and we now call "radio". He wired a relay in series with a normally closed contact so the relay "buzzed" upon applying power. More importantly, the contact sparked at each breaking due to the inductance of the relay winding (Joseph Henry had described this phenomena many years earlier). Edison found that if he connected metal foils on each side of the arcing contact, he could pick up a small spark between similar metal foils placed very close together but up to 8 feet away from the "transmitting" foils. He could increase sensitivity by putting a microscopic gap between the receiving foils in a light-tight box and observing the miniature spark with a microscope. In this way, he built the first radio receiver. He explored this "etheric force" with the hope of developing a wireless telegraph but abandoned it when Western Union showed no interest in converting to wireless telegraphy.



Ten years later, in exploring means to communicate with a moving train or ship, Edison further explored his "etheric force" but soon abandoned it when the distances covered wirelessly were too small to be practical. He did receive a patent in 1885 for a wireless communication system and sold the patent to the Marconi Company in 1903. So, Edison had explored electromagnetic radiation and reception before Hertz and Marconi developed it into what we now call radio.

The other near miss came in 1883. Edison's light bulb was about 4 years old and he was trying to understand why the carbon from the filament boiled off and blackened the glass bulb of the light bulb. He made some bulbs with an additional electrode (we would now call it a "plate") and found that current would flow through the vacuum of the tube from plate to filament. He called this the "Edison effect" and we now call it thermionic emission. Since the bulb still darkened with the plate in it, Edison abandoned further exploration. As an interesting aside, it wasn't until 1913 when Irving Langmuir at General Electric solved the bulb blackening problem by adding argon to the inside of the evacuated light bulb.

John Ambrose Fleming, a consultant to the Edison Company in England between 1892 and 1894 was interested in exploring the "Edison effect" in more detail so asked if some of the bulbs with the additional plate in them could be sent to England. They were and Fleming discovered that such a diode could rectify alternating rf signals and could be used as a detector of radio waves. Such a vacuum diode is still called a "Fleming valve" in England.

If Edison has further pursued his "etheric force" he may well have preceded Hertz and Marconi in the development of wireless. If he had further pursued his "Edison effect" he may well have invented the vacuum tube before Fleming and DeForest.

So now you know!

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the March 2012 Propagator: Arnold Peterson, AB2N and Lance Andrew, N2UUS joined GSARA. It was moved and seconded to change the program meeting to the first meeting of each month and becomes effective in March.



TEN YEARS AGO

From the March 2007 Propagator: Former GSARA member Vic Colaguori, W2VC (brother of Tony, W2GUM) became a silent key. Walt Maxwell, W2DU won the QST cover plaque award for January.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the March 2002 Propagator: Bill Ryan, WA2DND joined GSARA. A proposal to increase the initiation fee from \$2 to \$5 was soundly defeated.. OMARC is sponsoring a hidden transmitter hunt at Camp Evans in May.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the March 1997 Propagator: Ken Hampton, KY2S was planning a bus trip to ARRL Headquarters on April 22. Ron Olender, WA2HZT was voted in as a new member of GSARA.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the March 1992 Propagator: Alene Petersen, XYL of Phil Petersen, W2DME-SK passed her Novice exam. Marv Bernstein, W2PAT reported on the progress of the tower at UPS. The cost of the digipeater is over \$3500 with GSARA contributing \$100. New members included (Bill) Ted Copp, N2KPS, Cary Fishman, WB2BSJ, and Allen Schnabolk, W2OIB.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the March 1987 Propagator: Jeff Harshman, N2LXM is running an 11 week license class at Fort Monmouth. The FCC will no longer distribute date-of-birth information in the amateur license data base. Representative Frank Pallone had come to our January 15 meeting and sent a follow-up letter to the club. Joe Dreifuss, WA2GSY has changed his call to W2KQ.



HAMVENTION'S FIRST YEAR IN THEIR NEW DIGS

The people at the Dayton Hamvention have moved their digs from the Hara Arena to a new area pretty close by. If you have ever been to Hara, you remember how 'interesting' it was: blocked toilets, leaky roof, super expensive food, and so forth. Well, the owners of the arena sold the place and the Hamvention was forced to move. Believe me, this is a good thing. Anyway, if you are planning to go to Hamvention this year or just wanted a taste of it, here is a short video of last year's --- without the leaky roof and the blocked toilets. But a word to the wise - watch out for the scooters! They are all over the place and really dangerous!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt9o5f3-ywE&spfreload=10>

MS BIKEATHON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for the MS Bike Run on Sat May 20 and Sun May 21. It starts at Monmouth U the comes through Ocean County. On the 2nd day and itt continues to Cape May. More details will follow but please mark you calendar. As you might guess, multiple repeaters are used along the way and if you can just take one station it would be a great help.

Let Holger, W2HES at holger@alarmland.com know if you can make it.

ANTARCTICA ON THE AIR

KC4AAA at the US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station has been heard recently on 40 meters (SSB) at around 0650 UTC. QSL Manager Larry Skilton, K1IED, reports that QSL cards for recent activity (December 2016 through January 2017) should go out in March. KC4AAA plans to be on LoTW with logs from 2013 to the present. Skilton reports that KC4AAA was not on the air very often during 2016.



The KC4USV station at McMurdo Station has been off the air for 2 years, and the antennas are down. KC4USV is on LoTW.

Oleg Neruchev, ZS1OIN/UA3HK, will be active as RI1ANN from the Russian Progress station until February 22 (QSL via ZS1OIN). The Russian Antarctic Bases Award is available for contacts or SWL reports with stations at the Russian Antarctic bases and stations.

Thanks to The Daily DX

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **KC2RSE** March 3. All times before March 12 are EST and afterward EDST. Contests are listed in the March QST, p. 89.

March 1 – **GSARA Program Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross. Blair, KD2EPA will show excerpts from MacGyver programs with discussions as to how realistic the “solutions” are. Refreshments will be served.

March 2 - **HCARC Holiday Meeting** 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

March 3 and every Friday – **Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner** in Ocean at noon. Table at back left.

March 3-5 – **ARRL International DX SSB Contest** from 7 pm Friday to 6:59 pm Sunday. See <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

March 3 - **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-35 wpm). See March 2017 QST page 105 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

March 4 – **North American CW Sprint** from 7 pm to 11 pm. See <http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

March 6 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

March 7 – **Old Barney VE Session** at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, W1UL at 609-296-5856 or urb@w2dec.com

March 7 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting** at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

March 7 and every following Tuesday – **GSARA Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 8:30 pm.

March 7 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

March 8– **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net

March 9 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm.

March 11-12 – **QCWA QSO Party** from 1 pm Saturday to 2 pm Sunday. See <http://www.qcwa.org> March

11 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Firehouse on 600 Sixth Ave. in Spring Lake Heights. Guests are always welcome.

March 11 – **Time Change to Daylight Saving Time**. Set clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed.

March 13 -. **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

March 15– **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (10-35 wpm). See March 2017 QST page 105 and <http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule>

March 15 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. Regular business meeting.

March 16– **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:00 pm Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

March 20 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

March 24-26 – **CQ WW WPX SSB Contest** from 8 pm Friday to 7:59 pm Sunday. <http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

March 25 – **GSARA VE Test Session** at 11 am at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. See page 1.

March 27 – **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			GSARA Mtg	HCARC Mtg	KC2RSE Blue Swan lunch CW Qual. Run Int. SSB DX	Int. SSB DX
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
N2EDX Int. SSB DX	ARES/RACES 7:30	OBARC GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	Hol. City VE	JSARS Mtg	Blue Swan lunch	OMARC Mtg QCWA QSO Ser clock ahead
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
QCWA QSO	RACES Net 7:30	GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	CW Qual. Run GSARA Mtg	JSARS VE.	Blue Swan lunch	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	ARES/RACES 7:30	GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM		KD2KZB	AC2PD Blue Swan lunch CQ WPX SSB	CQ WPX SSB GSARA VE
26	27	28	29	30	31	
AB2N CQ WPX SSB	N2VEH RACES Net 7:30	GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	.		Blue Swan lunch	



G.S.A.R.A.
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FIRST CLASS