

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



Happy Thanksgiving!

www.egara.club

November 2019

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Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
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EGARA Gets Local Scouts On the Air During 62nd Annual Jamboree Learning About Amateur Radio Earns Merit Badges

Capital Region Scouts joined with members of the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association on Saturday, October 19th to participate in the 62nd annual Jamboree On the Air, the largest Scouting event in the world. Known as JOTA, Scouts teamed up with local “ham” radio operators to talk by shortwave to other Scouts across the nation and around the world, earning a merit badge in the process.

According to the World Scout Bureau, the Jamboree has attracted participation by over 1.5 million Scouts from more than 160 countries. The event was attended by some 15 local Scouts from the Arrow of Light Pack 2257 and was held at the East Greenbush Masonic Temple.

“There is a big emphasis today on STEM education -- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – and Amateur Radio encompasses all four,” said Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, who helped organize the event on behalf of EGARA. “Saturday’s Jamboree gave each Scout the opportunity to see how Amateur Radio operates, along with the chance to go on the air and talk with other Amateur stations across the country.”

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Making a contact with a Scout Troop in Louisiana. Left to right: Ethan Narkiewicz, Erik Lindberg, Michael Craven, Aidan Toolan, and Logan Turchin. Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, helps with the contact during the Jamboree on the Air.

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November Meeting - Learning About Waves

The November EGARA meeting will feature two parts -- a video on how waves work, and a workshop that will allow members to have the specs checked on their HT radios.



The video to be shown was produced by AT&T and provides a visual demonstration of how waves perform under different conditions, including an explanation of Standing Waves, better known as SWR.

In addition, Steve VanSickle will hold a workshop that will allow members to test the specifications and performance of their HT radios. Each member who participates will be given a card with the test results of their radio.

Next EGARA Meeting - - November 13, 2019 - Test Your HT!

Scouts On the Air...

Each Scout logged the contacts they made, helping them to earn a "Build a Better World" merit badge. Their logs included contacts with stations in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Western New York. In addition, Scouts reported listening to stations in West Virginia and as far away as Germany. As part of the Jamboree, the local Scouts were assigned the call sign K2BSA/2 for the day to identify their station on the air.

Jamboree on the Air began in 1957 as a way to foster Scout-to-Scout conversations across town, as well as around the world. The goal is to allow Scouts to recognize geographical and cultural differences while also exposing them to the radio technology that makes it all happen.

"Scouting and Amateur Radio actually have a long history of growing together, with the first Amateur Radio merit badge being awarded in 1919" said Assistant Cubmaster Danielle Schaff. "This year's Jamboree was the first time most of our Scouts had the chance to experience the thrill of using shortwave radio to communicate over thousands of miles. And, several have now expressed an interest in getting their Amateur Radio license."

Each Scout who participated in Saturday's event was given a tote bag with information on how Amateur Radio works and how to become a licensed operator. In addition, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association offered each Scout and their family a free one-year club membership to help further their interest in "ham" radio. The Scouts received their merit badges during their next Pack meeting the following Friday.

As part of the Jamboree, club member Dave Smith, WA2WAP, set up an exhibit table with information on how Amateur Radio works, including hands-on demonstrations of the latest computer technologies that are being used to advance the art of ham radio.



Club member Dave Smith WA2WAP, explains some of the new technologies being used in Amateur Radio



Above: David Jaeger, Jr, K2DEJ, shows Cub Angelo Hill how to make a contact using a VHF repeater

Right: Club members prepare for the Jamboree on the Air by setting up the HF antenna



More Pictures from the Scout Jamboree On the Air Next Page

Photo Gallery from Jamboree On the Air...

Photos by Danielle Schaff & Bryan Jackson



CJ Spanwick IV and Owen Valenichis trying out a handheld radio.



Ethan Narkiewicz has some hands-on fun with computer boards and a Raspberry Pi computer. Dave Smith, WA2WAP, provided an educational exhibit during the Jamboree to show Scouts some of the new technologies being used in Amateur Radio today.



Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, tunes up for the next contact as Scouts look on with their Assistant Cubmaster Danielle Schaff

EGARA JOTA Participants

- Russ Greenman, WB2LXC
- Dave Smith, WA2WAP
- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
- Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ
- Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
- David Jaegar, Jr, K2DEJ
- Walt Snyder, N2WJR
- Dave Gillette, KC2RPU
- Bob Stanley, W2RBS



The Scouts highlighted their day on the air with EGARA by building this display at their Pack meeting the following week.

Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A while back, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:

From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [mailto:w3iz@arrl.org]

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine."

About the Author: Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides. You can read his ham radio blog at <http://www.kb6nu.com>

A Cruise Down the Hudson

EGARA Members Enjoy a Beautiful Fall Day on the river

Photos by Dave Gillette and Bryan Jackson



The Spirit of Albany stands ready to take the EGARA crew for a great day on the river



Tom Woodson, N4PXB, and his wife enjoying the trip



Paul Dahoda, KD2JMM, checks out the view



The steady hand of Kira Bradt steers our craft safely down the Hudson. She's the daughter of Zac Bradt, KD2QZN



Passing the Dutch Apple along the way



The Albany skyline drifts behind as we head downriver

Dave Gillette, KC2RPU, again stands watch to look for any icebergs that may lie ahead



EGARA October Meeting Minutes

- The October 9th meeting of the EGARA was replaced by the club's annual Mini-Hamfest.
- As customary, refreshments of coffee, soda, and pizza were provided to all the attendees;
- --de Steve VanSickle WB2HPR / Secretary

Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has not turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource, nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."

It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, because any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi but has not heard back.

ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find 'that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,'" Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the Sacramento Valley Section website. "What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates." ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, has been responding to inquiries with the same message.



On the Beam

News & Notes

ARRL to Launch New On the Air Magazine

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.



"*On the Air* responds to the brand-new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers," said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

"Too many new licensees never take the next step," says Schoenfeld. "We're excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air."

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice -- *On the Air* or QST. Current members receiving the print edition of QST, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the print edition of QST (monthly) or the print edition of *On the Air* (bimonthly).

All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both QST and *On the Air*. Members who already access QST on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access QST and *On the Air* starting in January.

EGARA Makes Donation in Honor of SK Rick Gross

EGARA recently made a \$50 donation to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society in the memory of former member Richard Gross, Jr., K3YT, who passed away in August at the age of 42. Rick was involved with the club for several years, along with his wife of 14 years, Liz, W7BYK.

The donation was made with the unanimous support of club members at their September meeting.



The History of Ham Radio: The Shut Down and Call Up

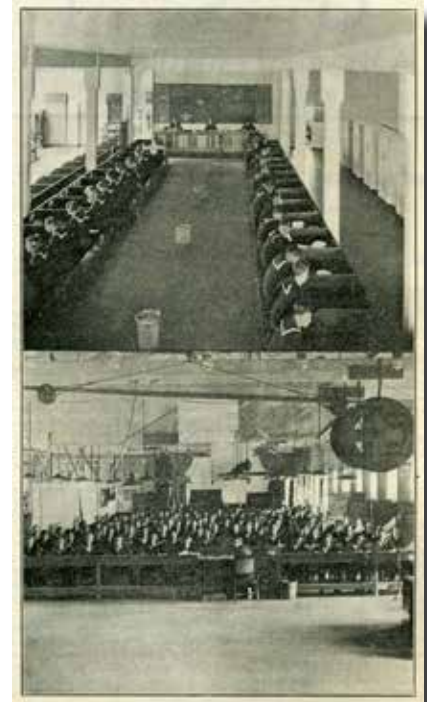
Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(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)

With ham radio shut down completely by the war, The Old Man was back the following month with an article titled simply "Rotten !!" which is what he thought of the closing of amateur stations, finding that he no longer had anything to do in the evenings. What was the harm, he asked, in allowing us to at least listen? One compensation for him had been an increase in the activity (meetings) of the local radio club.

Despite the good humor at the League, the membership was not just off the air but leaving home for military service. QST was the only remaining medium keeping amateurs in touch and League officials were beginning to realize that it would not last without an influx of new members and subscribers. Being of prime age for service, Tuska noted that he, too, would soon have to either join the Naval Reserve, the Radio service, or be drafted. So, along with an appeal for subscriptions and renewals, the editorial page called for someone "with a more or less defective anatomy" to please help continue to put out QST. Endorsing this appeal, a letter from none other than Thomas Edison was printed on the inside front cover complementing the ARRL on the magazine, having judged the issue sent to him by Tuska to be "very interesting."

In July the ARRL announced a drive to sign up 2,000 operators for military service. Hams could serve their country while receiving an education in their favorite pursuit. Harvard University turned Pierce Hall over to the Navy for training and housing Radio Electricians. Courses, including 30 words-per-minute code, theory and apparatus, and secret code work, were taught. Training would require "a small amount of drill work," too, since "a Radio operator is a Petty Officer and must know how to handle men." A second, somewhat smaller school at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and a third at Mare Island, San Francisco, were also established. A month later the three-page lead article, "What the Naval Reserve Offers Men of the ARRL" (subtitled as "Written specially for QST by the Navy Publicity Bureau"), announced another training facility at Columbia University.



Navy training class at Mare Island, California

The Navy offered a long list of interesting subjects to be covered in its training, such as transmitting and receiving sets, condensers and oscillating circuits, and electromagnetism. All of that, and they'd pay you too! At the top end of the five-grade scale, Chief Electricians would receive \$72 per month, and at the bottom, Electricians Radio, Landsman, \$32.50 per month. You would also get "subsistence and retainer fees." Interested amateurs were to clip the enrollment form printed in QST, take it to the recruiting office, get a physical, and then send it to the ARRL for handling. (If you didn't like the idea of cutting up your QST, the League would send you a separate blank on request.) One hundred enlisted men per year could also take tests to be selected for admission to the Naval Academy. You just had to have passed your seventeenth birthday.

Members began to report in with stories about their military service, being careful to include only as much detail as necessary and allowed. Many ARRL trunk line operators had by then joined up and were listed in QST, some along with their assignment locations. Even Mrs. Candler, 8NH, had enlisted in the reserve.

An anonymous contributor identified only as "P" wrote of his experience as a Navy receiver operator. Everything from procedures to Q-signals had changed from what was familiar to him. "Practically everything is in code," he reported. "I have sometimes listened for three hours without hearing anything to disturb the absolute silence of the 'ether'. Just think what a blessing this would have been in normal times."

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History of Ham Radio...

Stories of station-closing activities around the country also filled the news. The Baltimore Radio Association reported how amateur stations had been closed and “sealed” across the area—with the help of the club, in part to show a public face of cooperation by organized amateurs. So-called sealing parties had closed more than 235 stations thus far, some even in the absence of their owners. All were accomplished without opposition and some reporting “humorous incidents” at the club meetings. Either to report on the unevenness of government closings in other cities, or to boast about their own accomplishments, the club claimed that no such operation had occurred in neighboring cities; for example, Washington, where no closings had yet happened, and Philadelphia, where some stations were still reportedly operating.

Except for the relay committee, the club planned to continue to function during the shutdown and regular meetings would continue. They suggested that QST begin an “experimental department” where new technical ideas could be published and discussed. Some members had always been more interested in the technology than in relaying anyway, they claimed.

In Buffalo, New York, the county sheriff and deputies along with local police were assigned by the governor to detect and dismantle amateur stations. Over three hundred had been closed by mid-April. The city also set up a station in the federal building to detect and help locate any stations still in operation. After being taken over by the Navy, the local commercial station reopened for commercial use under their censorship.

A central figure in the city was M. B. West, 8AEZ, one of the ARRL trunk line organizers. Referred to as “Radio Gunner West,” and the “radio censor for the United States Government for this district,” West had also been actively recruiting for the Navy in the local area. Professionally involved in radio from its early beginning, he had then lost interest altogether because of the crude equipment available at the time, but was reintroduced to it in 1914 by a group of boys who came to him for advice on setting up an amateur station. Building a station and hearing the air filled with signals, he found himself hooked this time.

As mid-summer set in, QST, having hit a peak of 100 pages in April, was now down to 44 in the August issue. Yet its optimistic tone remained and the full page opposite the table of contents claimed that following the initial wave of discouragement at the closing, the tide had now turned.

Amateurs continued to report their wartime experiences. Bill Woods, 9HS operated from Manistique, Michigan, at WMX, another commercial station taken over by the Navy. In his letter, which included a redacted word or two, he described his midnight to 6:00 a.m. shift listening to the goings on with no QRM at all. When he and other amateurs reported to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, NAJ, they initially were discouraged to find that few there seemed to even know what radio was. But over time they discovered a few others with similar backgrounds and “prepared to have a regular ‘ham fest’ with fellow amateurs.”

Regular NAJ “confabs” took place among old amateur radio friends—the radio bugs—including well known trunk line relay operators such as 9ABD, wrote James Crowdus, 9HN. They would often gather after work and talk well into the evening until the bugler blew taps. “Some of the most-enjoyed moments” of his life were spent at this training camp. A group of them answering a call for volunteers for Class 2, sea duty, headed for Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Naval Radio Reserve School. There they met many more operators who had come in from all districts of the country.

“Our Pacific Coast Friends are Doing Their Bit,” Walter Maynes reported from the Naval Radio Station, San Francisco. They nightly copied KHK, a 5-kW, 600-meter spark station in Waihawa, Territory of Hawaii (designated TH then) nearly 2,100 miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and the sea of summer static. About twice weekly they also copied JOC on 600-meter spark from Japan, 5,475 miles distant, along with ships off the Japanese coast. Daytime receptions were limited to 500 to 750 miles. Their station, yet another private one taken over by the government for receiving work only, was equipped with two oscillating Audion receivers (used in non-oscillating mode), one built by the chief operator, E. M. Sargent, and one built by the author originally for use at his own amateur station before the war. One receiver covered 600 to 10,000 meters, the other 200 to 1,500, but both worked equally well at 600 meters, long the busiest place on the radio landscape. Their antenna was 400 feet long, suspended 45 feet high over poor, sandy ground near the ocean in west San Francisco, with the station on the second floor of their building.



M. B. West, 8AEZ

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The History of Amateur Radio -- Shut Down and Called Up

Not to be outdone by the Navy and its active and visible appeal to amateurs, the Army called for aviators and balloon pilots for the Signal Officers Reserve Corps of the Army, offering a commission as a Second Lieutenant, a salary of \$2,000 per year (\$35,000 in 2013 dollars) and a bonus when called to active service.

Returning to print in July, The Old Man wrote “Rotten Resonance.” The scene was another club meeting, with the regular antagonists, “Final” and “Radical.” Final, short for Final Authority, was a blowhard know-it-all, and Radical was a smallish, level-headed, normally reserved voice of reason whose *raison d'être* was to ask probing but leading questions, all to get a rise out of Final. As usual, Radical had worked Final into a frenzy, this time leading him to believe that one of the other members had been testing his transmitter in violation of the close-down order. Radical led Final through the usual series of questions ending with the fact that the experimenter was using a “phantom antenna,” the early term for a dummy load. This was evidently T.O.M.’s way of postulating that amateurs could continue to experiment with transmitters even though we were off the air.

The matching, more serious editorial that month also called for experimenting with phantom aerials to improve transmitting efficiency. All of this appeared to be a trial balloon of sorts as hams probed the boundaries of the shut-down order.

Perhaps having seen The Old Man’s article, or having read the July editorial, Lieutenant Commander Reed Fawell, USN, wrote a letter to Tuska making it quite clear that the operating ban encompassed all “radio telegraphic experiments” and strongly implied, although he did not explicitly state, that included the use of the equipment with a phantom antenna. In his mid-July letter, which appeared in September QST as the lead article, he attempted to define the boundaries more precisely, saying that there was no ban on the use of components—inductors, capacitors, and other parts—for non-radio uses such as in medical equipment. Nor was there a ban on radio frequency oscillations, *per se*. But there could be “no radiotelegraphic experiments at all,” and “all the experiments usually performed by amateurs must cease.” He suggested that this would be a good time for amateurs to learn American Morse since “all good operators should know both codes.” At the bottom of the page, under a separator bar, is the note: “This explains why Dr. Radio’s article on Phantom Antennas (alluded to in a previous issue) has been withheld. —Editor.”

That month’s editorial reacted with a noticeably irritated tone. “The facts are that we must not touch any radio apparatus. All we can do is to read radio books and think radio thoughts. Until we become Germanized, we at least have these liberties.”

The closings and restrictions, while disheartening to amateurs, were just one indication of the strategic and tactical importance of radio to the government and the military. Jonathan Zenneck, a well known German professor of electronics and widely recognized radio authority had written a bestselling text book on radio theory that was regularly advertised in QST.¹⁵ In July, he was arrested and interned at Ellis Island on suspicion of helping German spies in the United States receive communications via high-powered stations in Germany, such as the well known one in Nauen. His arrest seemed to have been ordered, in part, because he was German and a well known radio expert; there were as yet no reports of actual spying by him.¹⁶ However, Zenneck was also a Captain of Marines in the German Army, and was assigned to a coastal station in Sayville, on Long Island, New York, owned and operated by Atlantic Communication Company, itself owned by Telefunken of Germany. The US Navy had taken over the station in 1915 to enforce what was then United States neutrality in the conflict. As the country entered the war, Zenneck and his station were both put under the control of the Navy and the Secret Service.

In response, The Old Man wrote “Something Rotten Somewhere,” meaning out in Sayville, speculating that Zenneck’s arrest must have been based on something concrete. A New Jersey amateur had recorded transmissions from Sayville and worked with the Secret Service to build a case against the station before the Navy took over. TOM wondered, could it have been Zenneck who sent information to Germany about our first troop shipments?

He also wondered about something appearing in the press about “super imposed oscillatory circuits,” some sort of encoding that made transmissions undetectable without the proper information to extract them. Could this be a new solution to the QRM problem?

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Shut Down and Called Up -- The History of Amateur Radio...

And then, magnanimously, he suggested that, "After we make up again with old Z, let's ask him into the ARRL. He's probably O.K. His trouble is with his Kaiser." T.O.M. argued that if only the Navy would let the "stay at home" amateurs use their receivers, they could help locate such enemy transmissions.¹⁸ Not surprisingly, a September editorial agreed, saying that secret operating by the enemy was possible using any number of clandestine antennas, and that amateurs with receiving capability could be of great use in discovering them, if only they were not prohibited from doing so.

Aside from the government itself, the general public worried about the possibility of wireless technology posing a security threat, and read about closings and seizures of equipment in the press. This led to unfortunate, unwarranted actions being taken against some amateurs. In one instance, James A. Nassau, 3CT of Philadelphia, was investigated by special officers of the local police and the US Secret Service, because someone in the neighborhood, knowing he had been an amateur, reported suspicious noises coming from his house. Late one evening, investigators who were not at all familiar with wireless—one, in fact, admitting he had never before seen a wireless—asked whether he "could ... receive on his setup" and about how far it could send; "his setup" being a simple hand key and buzzer that he had been using for code practice sessions with some friends. The rest of his equipment had long since been packed away in boxes.

Other September editorials lamented the coming of fall and its yearly promise of lower static—prime season for radio in normal times. But for the closings, amateurs would have been gearing up right about then. The QST editorial, "Another Season Opens, but—," talked about all the marvelous things hams would be doing now that September had arrived, and each one ended with "but—"

And yet, this optimistic passage appeared, most likely written by Maxim:

"It probably will be many months, and we expect to see at least another September come and go which will be not much different. 'Tis a sad, sad tale. But, like most sad tales, it is not without a big ray of hope. This hope is that the present conditions cannot go on forever, and that the spirit of amateur wireless is just as much alive in these dead days as it ever was. Whether the law closes up our stations or even takes away our apparatus, whether we ourselves are scattered to the four winds of heaven, whether we are in the army in France, or in the Navy on the tossing sea, we are still Amateur Wireless Bugs, and nothing will ever change us. Dead Septembers may come and go and the years may change us from springy youth to sober age, but the call of the "spark" will still be in our hearts and the desire to have and use the little old set up in the attic or down in the cellar will still be the one great yearning. We will always be Amateur Wireless Bugs, come what may. That's right, isn't it, fellows?"

Equally upbeat, the editors predicted "a new kind of game" once amateurs were again permitted to operate and a thousand or more new operators trained by the Navy would return and become active. "You will be big guns when you come home after the war. You will be the ones who will run things."

September QST's cover drawing depicted a submarine at sea, flying an improbable multi-wire aerial—unintentional as metaphor, but apropos as hams left their silenced, submerged stations behind to cross the ocean and serve as signalmen. Nowhere in this issue is there any indication that it would be the last QST for the next nineteen long months.



The final QST before the year and a half shut down caused by World War One

18 Watts from an HT Radio?

By Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Baofeng is now offering a new dual band HT radio that puts out 18 watts of power. The model is listed as the UV9R-ERA and the specs include a 9500mAh Li-Ion battery. A variation of this radio appears to be the UV9R-Plus with 10 watts of power. I have ordered one and will provide a review after giving it a workout.

Prior to this model, Baofeng's most powerful offering was the 8 watt BF-F8HP.

According to information posted on QRZ's website, other specs of Baofeng's new UV9R series include the same features found in most of its other HT radios, including:

- Frequency Range: VHF 136-174MHz & UHF 400-520MHz
- 128 groups channels storage
- CTCSS/DCS
- IP68 waterproof and dustproof (not for deep immersion)
- Output Power: 18W
- Size: 132*60*32MM (Not Including Length of Antenna)

Accessories included: 9500mAh Li-ion Battery, Antenna, Belt Clip, Adapter Charger, and User Manual. A brief search on the Internet appeared to find pricing for the UV9R-ERA between \$35 and \$64, with the lowest price found on AliExpress for \$35 with free shipping.



Support EGARA -- Renew Your ARRL membership through the Club!

ARRL gives your club a commission when it processes your League membership.

There's NO additional cost to you to have the club handle your application.

Remember too, EGARA must have at least 51% of its members belong to ARRL to remain a sanctioned club and eligible for full League benefits.

Ham It Up



CALENDAR

November 9, 2019 - Fall VE Exam session, East Greenbush Library, 10 am.

November 11, 2019 - EGARA Board meeting, 7 pm

November 13, 2019 - Regular membership meeting, Masonic Lodge at 7 pm. HT radio check & understanding waves. Discussion of holiday party venue.

December 11, 2019 - Annual Club Holiday Party, location to be announced.

Pro Tip: Tuning a Dipole in 7 Steps

Building a dipole antenna usually requires some additional tuning before it's ready to go. Here's a handy guide to make the process a bit easier.

1. Cut your dipole wire some 2-3 % longer than the length given by the standard formula. ($468 / \text{freq} = \text{total dipole length in feet}$)

2. Make a note of the length obtained in step 1.

3. Raise the dipole to its operating height.

4. Measure the SWR at several frequencies within the intended frequency band. (Use only a few watts and pick a quiet time on the band to make your tests).

5. Note the frequency (F = min) at which minimum SWR is obtained.

6. Multiply (F min from step 5) by the antenna length recorded in step 2.

7. Divide the result of the above multiplication by the desired frequency of operation, to obtain the final length.

Trim both ends of the dipole down to the final length obtained in step 7. (So by using these 7 steps, you have only raised the dipole twice!)



For Sale

- **Ameritron -811h 800w**, four new 811a tubes from MFJ, spares I took out are in great shape. 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

Contact Dave @ WA2WAP@Verizon.net

- **IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope.** Tested and Calibrated last year. AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, In 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. Never abused or used on the road. Great Shack / Bench Watt Meter. Picture available. \$100.00
- **Yaesu FT-2900 Programing Software by RT Systems** Cable included. used once. Registered and includes password. \$35.00

For above, contact John at: Radiowizzz@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

- **Kenwood TS-690** - 100 watt HF/6meter transceiver. With two mics and complete operating manual. Perfect working condition. \$450.00.

Contact Bryan at W2RBJ@outlook.com

- **Johnson Valiant Transmitter AM & CW** - \$ 600.00
- **DX 60 Transmitter AM & CC With VFO** - \$ 125.00
- **DX 35 Transmitter AM & CW With VFO** - \$ 125.00
- **Eldico R124 Receiver** - \$300.00
- **MFJ Model 1995 Portable Antenna, 40 To 10 Meter** - \$75.00

For items above, contact Tom at: KC2FCP@nycap.rr.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.