

# WEARC WIRELESS

West Essex Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Club

Home of KB2UNI

Volume I

June 1995

## From the President

The year has sure flown by! As I look back over where we came from, I am amazed at what has transpired in less than a year; An idea, a new club, a great location, and a fantastic nucleus of dedicated members and friends who have truly embodied the spirit of amateur radio. We now have a "shack" complete with an HF station and a computer. We also have several community events under our belts such as "First Night", the "Wellness Walk" and in June- Field Day. We became ARRL affiliated and even had a Holiday party and a fund raiser. (Hey...this is sounding like a real club!) I give my personal thanks to all the members and friends who have given their time, talents and in some cases, equipment to our organization.

If there is one thing that I could leave with you it is the quote that I read at our first meeting from Hiram Percy Maxim, co-founder of the ARRL, in the September 1927 QST magazine. He said "*...I ask how it all came about; that the ARRL should have succeeded and all its opponents failed. The answer is clear. It is because with our opponents there was always some kind of a selfish motive to be served for someone, whereas in our ARRL we insisted from the start that no selfish motive for anybody or anything should prevail. Everything that the ARRL undertakes must be 100% for the general good. That policy bred loyalty and confidence. With those two things an organization can prosper forever.*" Mr. Maxim was referring to the ARRL, but it certainly applies to our club or any club that wants to be successful. May we all continue to remember that it is the good of our organization and amateur radio that must remain paramount.

Over the summer I encourage members to be thinking about how we can attract new members and better serve our communities. Also consider what part you might have in ensuring that all the exciting facets of our hobby are passed on to others.

It has been a privilege to serve as your first Club President. I look forward to continuing to work with the club for the betterment of all and our hobby. Best wishes to our incoming officers in the fall and I trust you and your families will have an enjoyable and safe summer.

73 de Dan Tapper WA2BTR

## NOTICE TO ALL HAMS

ARRL Section Manager *Richard S. Moseson*, NW2L, will be at WEARC on Wednesday night July 5, 1995 to give a talk to all the club members and guests. Rich is also the On-Line Coordinator for CQ Magazine. His talk will start at 8:00 PM all are invited to attend.

## WEARC Club License

It's here. Hot off the printer. WEARC's club call sign is **KB2UNI**. Let's start using it for all radio operations from the club station. It'll be good advertising and will also get you into shape for Field Day.

**Vanity Call Update** At the time of this writing the FCC form 610-V which is required to apply for a vanity call sign is still not available. The FCC has set up a special phone number for those who wish to put their names on the waiting list. According to a message seen on the local Packetcluster recently one caller who did so was told the delay was due to a few pending petitions that could alter the current vanity call sign plan. Apparently the FCC doesn't want to print the forms until all issues are settled. I opted for the other method to receive the form. I sent a SASE to the ARRL/VEC. It'll come when it comes. Meanwhile, we have our new club call sign to use. Who knows? Maybe it'll grow on us.

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## Field Day Plans Set

At 1800 hours UTC on June 24th the airwaves will come alive with the sounds of yet another Field Day. All across the nation hams both individually and by clubs are excited about partaking in the premier Amateur Radio event of the year. At WEARC the excitement level is a bit higher because it's our first Field Day as WEARCians. Although the WEARC membership includes some seasoned veterans we're basically starting from scratch. This could be a handicap or a benefit depending on how one chooses to view it. On the one hand we have the challenge of pulling together all the necessary equipment required to live up to our self imposed level of performance. On the other hand we have the luxury of tailoring our stations

to compliment the many talents the membership has to offer. We're talking serious radio here. We're talking big points! At least as big as 2 stations running 100 watts can get. We also plan to take advantage of the "freebie" VHF/UHF station allowed by the ARRL Field Day rules. Operations will be supplemented by fellow hams from the Morris Essex Amateur Radio Club (MEARC) which operates KB2UDU/R, an impressive 440 MHz repeater system that offers extensive coverage of northern and central NJ as well as lower NY State.

The WEARC Field Day site will be situated in The Trotter Tract, a 60 acre park located in Essex Fells. As with all WEARC activities visitors are always welcomed. Please be aware there is no motor vehicle traffic allowed in the park so access is via foot or pedal power only. Unless of course you have a horse in which case I'd like a ride. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather and better band conditions. See ya there ...

*de Brian, KF2HC*

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## J-Pole Project a Semi Success

Members of WEARC recently undertook the club's first money making project. The building of 12 copper pipe J-pole antennas to be sold at local hamfests. The idea was suggested by Jim Plant, KB2LJG. Jim had built a few J-poles himself and mentioned they weren't all that difficult to make. I had asked him to build one to be installed for the club's 2 meter rig. After seeing Jim's antenna Mark, WB2KYE, built his own version and brought it in for all to see. It was a combination of the two plus a few extra features that gave us the final product.

Joe, WO2X, and myself spent a few weekends trying to find just the

right measurements and feed line attachment points but it was well worth it considering our results. At the time of final assembly we had an unbelievable 1:1-1 across the band! We actually had to screw one up on purpose to make sure our equipment was working properly. On location, inside the gym where the W. Orange hamfest was held, the SWR rose slightly to a respectable 1:2-1. Not bad.

The first 2-3 units were sold at our original asking price. However, as the day progressed there was a feeling that the crowd was not a spending crowd. A command decision was made to lower the price a few bucks and Bingo! All were sold by closing time. Not quite the profit we had hoped for but profit non the less.

A discussion at the April business meeting lead to tentative plans to build 24 more antennas to be sold at the Sussex hamfest on July 16th. It was decided, that all efforts should go towards Field Day and the project would be brought up after we kick some butt. That only leaves a few weeks to pop out the next batch but I think we've got the system down to an art. Who knows? Maybe next year we'll expand our line with dual banders and yagis. Reports from a few buyers say they are very satisfied with the product.

Thanks to all who participated in the planning, building, and selling of the J-poles. Special thanks to Terry, N2RUV and John Burgio, W2JB, for donating some of the parts we needed. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

We hope to see you all at the Sussex hamfest on July 16th. Don't forget to tell your friends. It's the bargain of the century. See ya!

*de Brian, KF2HC*

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## Tower Work

*A ham writing a letter to his insurance company explaining recent misfortune.....*

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block no. 3 of your accident reporting form. I submitted "poor planning caused the accident." You say in your letter to "explain more fully." I trust the following information will prove to be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was at work on the top section of my 100 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that, over the course of many trips up and down the tower, I had brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the now-unnecessary tools down by hand, I decided to lower them using a small barrel and my "gin pole" which was still attached to the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up the tower and filled the barrel. I then went back to the ground level and untied the rope, holding it tightly, to insure a slow descent of the 300 pound load.

You will notice in block no. 11 that I had given my weight as 150 pounds. Due to my surprise at being suddenly jerked off the ground at such a rapid rate, I momentarily lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 50 foot level, I met the swiftly descending barrel. This explains my fractured collar bone. After momentarily slowing, I resumed my rapid ascent, not stopping until my hands were three knuckles deep in the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my composure and managed to hold onto the rope despite the excruciating pain. At about this time, however, the loaded barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now, without the 300 pounds of tools, the barrel only weighed about

15 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block no. 11. As you might imagine, I began a swift plunge down the side of the tower.

Again, at about the 50 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for my two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs, thighs, and lower body.

The barrel encounter slowed me enough to lessen my impact with the pile of tools and hardware and I was extremely fortunate to escape with only a fractured coccyx and tree crushed vertebrae.

I regret to report, however, that as I lay there on the pile of tools in excruciating pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel, 100 feet above me, that ..... *I again let go of the rope !!!!!*"

author unknown or does not want to be known!! Article provided by *Brian KF2HC*.

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## Dayton Hamvention 1995 - Mind Boggling

This year I had the opportunity to visit Dayton during the week of Hamvention. I therefore made the arrangements to stay in Dayton through Saturday evening to allow me the opportunity of visiting the Hamfest of all Hamfests. I had heard that this was the biggest hamfest of all through out the USA and possibly through out the world. I was not disappointed.

The trip to Dayton started early Thursday morning. I had business at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Laboratories. The flight into Dayton was crowded and there were Hams on board from Europe traveling to the Hamvention. Upon our arrival I found that although I had a reservation for a car, all the cars were out and I had to wait for one to return to the Air Port for us. Fortunately the wait was not long, and we were on our way to the first set of meetings which were scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

The Hamvention is one of the biggest events in the Dayton area. It

was on the Television on Thursday night that they were expecting over forty thousand (40,000) visitors to come to Dayton for the Hamvention. Thursday night I had my HT set up in the hotel room listening to the Hamvention talk in repeater. I must say that the talk in operators were excellent and very professional. They had to provide directions to all the various hotels in the area and the repeater was very busy all night. Hams from all over the country were converging on Dayton. The talk in operators were extremely courteous and provided excellent directions. It was like listening to a pile up during a contest with a very proficient Dxpedititioner handling the calls most expeditiously and courteously.

Friday morning while getting ready for the days meetings, I continued to listen to the talk in station and found that the Hamvention had a whole fleet of buses which were to ferry the people from different locations to the Hara Arena area for the Hamfest. There were busses which would pick up people from most of the Hotels for \$2.00 round trip, and there were busses which provided free transportation from the Air Force Museum and two Shopping Mall Parking lots to the Hamvention. Although there was a bus service from the hotel that I was staying at, I elected to use the buss service from one of the designated parking lots because I would be leaving the Hamfest on Saturday afternoon and go directly to the air port, I didn't want to waste any time going back to the hotel to retrieve my rented car.

After completing my business early Friday afternoon, I rushed back to the hotel to change and left for the Hamvention allowing me a couple of hours to visit. I arrived at the Forest Park parking lot about 4PM, found a parking spot, and also found that a large bus was waiting. I wasted no time, parked the car and got on the buss. The ride to Hara Arena was very short and I was able to go in and buy my ticket for the Hamvention.

With ticket in hand, I proceeded into the Arena area and deposited my door prize stub into the

drawing bin. I then started to go through the Arena to see the various commercial display booths. I was some what disappointed that there were not too many commercial display booths cause the Arena was small and it only housed 85 booth locations. I did not know until later that evening that there were many more displays in adjoining buildings; these I visited the next day. After walking through the Arena, I went back out the front door and turned in my portion of the ticket stub to receive my copy of the Hamvention Program. This is a sizable book which provides all the information on the Hamvention and detailed maps of all the indoor exhibitors and flea market area. There are approximately a total of 657 indoor exhibitor's booths and 4461 flea market locations. Although most of the commercial vendors and many of the flea market vendors purchased several locations, it was still mind boggling and intimidating seeing it all.

After picking up my program, I started to visit the outdoor flea market area. At this time, I did not know exactly how big this flea market was because you could not see the whole area from any one vantage point, and I had not yet looked at the map in the program. In the couple of hours that I had on Friday afternoon, I was only able to see about 20% of the flea market area. I made mental notes of what I saw and where I saw it so I could compare prices to determine the best values. By the end of the day, I had totally forgot what I saw and where I saw it. Next time, a small note book will be with me and I will determine well ahead of time what I want to focus on; preplanning is important for a flea market such as this. The Hamvention closed at 6:00PM on Friday and by that time, I was completely exhausted and ready to leave. On the bus back to the parking lot where I had left my car, I started to look at the program book. Upon studying the program book maps, I discovered all the indoor exhibitors areas and also how big the out door flea market was. I therefore had set my schedule to get back early on Saturday morning to make the most of

the time that I had before my flight back home.

I went back to the Hamvention early Saturday morning and continued going through the Flea Market area starting where I had left off on Friday. The indoor area was not scheduled to open until 8:00AM. As soon as the indoor area opened, I started my orderly plan of seeing all the exhibitors. I was interested in possibly procuring a DSP, mainly for SSB operation, and wanted to visit all the DSP manufacturers booths so I could get a demonstration of each one. I had the locations of each of these booths on an index card which I had brought with me. As I passed through the exhibitors areas, I saw Jeff, N2MZH, who was demonstrating WJ20 logging software, and also both Gene, K2JKI, and Drew, N2RHP, who were working at Gene's JKI Electronics booths. It took me the rest of the morning to get through and see all the indoor exhibitors areas. I did visit the DSP manufacturers and was able to focus on the Timewave DSP-9+ as being best for my needs.

I next went back outside to attempt to see the rest of the Flea Market area. I had only covered about one quarter of the area between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning and my goal was to see the remainder before I had to go to the airport. While I was methodically wandering though the Flea Market, I ran into Stephen Mendelsohn, WA2DHF. After a few words with Steve, I continued my quest to see the rest of the Flea Market. As the afternoon went on, I started to walk faster and took less and less interest in many of the spaces. My back and my legs were telling me to call it quits but I was determined to continue to the end. The end of the Flea Market was in sight at 3:00PM in the afternoon, and I was totally exhausted by that time. After finishing the Hamvention, I first went to the arena area to see if my ticket number was drawn for a door prize, unfortunately it was not, then went to the bus area and waited for the next bus to take me back to the car. I was very tired, but pleased that I was able to see the whole thing.

The Dayton Hamvention is truly mind boggling and if the opportunity arises, everyone should see at least one. The organization that is needed to pull this off is truly professional and extremely well done. The weather while I was there was perfect, although, it did rain after I left. Next year the Dayton Hamvention is scheduled a month later, May 17 through 19th, in hopes that the weather is predictably drier than the April time frame. I wish them good luck in the coming years Dayton Hamventions.

*73 de Bob, N2NYR*

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## Spark Days Revisited

This article was inspired by my buddy Rick, K9WYP, from Buffalo Grove, IL. We first met on 40 meter CW back in January 1992. We've had a weekly Saturday morning schedule almost every Saturday since. Our QSOs average anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half and can cover anything from work, kids, chasing DX to why our wives can't seem to quit smoking. Last June Rick and his wife Deb were in Rhode Island for a wedding. Ann and I took a drive up to ARRL HQ where we met up with them for a face to face. It was a strange feeling seeing a face attached to what was only a CW tone on the radio and a voice I'd heard a few times on the phone. Yet we knew so much about each other's lives it was like talking to an old friend. Actually, it was talking to an old friend. Just the face was new.

When Rick was about 12 years old he lived in Des Plaines, Illinois. He was going through that stage most of went through. Walking down the street noticing ham radio antennas. One house he used to pass had a large tower in the back yard and W9NN call plates on the car in the driveway. Many times he thought of

knocking on the door to meet the ham who lived there but could never summons the courage. Once he even saw the gentleman working in his yard but could not get his feet to head up the walk. That was about 35 years ago. (I hope I'm not too far of, Rick!)

In early January of last year Rick was tuning around on 20 meters CW and who did he hear but W9NN. Rick called him and told him the story about when he was a kid passing the house. They had a nice long QSO and discovered they knew a lot of the same people from the old town. They exchanged QSL cards and have had many QSOs and a few face to face visits since.

The reason I'm writing this however is not to tell you about Rick, although maybe another time, but to share something that Bob, W9NN, sent to Rick along with his QSL. Bob sent a photocopy of a picture of a spark station he shared with a few friends back in the 1920s. He also sent a description of the station. Unfortunately the photo wouldn't print well enough in this newsletter to show much detail. The verbal description however is a short trip through history that I think some of you may enjoy. The following is exactly as written by Bob.

### **Remember Those 'Spark Forever' days?**

You may be interested in this picture taken in the early '20s of Station 8AIB which operated from the backyard shack at 62 Vincent St., Dayton, Ohio. Licensee was Chas Fertick 8AIB (SK) and Clinton Petry 8AWN (SK), Allen Apple 8CNL (K4ILX SK) and Robert Baird 8CWR (W9NN). On the floor beneath the CW set was the Spark Xmitter consisting of a 40000 volt "Coffin" transformer, Benwood rotary gap turned by a 1/4 HP motor, 40 plate-glass sections immersed in oil for condenser. The 2 OT transformers were wound with 2" copper strips. Antenna was 60 ft high

with a fan type feed line coming down at one end. Our ground system was an acre of buried copper ribbon from old Dayton street car field coils. With over 5 amps going up to the antenna we had a night time corona effect of 3 feet at the ends. Best Spark DX was a United Fruit boat off Brazil in late 21. Boat used the call of "DZ"...took till 1952 to confirm this when W9NN worked VP1AA Belize who told us he was the operator! CW was a pair of 50 watt RCA. White board above was criss-crossed with resistance wire to drop filament vol. A 48 chemical rectifier for plate voltage. Antenna matching done by adjusting clips on the big inductance coil. Homemade receiver used 2 Variometers and a vario coupler, two filament detector tube (Audiotron) and 2 VT2 amplifier tubes. Note the long handle antenna changeover arrangement. A variable condenser on the table was in the receiver line. 110-220 AC on the wall. A stack of spark and early CW QSLs. Faded pictures are W9NN, 8AIB and 8CNL. Each had his own key and phones. We were all Members of Dayton's first Wireless Club. We two remaining Op's W9NN and K4ILX (now a SK) would love to hear from any old timers who used to work us back in the old "Spark Forever" days!

### **73, Bob Baird, W9NN Charter Member QCWA #52**

Of course it would have been nicer to have the photo Bob's describing but I think you can get a feel for what was there. Next time you fire up your rig think of what these guys had to go through and appreciate it. Thanks to all you Old Timers for giving us "New Guys" what we have today. Thanks to Rick for sharing this story....

**de Brian, KF2HC**

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## **From the Editor**

Where has this year gone!! The time has just flown by and looking back, we at WEARC have many proud accomplishments behind us. In less than a year we have a well established club. We have a great meeting place, a club affiliation with ARRL, a club call KB2UNI, an operational HF station with computer, and we have participated in several community events. For an infant club we have done a great deal. Our membership has grown substantially this year and we also have a healthy balance in our treasury.

The outlook for the next year is very positive. This month we will conduct our elections for officers who will preside over the coming year. This month will also be the first Field Day event which WEARC will participate. We all look forward to this event with great enthusiasm, for it is really a fun time while demonstrating our emergency operating abilities. During the summer period there will be no official meetings, but we are providing a lecture by Richard Moseson NW2L. We hope that you will be able to join us on July 5th for this informative talk. We look forward to having more lecturers in the next year, as well as some field trips which will be of interest to everyone.

I would personally like to thank all the members of WEARC for the efforts they they have put into making this club succeed, and especially to our current president Dan Tapper, WA2BTR, who without his efforts, this club would never have made it. It was Dan's vision and drive that got us established and over the initial hurrles which lead most clubs to early failure. Thanks Dan!!!

I hope that everyone has a great summer, and please stop by each Wednesday during the summer for eyeball QSOs.

**73 Bob, N2NYR**

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# West Essex Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Club

**WEARC**

WEARC meets on the second floor of the Essex Fells Service Building every Wednesday night at 7:30 PM September through June. Business Meetings are conducted on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 8:00 PM. The Essex Fells Service Building is located across the street from the Essex County Grover Cleveland Park and next door to the Essex Fells Post Office. All hams and prospective hams are welcome.

## CLUB OFFICERS

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Chopper

Dan Tapper, WA2BTR  
Bob Lange, N2NYR  
Joe Valley, WO2X  
Stan Przybylski, KB2NQI  
Brian Keegan, KF2HC

License Trustee:  
Trustees:

Brian Keegan, KF2HC  
Dave Whithead, N2JJK  
Jim Plant, KB2LJG  
John Weinfeldt, WF2Z

Newsletter Editor: Bob Lange, N2NYR

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**AMATEURS ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES  
AND CANADA ARE PARTICIPATING  
IN AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE  
ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 24-25, 1995  
CALLED FIELD DAY**



**WEARC WILL BE CONDUCTING FIELD DAY AT THE  
TROTTER TRACT IN ESSEX FELLS, NJ  
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME**

**WEARC WIRELESS**  
PO Box 54  
Essex Fells, NJ  
07021-0054

**WB2JGZ**  
Ray Linke  
32 Blackburne Tr.  
West Orange, NJ  
07052