



# OLD BARNEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB N2OB



Webpage: <http://www.OBARC.org>

E-Mail: [N2OB@arrl.net](mailto:N2OB@arrl.net)



ARRL AFFILIATED

JANUARY 2019

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30pm**

**Ocean Acres Community Center 489 Nautilus Drive Manahawkin, NJ**

### President's Corner – January 2019

Ira Hosid, N2WAA

I would like to thank Steve Molo, K14KWR, for doing an outstanding job as president of Old Barney Amateur Radio Club for 2018. I have been a member of Old Barney for just a few years, and admired the leadership of the past two presidents. Steve and Bob Schenck, N200, are hard acts to follow. You may have heard the saying: 'these are hard shoes to fill'. I can tell you that I have not seen such knowledge and dedication to our hobby as I have seen with Steve and Bob. I cannot fill these shoes, but I will do everything possible to keep the club financially secure, make our presence known in Ocean County, help anyone with the desire to get into our hobby, continue with many of our events like Field Day, and hopefully increase our membership. I will always have time to return an email or a phone call. I am open for any suggestions that will benefit our club and membership. Thank you for your confidence in me, and I only hope I can live up to your expectations.

December is a special holiday month with Chanukah just finishing and Christmas just around the corner. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday, Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Respectfully,  
Ira Hosid, N2WAA

Normal membership meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM at:

Ocean Acres Community Center 489 Nautilus Drive Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Refreshments served / Visitors welcome and Handicap accessible.

Old Barney Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 117  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

President:  
Ira Hosid N2WAA  
Vice President:  
Rick Kennard N2RPQ  
Secretary:  
Bob Wick N2HM  
Treasurer:  
Michael Libonati WA2ACV

Dues:  
Full Membership \$20  
Senior Membership \$15  
Family Member in Household \$10

## 2019 OBARC DUES TIME

# Reminder to pay your dues

NO CLUB MEETING OR VE TESTING IN JANUARY 2019  
BECAUSE IT IS NEW YEAR'S DAY

POST HOLIDAY DINNER WILL BE ON JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>  
TIME: 1-3 PM

COST: (2018 paid up members and partners) \$20.00 per person This price  
reflects Old Barney subsidizing part of the cost  
(Non-members: \$25.00 per person) Price  
includes tip and taxes

LOCATION: MANERAS RESTAURANT  
291 Route 72 East, Manahawkin.

Menu selections: (choice of one entrée) eggplant parmesan over linguine/  
chicken francaise w/vegetable and potato/ 6 oz. sirloin steak w/vegetables and  
potato/ herb encrusted cod w/vegetable and potato.

Soup or salad/roll and butter/soda, coffee and tea included along with a  
selection of nice desserts. (BYOB)

Your selections will be made at the restaurant.

We have a cozy area in the restaurant that can only hold a maximum of 30 people. Since there is  
limited seating, please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Please send your checks payable to:  
Old Barney Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 117, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

If you have a PayPal account, our address is: [treasurer@obarc.org](mailto:treasurer@obarc.org) and make sure you are sending  
money to a friend and put in their name and call letters in the notes. Any questions on PayPal, please  
contact Mike at [mglibonati@comcast.net](mailto:mglibonati@comcast.net)

PLEASE HAVE CHECKS IN BEFORE JANUARY 16, 2019

If you have any questions, please email me at: [n2waa@arrl.net](mailto:n2waa@arrl.net)

Thank you, Ira Hosid, President (N2WAA)

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**www.CheapHam.com**

## Antenna Making Calculator

Here is a cool antenna calculator that gives you the length for a dipole versus an inverted v.

Of course, what's nice about an inverted v is that trimming the ends are much easier than with a dipole since they are relatively closer to the ground. So always make it longer first and always trim exact same amount from each end as you tune it.

<http://w3pie.org/antenna.htm>

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## ARRL 2019 CONTESTS

<b>January 2019</b> 1 <a href="#">Straight Key Night</a> 5 <a href="#">Kids Day</a> 5-6 <a href="#">RTTY Roundup</a> 19-21 <a href="#">January VHF</a>	<b>February 2019</b> 11-15 <a href="#">School Club Roundup</a> 16-17 <a href="#">International DX – CW</a>
<b>March 2019</b> 2-3 <a href="#">International DX– Phone</a>	<b>April 2019</b> 14 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup – Phone</a>
<b>June 2019</b> 8-10 <a href="#">June VHF</a> 15 <a href="#">Kids Day</a> 22-23 <a href="#">Field Day</a>	<b>July 2019</b> 13-14 <a href="#">IARU HF World Championship</a>
<b>August 2019</b> 3-4 <a href="#">222 MHz and Up Distance Contest</a> 17-18 <a href="#">10 GHz &amp; Up – Round 1</a> 18 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup – RTTY</a>	<b>September 2019</b> 14-16 <a href="#">September VHF</a> 21-22 <a href="#">10 GHz &amp; Up - Round 2</a> 21-22 <a href="#">EME - 2.3 GHz &amp; Up</a>
<b>October 2019</b> 21-25 <a href="#">School Club Roundup</a> 19-20 <a href="#">EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</a>	<b>November 2019</b> 2-4 <a href="#">Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</a> 16-18 <a href="#">Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone</a> 16-17 <a href="#">EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</a>
<b>December 2019</b> 6-8 <a href="#">160 Meter</a> 14-15 <a href="#">10 Meter</a> 15 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup–CW</a>	

OBARC Members,

If you know of any member who is not subscribed to the OBARC discussion list, please pass this link along to them. This will get them subscribed. Just fill in the appropriate info.

Note: to post to the list, the email must originate from the same email account that you subscribe.

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/obarc>

## **The Christmas Present That Change my Life By Urb LeJeune W1UL**

### **Introduction:**

No one called me a nerd when I was growing up in Hillside, NJ although I could have been the poster boy for what we know today as a nerd. Maybe it was because it wasn't until 1950 that Dr. Seuss created the nonsense word "nerd" for an imaginary animal in "If I ran The Zoo." By then I was already W2DEC.

During my pre-teen years some of the most common monikers describing me were precocious, crazy, studious, and a loner to name a few of the nicer names. I lived on a small farm and there were no kids my age close at hand so I became an expert at entertaining myself. It wasn't easy but I convinced my parents that I should have a subscription to Popular Science when I was 11 years old. When the magazine would arrive every month, I would disappear for a few days while reading the magazine cover to cover, including advertisements. One month the featured article described the manufacturing of industrial diamonds. "Ah ha," I proclaimed, I can do that. The end result was almost a disaster but that's a story for another time.

### **My Favorite Christmas Present of all Time:**

My parents realized my isolation was starting to make me both crazy and anti-social so my 1944 Christmas present, a few weeks after my 12 birthday, was a one-tube radio kit. It was so cool. It was built on a one-foot square piece of plywood. The components were mounted using Fahnestock connectors screwed into the plywood. The kit had an "A" battery about the size of a small shoe box. There was another box of parts including a one-piece earphone. My folks gave me the present about 9 o'clock on Christmas day assuming on it would keep me busy for at least a week. By lunchtime music was emanating from my earphone.

Back around 1944 very few radio stations stayed on the air 24 hours a day. They would sign off at either 11 or 12 o'clock and like magic; another station farther out West would take its place. Since it was late December you could follow the clock with stations to the West Coast area before the east-coast stations started signing on again. It was great fun but my grades were not helped by my midnight DXing.

### **Big Discovery:**

After a few months of broadcast band DXing and spending a good part of my allowance on replacement "A" batteries I started to get bored. I had become fascinated with the variable capacitor, back then I had no idea what it was called. I did know stations change as the capacitor rotated. I wondered what would happen if I spread the end plate out a little. What the heck, I could always bend it back. I grabbed my long-nosed pliers and give it a tug and it broke right off. I was crestfallen; I had destroyed my favorite toy. I spun the knob

around and low and behold I was hearing non-broadcast station that I had never heard before. I was listening to stations above the high end of the broadcast band!

After a few weeks of mapping my new territory boredom again started to set in once again. Dare I take off another capacitor plate? I thought no, I had pushed my luck to the limit as far as capacitor modifications. However, I did notice there was a large coil of wire connected to the ends of the capacitor; again, I had no idea of parallel components. This time I was smart enough to think through a modification that could be reversed. I got out my trusty soldering iron and disconnected one end of the coil and took off about five turns and soldered the newly exposed wire back onto to the mounting lug. Eureka, I was hearing a wholly different group of stations. Up until this point almost all of the stations produced by my experimentation were one-way broadcast. I keep repeating the process of unwinding about 5 additional turns. One day I heard two guys talking to each other; it was an event that would change the whole direction of my life. I was fascinated, these stations had call letters but they were different, they had a number in the middle! I wanted to become one of those people.

My uncle Will possessed voluminous amounts of worldly knowledge and his advice was, ignore them, they're ham radio operators and are completely harmless. When I wouldn't give up my goal, I told my uncle that I wanted to become one of "them." He told me to go to the library and ask for a book about ham radio. My local librarian pulled out a copy of the ARRL Handbook and I started reading it religiously. I renewed it so many times she finally said, "Keep it we're getting a newer version." I would read about a half hour a day and practice Morse code as well. Back then you had to do 13 WPM straight away. I was making good progress until the hormones set in. I was about 14 and I discovered girls. Ham radio went onto the back burner for almost two years. Fortunately, I came to my senses and picked up where I had left off. On the day after Thanksgiving in 1949, when I was 16, I made the trip to NYC and took and passed my first FCC ham radio license exam. It was for a Class B license and predated the Novice license by about two years. For good measure I passed my Second-Class Radiotelephone license on the same day. A year later I returned once again to the FCC and upgraded to a Class A license and a First-Class Radiotelephone ticket.

### Epilogue:

It is now obvious; receiving the one-tub radio kit was the most fortuitous event in my young life. It pointed me to several careers, was responsible for getting me into a six-and-a-half-month school at Fort Monmouth, NJ and kept me out of combat during the Korean War. In addition, ham radio introduced me to a huge number of fantastic people. During my late teens through my late twenties, I keep showing up at the right place at the right time, frequently for the wrong reason!

Mom and Dad, as you look down upon your wayward son, I want to say thank you both for the greatest Christmas present ever.

When not writing articles, Urb is busy with his website [ham-cram.com](http://ham-cram.com).

The site has three distinguishing characteristics:

1. We don't study incorrect answers.
2. We only study the questions most likely to be on the VE test
3. It's totally free.

Our mantra: Study Smarter not Harder.

Urb LeJeune W1UL, [urb@ham-cram.com](mailto:urb@ham-cram.com)

## Ocean County ARES® News – January, 2019

Thanks to all that attended the 2018 Ocean County ARES Holiday Party/Meeting at the Ocean County EOC on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom, N2XW, surprised WX2NJ with an ARRL Elmer Award and presented to him at the party. I'm humbled by the award and can think of many operators in Ocean County who would also deserve it.



Photo by N2QXB

Additionally, Tom will be our new Section Manager (SM) on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, so join me in congratulating him. Ocean County ARES is also looking for a volunteer to serve as a Public Information Officer (PIO). This position was discussed at the meeting. Position requirements can be viewed at: <http://www.arrl.org/public-information-officer>

I recently learned that Facebook members can designate a charity to donate money to during an event like your birthday. If you select Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service as your charity, any money raised by you is directly transferred to the charity of your choice on a quarterly time table. We received a check this month from Network for Good for donations this last quarter, all from birthday donations on Facebook.



2018 Ocean County ARES Holiday Party

Just a reminder that there will be no meeting during the month of February. We do this because winter weather usually causes low attendance. Instead of the meeting, and depending on the weather, we may try

and have another fox hunt in February. Obviously, it would be during the daylight hours in bright sunshine with no concerns for black ice. I'll keep everyone informed.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a New Year!

73 de WX2NJ

Bob Murdock

Ocean County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® EC