

"DRUMLINS RUMBLINS" - MARCH 2026



...to see you there!

WE'RE meeting at the **WAYNE COUNTY SECOND FLOOR EOC ROOM**

Wayne County Public Services Building 7227 Rte 31 Lyons NY 14489

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH MEETING START 7:30PM

REMEMBER: The front door and the EMO entrance will be unlocked from 6:30-7:30pm.

So arrive in this time period for an easy entry



***YOU HAVE A LITTLE LEEWAY TO GET IN UNTIL 7:55PM!** (Lately, the broom is keeping the door open.)

[REMEMBER: Bring some \$\$\$\$ for the 50/50!]

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

What a winter we have had! Two months we had to cancel the DARC meeting! Unprecedented! I joined DARC in 1990 when taking a Novice class to net my "ticket." To cancel one meeting was not unusual but tow months in a row, which is a first. I had two inches of slush on our complex walk and road. I found slush is even worse than snow to get thru with a rollator. I got exactly two feet trying to navigate thru the slush. It was "yuk!" Rich KC2TNJ texted me, he shoveled four inches of slush at his QTH. Eric W2EEH was tickled to see the meeting was cancelled. He said "...a good move.," after a terrible time getting home thru that mess that Wednesday. **Let's hope Mother Nature is calmer for March.** My XYL sure is complaining about this winter. Hi hi. (Lots of grumbling on her part. Hi hi. The cold, too.) Let's hope March goes out as a gentle lion.



Hope March goes out like this friendly lion!

Novice? What the heck is that you youngsters say. Hi hi. Long before the “Tech” ticket was a start for amateur radio, Novice was the entry level and it required a 5wpm Morse code requirement to pass and you actually had a small HF privileges. Being the Morse code lover, as noted in the February newsletter with my Scout Troop 166 in 1963, I didn’t mind the CW test. The dropping of the CW requirement was a good boom to ham radio. But you know me, I like to push CW. I’ll talk about that further down the newsletter.

March! Oh oh, happy **Daylight Saving Time?** :-{ (Sour subject? Happy St Patrick’s Day!, a day before our March meeting. :- {) Hey, happy spring! Yea! :-{) Plus, we can look forward to our DARC hamfest coming in April and don’t forget or spring Fling dinner, too. Some good things are coming out of the winter doldrums. I know my “girlfriend,” of 62 years, is looking forward to the Spring Fling. Hope you are all looking to the Spring Fling. Rich KC2TNJ, I know for sure Rich is working on a place and time. (He’s the organized left side of my brain. Hi hi.)

As I hinted back in the February newsletter, this OM turned 80 on his January birthday. We finally had a chance to have a family January and February birthday get together at our daughter’s! These busy days for both families, it is not an easy task. Here is a picture of the three birthday people at our daughter’s home.



The OM’s 80th; Willow’s 19th (For you, Doc, who best remembers her); Jake M. 16th. It is really nice they want to celebrate with “Bompa” as a family. Of course they had their family b-day celebrates with each of their families on their B-days. “Mimi” and I call all family members and sing happy birthday on the phone on their day. Our duet is pretty good singing happy birthday but it is good thing the song is short. The vocal cords get tired quickly.

My XYL said I had to tell you about my very thoughtful birthday presents from the “farm” family. You’ll see they were very “ham” related!! Here are the ham shirts and stickers. Our daughter was thrilled having a plethora of ham stuff to choose. She said, “I couldn’t believe what is out there on the internet.” Maybe more ham t-shirts are in order?



Cool T-s



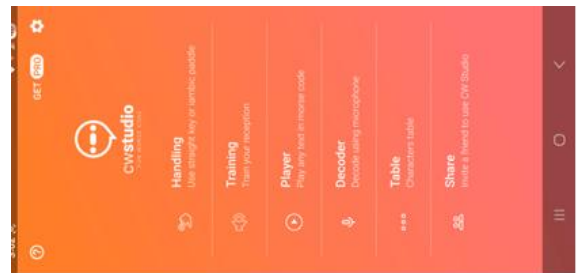
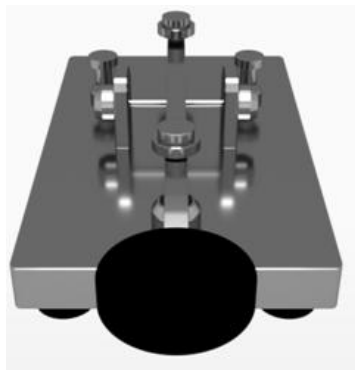
Cool stickers.

I thanked the farm family by sending a **TNX U MEGAN** in Morse code on my cell phone. The daughter even took a video proving my CW prowess. Hi hi. (I still have to hear the recording.)

If you have an Android cell download the CW STUDIO. It is a nifty app even if you are not a CW lover and it is translator, learning device to boot! (I even told KB2FSB the app intro out for a brunch one Sunday. He downloaded it right off.)



Sending CW!



I am this old.



Yes, I surely am!

Remember these well.



RACES-ARES MARCH 2026

REPOSTING THIS REMINDER – NOTICE THESE DATES !!!!!!!!! (I have managed to get a new volunteer. Any other hams who would like to help, please, contact me, KB2KBY.)

Ginna Drills are:

August 25, 2026 – State Evaluated Ginna **Hostile Action-Based Exercise** < - - - - **new thing!**

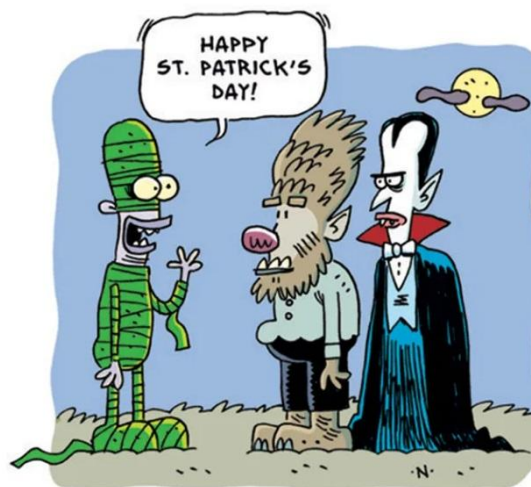
October 6, 2026 – FEMA Hostile **Action-Based Evaluated Exercise** < - - - - **new thing!**

There may be an opportunity for some additional play for RACES: Both for backup Comms. Not sure yet.

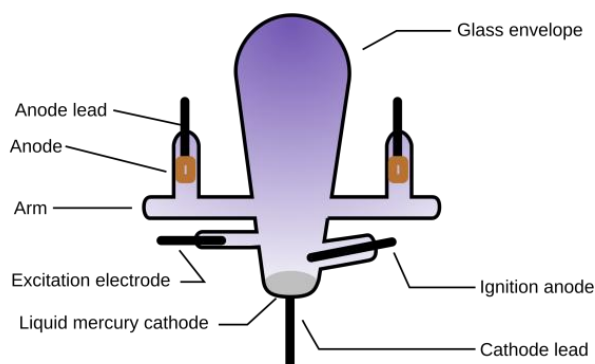
One person at the Walworth Town Hall. One at the staging area in Ginegaw Park. Sounds like we will **need more** than the bare minimum of ops!!!!

There will be opportunities for prior training and new volunteers it is easy to get a RACES badge. As we get closer and find what Aimee Phillips the DOSE EMO guru is doing with the Sheriff van teams. **Watch for DARC emails!!!!**

DON'T FORGET TO READ BELOW THE VARIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS FORM KB2NCI STARTING APRIL 25TH/26TH.



MARCH PROGRAM: MERCURY-ARC RECTIFIER??? **Hopefully this time!!!!!!!!!!** Hi Hi



A **mercury-arc valve** or **mercury-vapor rectifier** or (UK) **mercury-arc rectifier** is a type of electrical rectifier used for converting high-voltage or high-current alternating current (AC) into direct current (DC). What? Non-technical Dave here I have no idea what this is or how used. Come and see with me just what “this thing” is. Hi hi. Sounds interesting!



A few days ago, my XYL got the mail and there was my latest "The AWA Journal." I was kidding her about the picture on the cover. See! Even ladies are interested in ham radio.



She replied, "Dream on. That was only in one of my previous lives." Hi hi. Anyway, I thought it was worth mentioning it here. Quite the comeback for my XYL! Hee hee. But, also this:

SOME ELEMENTAL MATH

ARRL+AWA+RARA = W1AW/2: Putting W1AW/2 On the Air in January from the AWA Ham Shack

As many of you know, the ARRL has their own amateur radio station call sign, W1AW. In 2026, to help celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA, they are making the callsign available for licensed radio amateurs to use state by state throughout the year. January kicked off with New York and Nebraska having that privilege for one week. This was too good an opportunity to miss so the AWA Communication Technology Museum in Bloomfield. **Look who was helping out!** DARC members, you have seen **Pat KD2PER** at the very least at our SIARC/DARC ARRL Field Day in June in the past. Of course, “us” both ARC members know Pat well. It was nice to see Pat recognized for helping in the W1AW/2. Pat is a regular AWA helper at the museum. So, I thought I’d put in a plug for Pat and as an example to encourage anyone to become an AWA member. Yes, I am, but my usefulness these days is just promoting the AWA. (I just reminded myself, I must renew my membership. I mean as soon as I finish this article!!!! Yikes!)



(on right) FB, Pat! Thumbs up! Pat is also a big POTA and CW fan.

[The full article you can read at <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/journal-archive/> and put in “Spring 2026 Vol 66/ #1”. I thank the AWA for the info for this newsletter bit.]

I’ll get my other SIARC “thingy” in here. (Good timing.)



CQ World Wide WPX Contest- SIARC INVITE-Tom KB2NCI

The weekend of **March 28 and 29** is the **CQ Worldwide SSB contest**. Since we cancelled the Winter Field Day in January, I would like to open up my garage in Victor for us to operate the CQ WW Contest. We can erect antennas and set up some HF stations on Saturday morning and operate into the evening and on Sunday morning. It will be a pot luck/dish to pass type of eating arrangement, and I will provide coffee and water. **Everyone is welcome to attend.** **DARC has been invited to Tom’s QTH for another try.** Hi hi.....**AND.....DON’T FORGET;**

SIARC HEALTH and WELFARE NET: [Cool lead in for KB2NCI. Hi hi.]



STILL GOING STRONG!!!. Kudos, Tom! Get acquainted with some of our SIARC friends and the surrounding counties. **Thank you, Tom, for being so patient and sacrificing your time.** (Tom's XYL is a saint with his "radio.")

Tom's **SIARC health and welfare net** is open to all hams that can hit the **146.820 repeater (tone 110.9)**, either mobile or from your QTH. Just listen to Tom's or the NCS's instructions always given first as the net starts like we all know as hams and used to a SOP. So listen for the SOP at the beginning of the net. **Only the SECOND Wednesday of the month, the SIARC meeting night, there is no net.**



Playing at Radio By Christian Payne, **G5DOC** [How did you get into ham radio? Tell me.]

I wonder how many radio amateurs share a similar origin story . . . Mine was an 'accidental' journey into radio, born out of curiosity. A small receiver, something you could carry — one that worked on batteries. Voices appearing from nowhere and everywhere.



It started with my Grandad

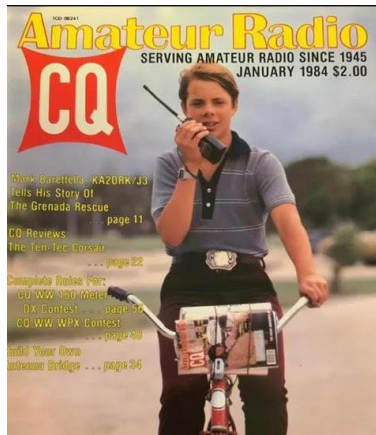
Grandad had short wave radios all around the house (one of them shown in photo). Listening was continuous, and he could do it in five languages. For me, twisting dials and pushing buttons was actively encouraged. Nothing was locked away from me; as a small kid, the result was that radio felt magical. Not because it was incomprehensible, but because it was just understandable enough. I don't remember being taught radio back then, but I could grasp the idea that signals existed all around us and that, with the right box, you could catch them.

There was very little between the thing in your hands and the world it connected you to. An antenna . . . a speaker, and a tuning knob. It was 'cause and effect' that you could bring to life with a twist of the dial. There was this sense of portability with my shortwave radio that was key, and this portability continued with a pair of toy-like walkie talkies. When I got my first 'proper' transceiver, it was a handheld CB Radio. It could also go anywhere. Out into the garden . . . Up a tree . . . Down the road. And I did it all.

Later, attached to my bicycle. It was certainly a step up from the walkie talkies. Switch it on. Talk. Listen. Invent identities and make friends. Soon it was time to build a station, and get the antenna as high as my parents would allow. Then I realized the bike was a mini-mast. I could pedal to the top of a hill, where height was certainly might.

Bicycles and Radios Seemed to Belong Together

Both bikes and radios represented independence and freedom. Both extended your range just far enough to feel expansive, to get a sense of a larger world than the immediate neighborhood. My bike and my radio were at the center of so much play, yet they never felt like toys. We knew how to have fun as kids and for our little gang of wannabe Goonies and BMX Bandits, it was an absolute blast.



Riding along with a radio on the handlebars meant we weren't just getting from one place to the next. We were networked and communicating beyond it. The excitement wasn't just speed or distance, but the idea that you could explore on your own terms while taking friends along for the ride. We were never alone and always had backup, right there on channel 14. On an eight-mile bike ride you could ask a friend to meet you at a secret location and then talk them in. We were reassuringly connected by default. Online today we now call this "ambient connectivity," where technology is woven into the background of everything we do. While there certainly could have been what we called "earwiggers" listening in, there were no algorithms in the way. There were no adverts and there was no data mining taking place behind our conversations. While some reported trolls desperate for attention, I'm told those could be dealt with using nothing more than a pin in a length of coax. (That is, *allegedly* dealt with.)

The Movement to Amateur Radio

In my neighborhood, some CB operators grew up into radio amateurs. They amplified the magic until it felt like wizardry and out of reach to me. They told me that I was just playing at radio, and I guess that I was. But the pull of communicating the way the amateur operators did never left me and I got my

license in the end. Thirty years later in fact!



As adults, many of us found our way back to radio after years of living with far more mind-blowing technology. Phones that can do almost anything, yet explain absolutely nothing. Devices that work flawlessly while remaining completely opaque. You press a piece of glass and trust that some vast, invisible system will do all the rest.

Yet our kind of radio still feels different to me.

Even with little grasp of propagation, harmonics, or velocity factors, the system remains understandable. A signal leaves an antenna. Another antenna hears it. Physics intervenes. Meteorology intervenes. Geography intervenes. Sometimes luck intervenes. But not platforms, feeds, or behavioral optimization.

That's why portable radio still holds such great appeal for me. You have a handheld, a simple antenna, in a setup you can carry with you. So much fun in a tiny package. The magic is easy to wield because it is self-contained. I can just about get my head around how this works and that's enough for now. This infinite hobby will always leave me room for curiosity. It's the only pastime that has this many paths to go down, where one can remain curious the entire time. It feels like the same love I had as a kid, just expressed through shiny new toys with more modes and slightly better batteries.



So many radio amateurs must carry these same thoughts with them. That is, the memory of freedom, of communicating, coordinating and networking *before* the web. Of being connected without being slowly consumed by the technology.

The beautiful part about radio is that it doesn't just deliver communication. It has and still does bring us together. It rewards our attention and curiosity with joy and learning. It asks you to meet it halfway. It sharpens our senses, quickens our minds and prevents the onslaught of brain stagnation.

When I make a contact now, especially with simple or portable gear, I feel the same joy I felt in those early years. It's like bringing something to life from my youth . . . Not just because this technology feels more honest and open than most of what we have today, but because you're working against what feels like impossible odds. You're putting something out there, and it either all works or it doesn't.

Working up through the license classes rewarded me with new knowledge, but all I was really after was a little more freedom and more places to play. I'm still "playing at radio," just as I was as a kid. Of course, we were just having fun back then – but if you're lucky, you still are. And now the playground is a whole lot bigger!

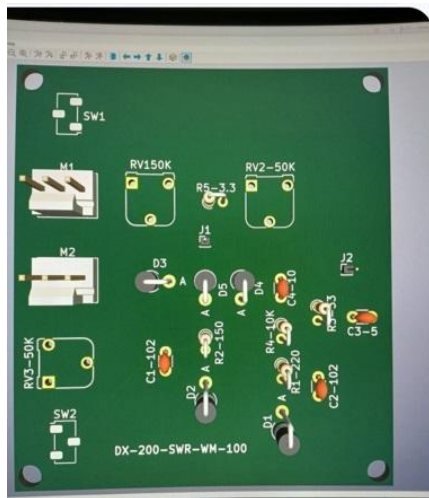
73, Christian (Photo above)

[I've told you how I got involved in ham radio. How about you?]



Stu KC2KJO sent me a text with pictures for one of his new inventions. Stu explained briefly in the text, so I'll do my best to repeat it here. According to Stu, this is a new **SWR/WATT METER** design. He made his own circuit board into a box and all the tech connections needed so people can work at the bench and not have the big equipment taking up room on the bench.

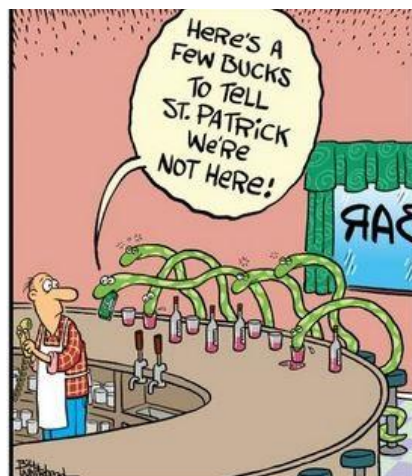
BOARD



BOX



Anything else you are interested, you better contact Stu. I am not sure I did a great job. SWR and WATT meters, I sure do. It sounds nifty. (Non-tech Dave here, this is the best I could do. Hi hi.)





Odd and Ends: (TNX, Tom, for your help.)

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.php> will give you all you do! Whew.

The **New York State RACES net** is held each Sunday morning at 9am on 7281kHz LSB and members are always welcome to check in and get more training on HF net operations. The net follows the same procedures that our weekly nets do. A digital message is sent afterwards on 7081.5kHz USB using Olivia 8-500, MFSK 32 and Thor 22. Forty meters has worked very well, so for the time being, the net will remain there. We are in Region 5 (check in is by region) and we are always very well represented. Give it a try! NYS RACES is also doing testing on 60 meters. It is a great band for these regional communications, so all members should have that capability. For more information on RACES, go to [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service \(RACES\) | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#)

More info from KB2NCI: The following is a list of digital HF nets you can listen and check into. Thanks to Paul KD2DO for this information.

Here are the digital nets in our area that you can listen into and now join.

*** MID-ATLANTIC Net: @ 1000L Sunday morning on 7.068 MHz USB.

*** NJ NBEMS Net: @ 0900L Sunday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NH NBEMS Net: @ 0700L Saturday morning on 3.582 MHz USB.

*** NY NBEMS Net: @ 0800L Saturday morning on 3.583 MHz USB.

*** US East NBEMS: @ 1900L Wednesday evening on 3.536 MHz USB.

*** MIDTN Net: Tues, Thurs & Sat 1930L on 3.582.5 MHz USB.

and for a change of pace

Feld Hell 30m net, Wed 2000 ET on 10.1410, FSKH105

Feld Hell 40m net, Thu 2100 ET on 7.0890, FSKH105

Feld Hell 80m net, Fri 2200 ET on 3.5835, FSKH105

Be sure your TxID and RxID buttons are activated and green on FLDIGI, to follow the mode used.

A **new emergency and weather alert system** is now **available for New Yorkers**. Through the free 333111 system, you'll receive text alerts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services about severe weather, significant power outages and shelter locations in your area. To receive these alerts, text 333111 and the county you wish to receive the alerts for (do not add the word "county" or any spaces or punctuation). You can add more than one county. If you are already signed up for NYALERT, you are all set. They will be the same messages. If you no longer wish to receive these messages, text STOP to 333111.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has designated **14.300Mhz** as a worldwide center of activity frequency for emergency traffic. There are two nets that run from 7am to 10pm eastern time daily. The **Intercontinental Amateur Traffic Net**, aka Intercon, (www.intercontinentalnet.org) operates from 7am to noon and the **Maritime Mobile Services Net** (www.mmsn.org) operates daily from 12pm to 10pm ET. Please keep these frequencies clear during times of need and net times. Listen in for some interesting conversations. During Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30), you can find some interesting traffic from the **Hurricane Watch Net (hwn.org)** on 14.325Mhz days and 7.268Mhz nights, when a hurricane is within 300 miles of land.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS 2026

from Tom KB2NCI

You all have either helped me with public service events in the past or expressed a desire to help. If you no longer wish to be on my list for these, let me know and I will delete you. Thanks for your consideration.

I am beginning to assemble the teams for the public service events that I have the pleasure to lead for 2026. Please consider volunteering for as many as you can so we can provide the level of safety and course communications that we have become known for. Having access to a hand held and mobile radio is helpful for all events, and I have a small supply of those to loan out if necessary.

These are the events and dates I am aware of at this time.

Saturday April 25—Wild Water Derby, Shortsville—usually 11am to 3pm

Sunday April 26—Seneca 7 running relay race, around Seneca Lake—this is an all day event 6:30am to 8pm, and I usually have you cover a half day shift

Friday June 19 (I think)—**Parade for the Shortsville Fire Department Carnival**—we are usually there from 4pm to 8pm

Sunday July 12—**Ironman Musselman 70.3**—Geneva and Seneca County—shifts run from 6am to 3pm

Saturday August 1—**Phelps Sauerkraut Festival “Krauter” races**—Phelps—shifts run from 6:30am to noon

Sunday September 13 (I think)—**Finger Lakes Triathlon**—Canandaigua and Ontario County—shifts from 6:30am to 2pm

Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31—**Pumpkin Patrol** on the Thruway overpasses—8pm to midnight—**Dave KB2KBY organizes this**

I will be contacting some of you directly to inquire if you can cover similar posts and times as last year.

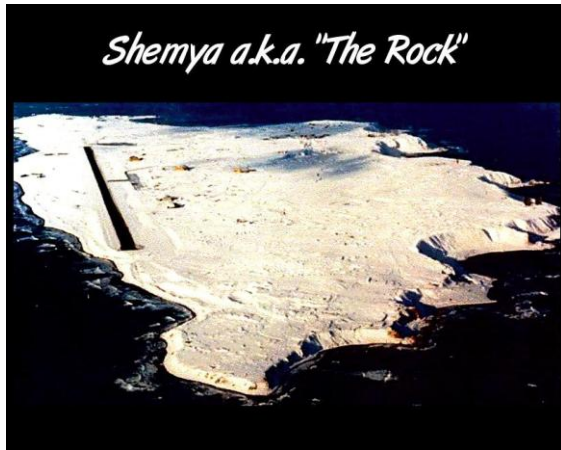
Thanks so much for your consideration in volunteering to help with these events. **Contact TOM KB2NCI** if you have questions and let me know if you can help.



"Today's St. Patrick's day. It'll be a good time to eat up this stuff with the green mold on it."

Okay, you'll have to go along with a little encouragement on my part to "get back" at my XYL for making me put my birthday stuff in the newsletter. (What do they call it, "editorial license?" Something like that. Hi hi.) As you well know I was on that little island of Shemya in my Army Security Agency with my blabbing either in a club program and or "talking

too much." Well, March exactly 60 years ago, I was in my 8th month of my 13 month tour on Shemya. I think about these things still today. It is historical mind of mine, I guess. Some things you just don't forget and you shouldn't by all means.



Of course, this means I had been away a long way from home (4595 miles as the crow flies from home here in Palmyra. Yep, I mapped it out.), and for a long time. Almost 4 years in the Army, I wrote my YL (Not a XYL yet.), a letter, post card or store card, every mail day whatever time I could spare. Basic Training that was very hard. But at my "school" at Ft Devens MA, Ft Meade MD and especially on Shemya, I could write often. You can't take your work home if it is classified or they'd shoot you. Shemya I had plenty of time. (I stayed away from the card games, gambling and no NCO bar! Yea, I was a bore.) Since the Reeve Aleutian Airline mail plane only flew the 1,500 miles from Anchorage twice a week, I wrote long letters (How about 20-25 handwritten page letters? Yes, I did.), and plenty of cards, too. I wanted to make sure there was something in her mailbox each day she checked. Shemya was an "APO" address or Army Post Office. You paid the stateside postage from any military post office outside the States as an APO. Postage was 8-cents by airmail. So, at times there was more than one letter in her campus mailbox.



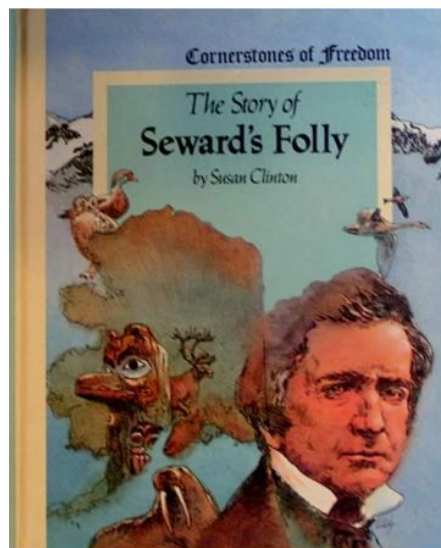
Here is a picture my Sweetie sent to me 60 years ago. Notice the March month calendar on her dorm wall at Geneseo and my senior picture on her desk. It was the second semester of her sophomore year. I was a year and half in my 4 years of active duty. What you see is 8 months of just cards sent from Shemya pinned on her bulletin board. No internet. No easy communications to call home. We could call home for 15 minutes on a 9th, 19th, 29th and 31st of a month free to Sunnyvale CA. The call was "collect" which meant she had to be home from Geneseo those days. Timing meant I called

only three times. In the Army and especially on Shemya, there were many “Dear John” letters for GIs, even divorce letters. (Presently, the divorce rate for the military is 80%, well above the 50% rate for civilians.) This picture was a very welcome sight to see in my mail with a letter 60 years ago. Being in college, I knew she didn’t have as much time as I did to write. I was okay with that. I just never took our relationship for granted. She didn’t either. I thank you letting me honor my XYL. She deserves it.

That little picture on my Sweetie’s desk in front of my senior picture? Here it is. January 1966 on Shemya on a unusually



nice day on “The Rock” for a walk outside. I got out twice in my 13 months for a walk-about due to the lousy weather. The fellow ASA GI in the picture is Wally from Bristol TN. He was big cigar smoker. He was a “bathtub” gin runner for his grandmother and his Army issue shoes were the first shoes he ever owned. He was a nice guy. Good soul. Notice our GI issue winter gear “fish tail” parkas - Korean War 1950s issue. I’m feeding a “blue” fox some mess hall bread. The fox was not blue. Why the name, I never figured out. The Aleut population was encouraged by missionaries to breed the blue fox for a steady income after the Russians left when we bought Alaska. On the Island of Attu, 20 miles west of Shemya, the last island in the Aleutian Chain, there is Massacre Bay. This is where the Russians killed a bunch of Aleut natives when first taking the island chain. The Russians were not nice guys. (Hasn’t changed I guess.) By the way, **March 30, 1867** is when we purchased Alaska, 159 years ago. Secretary of State William H. Seward’s signing the treaty with Russia was initially praised but newspaper opposition editorials seemed to negate the purchase: Seward’s Folly, Seward’s Icebox, worthless, a wasteland, ice prison, etc.



Did you know Seward’s home is in our Auburn NY? Sure is. Blue fox fur went out of fashion but despite no breeding on Shemya, a small population was not caught and they still survive to this day on the island. I hope the mostly contract workers on Shemya now are taking care of blue fox. There you have the history lesson for this month. Hi hi.



"I was thinking of celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the old country but then I remembered. I have no family left over there."



DONE. SEE YOU NEXT MONTH !

