



Prospect Hill Intermod

The News Letter of the Waltham Amateur Radio Association
and the "Heavy Hitters"

Fall 2006

Check out our web site at www.wara64.org !

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Andy Donovan WA1GEP SK

Andy Will be missed dearly by all of us. What follows here, in place of the traditional message from club officers, is the death notice from the Oct 15 Boston Globe, as well as a speech Eliot Mayer, W1MJ, gave at the memorial service held recently.

Andrew E. Donovan, of Lincoln, died Saturday morning, September 23, 2006 in his home after an illness. He was 64 years old. He leaves his wife of 22 years, Nhi Donovan; two sons, Adam and Christopher Donovan, both of Lincoln; a step-daughter, Trang Donovan of Chicago, Illinois; a brother, James Donovan and his wife Connie of Newton, and their children, Liz, Abigail, and Brian Donovan. Mr. Donovan served as President, CEO, Treasurer, Clerk, and plant superintendent at Artisan Industries, a Waltham engineering and manufacturing company founded by his father. Mr. Donovan led Artisan, A company of 80 families, for 20 years. Mr. Donovan, a bearded, compact man with an irreverent sense of humor, grew up in Cambridge. He graduated in 1960 from Browne and Nichols and then from

Northeastern with a



degree in Electrical Engineering. Once having met him, few would forget his personal integrity, determination, forthright constructive approach and vast technical knowledge. He possessed an uncanny ability to understand, design, and repair any kind of machinery, particularly electronic equipment. Like many gifted people his talents showed early. Before he could walk, his father gave him a screwdriver as a toy. From that moment on, much to his parents' consternation, he took apart any flashlight, clock, or other device he could reach. Thankfully, he could also re-assemble the objects of his curiosity. By age 12, he had designed and assembled his own color TV. An unconventional executive to say the least, Mr. Donovan probably never wore a tie or suit at Artisan. On a typical day he might review and plan his company's financial future, go through the manufacturing shop to check on the machinery and the status of jobs, then stop to rewire the controls on a milling machine, all

before lunch. He could recite from memory the location and function of every wire and pipe in his factory. Coupled with his business acumen and foresight, his technical brilliance served Artisan well in good times and bad. But for all his mystifying technical brilliance, deep in his heart he embodied the Catcher in the Rye, the caretaker, ever vigilant for the well-being of his family, friends, employees, and his company. As one of his vice presidents put it, "He's unique in two ways. He knows everything about everything, and he cares so much for the people who work here. He was so upset when he couldn't afford to keep paying full health insurance for us, I thought he was going to cry." Mr. Donovan once told his brother, "I love Artisan and I love the people who work here. The thing I'm proudest of is that we bought a heck of a lot of houses for the Artisans and we sent a heck of a lot of kids to college. I drive the crummiest car in the lot and that's just fine with me." The Artisans returned his love with passionate loyalty. Sons follow fathers to the company, and Artisan regularly awards pins for 30, 40, and 50 years of service. When Mr. Donovan fell ill this January, his associates designed a plaque for him whose inscription ended, "like your father before you, you always thought of those who worked for you and for their families before you thought of yourself. When the qualities of honesty, loyalty, integrity, courage,

generosity and compassion come to mind, we will always think of you." Mr. Donovan loved spending time with his wife and two sons. In the summer, Mr. Donovan would spend each sunny weekend sailing with his family in Salem Sound. Every August, he and his family would spend a week in New Hampshire, at the same inn the Donovans had stayed in for four generations. When snow fell, he and his sons would ski cross-country in Lincoln. And no matter how cold the winter, he would always go skiing in shorts, not pants - much to the concern of his wife. Mr. Donovan was also an avid traveler, having visited six of the world's continents numerous times. Mr. Donovan was also very fond of construction projects. As a young man, he and some friends built a sailboat, with which they sailed up the coast of Maine. Mr. Donovan even built his house in Lincoln from the ground up, pounding in every nail by hand. The solar heating system he engineered kept his house warm in the winter and cool in the summer, without relying on fossil fuels. On a similar note, he designed and built an electric car, which he used to commute to work every day. Mr. Donovan was also a ham radio enthusiast. He would often be found in his lab, tinkering with radios or other electronic gadgets. Like the first Americans, he lived in a world which he almost completely created and maintained himself, only with high-tech 21st century twists. Mr. Donovan was a trustee of the Charles River Museum of Industry, and a member of the Waltham Amateur Radio Club, Waltham Chamber of Commerce, and US Power Squadron. He was also a longtime supporter of the Museum of Science, MIT, and WGBH Public Television. A private funeral Mass was held in St. Joseph Church,

Lincoln. Interment was in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. A Memorial Service will be held Sunday, October 15, 2006 at 2:00PM in the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham (for directions and parking, see www.crimi.org). Relatives and friends respectfully invited to attend. Memorials in Andrew's name to Emerson Health Care Foundation, Inc., Oncology Department, 133 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, Concord, MA 01742. Published in the Boston Globe on 10/1/2006.

W1MJ Speech at WA1GEP Memorial Service

I am Eliot Mayer. I became friends with Andy through our involvement in the Waltham Amateur Radio Association, where he was also known by his ham radio call sign, WA1GEP. Besides all of his other activities, Andy was a central figure in this organization for almost 40 years. He built a lot of the equipment, and did countless hours of maintenance for the club's repeaters on Prospect Hill. These repeaters are used for emergency and public service communication, such as the Blizzard of '78, emergency management exercises, and the annual Walk for Hunger. They are also used for daily communication among club members and other Boston-area radio hams as they commute down Route 128, sharing traffic information and talking about a wide variety of topics. Andy also hosted the radio club's meetings at Artisan Industries, and served as the club treasurer, for many years.

Because of Andy's vital, long-term contributions to the Waltham repeaters, I, and many others, will continue to remember him as we chat over these repeaters on our daily commute down Rt. 128.

On a personal note, Andy was one of the nicest and most giving people I've known. He found time to teach me how to cross-country ski, and often invited me to ski with him on the conservation land next to his home. On numerous occasions, he lent me tools, and gave me tutorials on how to use them, for various home improvement projects. I will miss him.

MEETINGS NOW HELD AT THE WALTHAM, PUBLIC LIBRARY!

With the loss of our dear friend Andy, we also lost our long term meeting place. With the help of Bob Martinson N1VQR, we were able to secure the "Board Room" at the library on Main St. in Waltham center. Mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM and plan to join us and meet or re-meet some of the folks you talk to. This new location has loads of room and is set up for A/V facilities and free Wi-Fi internet connections. Talk-in is always on the '64 repeater.

W.A.R.A. OFFICERS

President – Richard Amirault, N1JDU
V. President – John Flood KB1FQG
Treasurer - Ann Weldon, KA1PON
Clerk – Jim Finlay, N1HCF

SPEAKERS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

There are always opportunities for you to make a presentation at our monthly club meetings. So, If you have a favorite topic that might be of interest to our group, you can contact any of the club officers.

Summer Work Parties on Prospect Hill

by Eliot Mayer, W1MJ

As many of you know, the Waltham ARA's flagship repeater on 146.64 MHz had a lot of problems this past summer. Thanks to the tireless efforts of club members WA1HUD, WA1PBU, W1JP (then AB1FF), and N1PXA, the repeater is now working fairly well. Further improvements are planned, but at least we're on the air! Here are some photos from our July 1 work party.



Figure 1 - New 2M repeater assembled by WA1HUD, sitting in the back of Steve's truck just before installation. The main ingredient is a GE Master II repeater.



Figure 2 – Steve installs the SCOM 7K Repeater Controller, which had been previously programmed by W1JP.



Figure 3 – Kim, WA1PBU, confers with the work party's security officer, Lucky. All of the club repeaters are visible in the background. From left to right: 6m, 2m & 220 MHz, 440 MHz, and 900 MHz.

PHI NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor – John Flood KB1FQG
Circulation – Ann Weldon, KA1PON

WE NEED YOU – TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE!

Prospect Hill Intermod (PHI) is **YOUR** newsletter. We always get good submissions of articles, information and sometimes even photographs to include in each issue. That's what makes it interesting for the readers. So if you have an idea, some thoughts or perhaps some photos of your shack or some event you participated in, send them on in and share them with everyone! Also F.Y.I. John Flood, KB1FGQ has come out of retirement to take over as editor of the PHI Newsletter

You can send things in via e-mail to: flood@krohne.com or snail mail to:

John Flood, KB1FQG
79 Waltham Street
Maynard, MA
01754

Text should be plain text (ascii) like an e-mail message or in Microsoft Word format and photos should be in JPEG or GIF format.

SUMMER FUN NORTH OF THE BORDER ON FIELD DAY

This past June, the Waltham ARA participated in the ARRL Field Day for the first time since 1998. We operated in "Class 2A", with two HF SSB / CW stations using club call W1MHL, plus a combined GOTA / Vintage AM station operating as N1HID. The GOTA (Get On The Air) Station is the replacement for the Novice Station of FDs long, long, ago.

A big thanks goes to Mike, WB5JMJ, for providing the FD site on his Hancock, NH property. I'd also like to thank those who participated, and I guess I'm finally ready to forgive those who chickened out due to the forecast for thunder showers. Fortunately, we had no thundershowers, and no rain after some light Saturday morning sprinkles. Of course, not everything went as planned, but then again, if it did, it couldn't have been Field Day - As most seasoned hams know, or soon find out, Field Day and Murphy's Law go hand in hand.

My favorite thing about this FD was getting club members on the air who weren't really experienced with HF

contesting. Technician class hams were able to operate HF with the oversight of extra-class control operators. Our own club president, Richard, N1JDU, really caught the bug and made many contacts on 40 Meter SSB. John, KB1FQG, operating the Vintage Station, may have made the most AM contacts of any FD operation in the country (mainly because AM hasn't been used on FD for decades).

We had a score of 2,432 points, and made 597 contacts. You can see us listed in the Class 2A section of the results: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/2006/fd.pdf> See our FD photos below and on www.wara64.org for high res. Files 73 de W1MJ



Ok it's cute and high tech but is it as sexy as...



John KB1FQG Running a 200+ pound (not including the desk) Plate modulated AM Classic station.

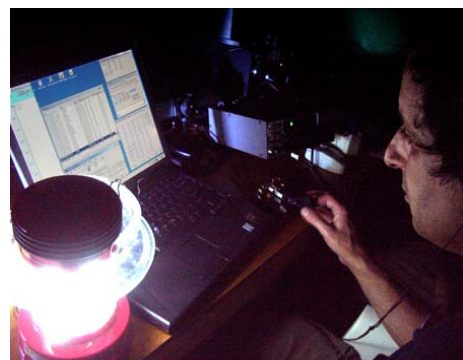
Why is Steve WA1HUD sporting the "AM Forever" hat on SSB/CW? Some say no one was brave enough to ask John to get out of that chair!



Steve on 40M phone... (Don't tell any of his AM pals that he was on a "Rice Box")



Mike, showing Fran, KA4FRH how they get rid of "birdies" in South Texas



Eliot making late night contacts. The classic station used paper logs to retain the vintage experience!



Mike, WB5JMJ Was our host and a good cook as well!



Rick, N1HID listens to the International Space Station

WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Waltham Amateur Radio Association operates repeaters on 2 Meters (04/64), 6 Meters, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, and 900MHz. The repeaters are free and open for everyone to use. But repeaters have bills to pay, just as you do. A \$15 annual membership would help support these repeaters, as well as help to keep you informed about club activities and other aspects of ham radio. If you cannot afford \$15, please send what you can. If you are inclined to donate more, we will put it to good use. Please print this form, complete it legibly, and return it to:

**Waltham Amateur Radio Association
Post Office Box 411
Waltham, MA 02454**

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # __ (____) _____ Are you an ARRL member? _____

Email _____ Web Site Address (URL) _____

This year's donation enclosed (\$15 nominal): \$ _____

Check if you would like to get involved in any of the following Waltham ARA activities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Repeater Maintenance/ Construction | _____ Speaker for Club Meetings |
| _____ Public Service Activities | _____ Auctions |
| _____ Newsletter Writing or Production | _____ Public Relations for W.A.R.A. |
| _____ Contribute to the W.A.R.A. web site | _____ Photographer for W.A.R.A. events |

Comments about the club, its repeaters, our web site or the newsletter?:



The Waltham Amateur Radio Association is affiliated with the A.R.R.L.

Visit the W.A.R.A. web site at: <http://www.wara64.org/>

Waltham Amateur Radio Association Repeaters

The Waltham ARA maintains five repeaters. The repeaters are located on Prospect Hill in Waltham, MA. Our repeaters are open for use by all radio amateurs. On certain dates, one or more of our repeaters may be reserved exclusively for use by a public service event.

Input (MHz)	Output (MHz)	PL Tone (Hz)	Callsign
52.25	53.25	71.9	WA1HUD
146.04	146.64	none	W1MHL
223.34	224.94	none	WA1GEP
444.075	449.075	none	WA1PBU
902.1375	927.1375	in-131.8 out-100	W1KSZ

**Waltham Amateur Radio Association
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Please check expiration date on mailing label.