B-Plus

AARA

AARA DINNER

Fri. APRIL 7th

Social Hour 6:30 PM

Sally's Pub & Bistro
215 A Guideboard Rd
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-1120

www.k2ct.net

Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League
An ARRL Special Services Club
105nd Year

APRIL AARA DINNER

Please PAY your Dues.

The Dinner: Sally's Pub & Bistro
215 A Guideboard Rd
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-1120

Speaker: In December, Dave Galletly KM2O and his wife Gail Kendall got a chance to take two last minute open places on a weeklong educational trip to Cuba. Dave will give us an illustrated chronicle of the week of seeing the sights and wandering the island with 40 other intrepid bus travelers, a local tour guide and a professor. This land so near and yet so far is not what you might expect.

Field Day is June 24th and 25th 2017

145.19 (-) MHz pl tone 103.5Hz

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted,
Dues are $20.
B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the K2CT Web page in .pdf format
www.k2ct.org

Checks should be made out to **AARA** and sent to:
Saul Abrams, K2XA
307 Maple Rd.
Slingerlands, NY 12159

All Dinner Entrees will be accompanied by:

Soup Cup of the Day

Garden Salad Fresh Seasonal Greens, Cherry Tomatoes, Shredded Carrots and Sliced Cucumbers with Vinaigrette Dressing

Italian Bread and Creamy Butter

Triple Chocolate Cake

Coffee, Tea

DINNER SELECTIONS:

Country Rotisserie Chicken $24.95
Half chicken slow roasted with fresh herbs and natural juices. Served with Garlic Smashed potatoes and Grill Vegetables

Beef Wellington $32.25
Classically Prepared Tenderloin of Beef with a Wild Mushroom duxelle Roasted in Puff Pastry. Served with Lyonnais potatoes

Fillet of Salmon & Crab $32.50
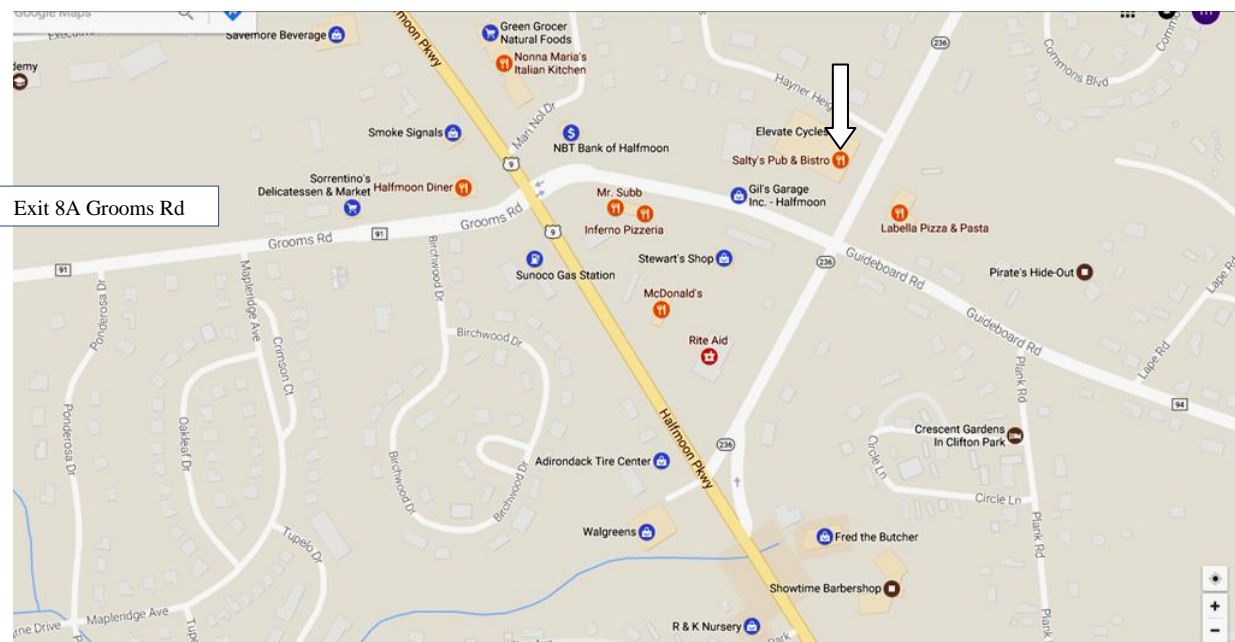Wood Grilled and served with a Fresh Mango and Cilantro salsa. Served over Black Asian Rice

Roasted Butternut & Vegetable Ravioli $27.75
Tossed with Roasted Shallots, Snow Peas, Root Vegetables, White Mushrooms and Grilled Squash

Individual bills, We will be in a separate room

Contact John K2QY at K2QY@arrl.net
or text him at 401-261-4996

Contesting

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 7
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 7
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 8 to 1300Z, Apr 9
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 8 to 2359Z, Apr 9
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Apr 8 to 2400Z, Apr 9
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 8 to 1200Z, Apr 9
Texas State Parks on the Air	1400Z, Apr 8 to 0200Z, Apr 9 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 9
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 8 to 0200Z, Apr 9
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 8 to 0359Z, Apr 9 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 8 to 2100Z, Apr 9
International Vintage Contest HF	0700Z-1100Z, Apr 9 and 1300Z-1900Z, Apr 9
Hungarian Straight Key Contest	1500Z-1700Z, Apr 9
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 10
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 12
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 12
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 12 and
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 12
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 14
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 14
Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 14 to 2100Z, Apr 15
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Apr 15 to 0559Z, Apr 16
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 15 to 1159Z, Apr 16
CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 15 to 2359Z, Apr 16
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 0500Z, Apr 16 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-2159Z, Apr 15
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 17
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 17
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 19
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 19 and
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 21
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 21
QRP to the Field	0800-1800 local, Apr 22
UK/EI DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Apr 22 to 1200Z, Apr 23
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 22 to 1200Z, Apr 23
Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 22 to 0100Z, Apr 23 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 23
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Apr 23
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 26
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 26
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 26 and
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 26
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 27

NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 28
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 28
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 29
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 29 to 2359Z, Apr 30
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 29 to 1259Z, Apr 30
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 29 to 0159Z, Apr 30 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 30
May 2017	
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 2
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 3 and
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, May 3
MIE 33 Contest	2300Z, May 3 to 0300Z, May 4
NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, May 4 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, May 4 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, May 4 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 4 (Dig)
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 5
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 5
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	0600 local, May 6 to 2359 local, May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1400 local, May 6
F9AA Cup, PSK	1200Z, May 6 to 1200Z, May 7
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 6 to 1159Z, May 7
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 6 to 0300Z, May 7
FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 6
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 10
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 11
NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 12
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 12
Jakarta DX Contest 40m	1000Z-2200Z, May 13
HPC World Wide DX Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1159Z, May 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 13 to 2400Z, May 14
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1159Z, May 14
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 13 to 0200Z, May 14
MARAC County Hunters Contest	1400Z-2400Z, May 13 and 1400Z-2400Z, May 14
Portuguese Navy Day Contest	1500Z, May 13 to 1500Z, May 14
FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 13
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14
WAB 7 MHz Phone	1000Z-1400Z, May 14
UA2 QSO Party	1300Z-1659Z, May 14
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 15
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 17

Product Review   Heathkit GC-1006 Most Reliable Clock Kit see page 7

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted,
Dues are $20.
B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the
K2CT Web page in .pdf format
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Checks should be made out to
AARA and sent to:
Saul Abrams, K2XA
307 Maple Rd.
Slingerlands, NY 12159

AARA is on Facebook
/www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/

ATVET Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

If you can HELP OUT: call Gerry, WA2IWW

Contact ATVET LIAISON: **Gerry, WA2IWW**   atvet@n2ty.org or 518-482-8700

If you are interested in amateur radio, and would like to take the exam, the Albany/Troy VE Team (ATVET) stands ready to assist. ATVET is a joint effort of the Albany Amateur Radio Association (AARA), and the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984.

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
Mar. 11 TH, 2017	Sat.	9:30 AM	10 AM
April 15 TH, 2017	Sat.	9:30 AM	10 AM
May 13 TH, 2017	Sat.	9:30 AM	10 AM

Field Day is June 24th and 25th 2017

***** AARA CONTESTERS ON THE AIR *****

2017 ARRL DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
N2LBR (+WA1KKM)	M/2	1799	359	1,937,523
NX2X	SO(H)	1827	340	1,861,500
N2SQW	SO(L)A	1033	307	951,393
N2ZX	SO(H)A	665	337	672,315
K2EP	SO(H)A	519	257	400,149
WC2L	SO(H)A	488	246	360,144
WK2H	SO(H)	511	226	346,458
W2EG	SO(H)40M	398	69	82,386

2017 ARRL DX CONTEST -- PHONE RESULTS

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	CLAIMED SCORE
W2GDJ	SO(H)A	825	284	702,048
N2LBR	M/S	681	255	520,965
(+WA1KKM)				
WC2L	SO(H)A	683	238	483,378
N2SQW	SO(L)A	679	230	465,750
KM2O	SO(H)A	671	218	438,834
N1JP	SO(H)	528	206	325,068
NX2X	SO(H)	500	197	295,500
K2QY	SO(H)A	260	148	115,440
WK2H	SO(H)	276	122	101,016
K2EP	SO(H)A	192	89	51,264
WB2KLD	SO(L)15M	47	17	2,397

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73,
Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR
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AARA is on Facebook
/www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/

Product Review
Heathkit GC-1006 Most Reliable Clock Kit
Bruce Goldstein, WA3AFS

Having successfully built many Heathkits) over the past 60 years, I was pleased to see that Heathkit produced a new kit after being out of the kit business for many years (my last kit was the SB-1000 HFamplifier which I bought on their closeout sale and built in 1988. For some time I have wanted to replace my shack 24 hour clock (MFJ-120 Monster Atomic LCD Clock) which could not keep any semblance of time even though it was supposed to synchronize with WWV each night.

My many experiences with Heathkits proved them to be exceptionally well designed electronic items with quality components. An important benefit was their quality instructions which included step by step instructions, circuit function descriptions, and troubleshooting instructions. My experience (12 kits that I can remember) ran from the simple CR-1 crystal radio kit to building 2 televisions and 2 HF amplifiers.

The following will document my experience with the GC-1006 Clock kit.

I ordered the kit August 9, 2016 with an expected ship date of late August which was changed to late September. The kit finally arrived towards the end of October. Order status was updated via email several times. The order was considered part of the 'First Production Run' and the built kit would have a corresponding label.

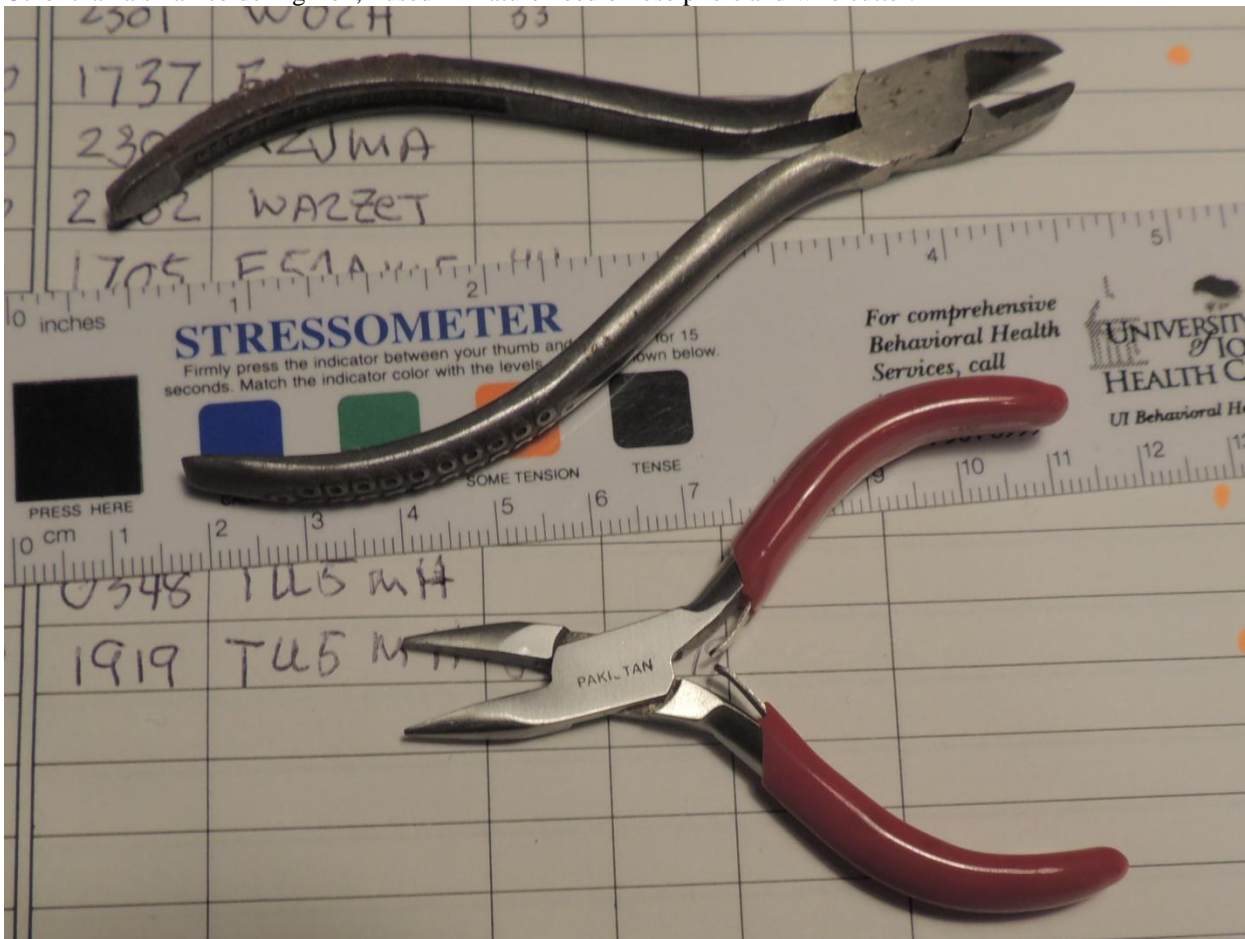Being busy with travel and other projects, I did not get around to 'actually' opening the box until late December.
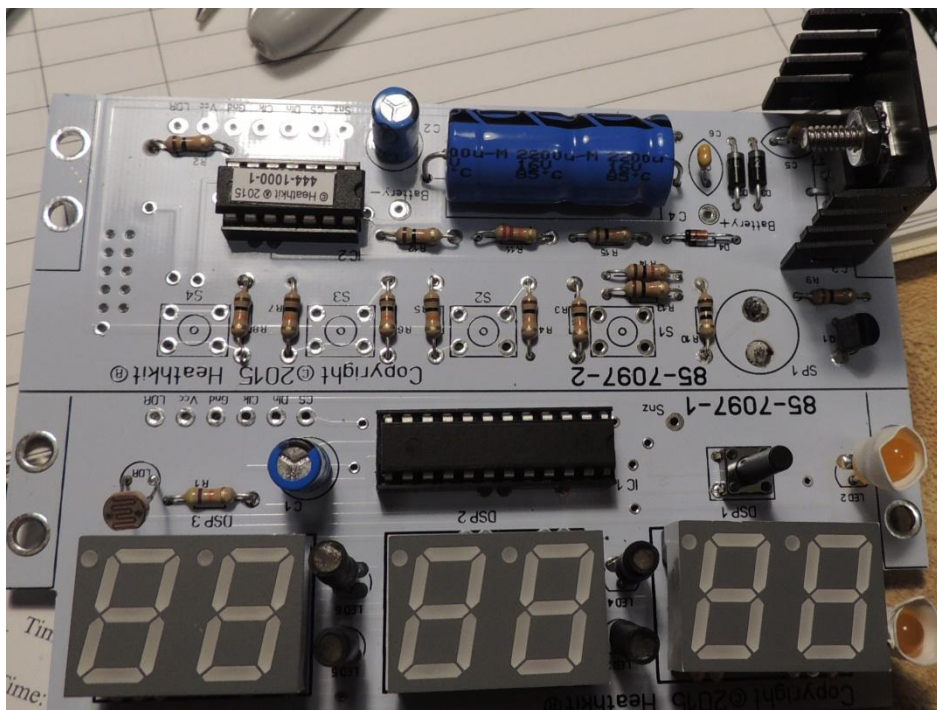

Included in the kit were two Allen wrenches and plenty of solder.

Other than a small soldering iron, I used miniature needle-nose pliers and wire cutter.

The 60 page instruction manual is very complete and includes 6 pages of details on reading resister value codes and soldering. It also includes 4 pages which cover the inventory of each envelop and part in the box including how to identify each part. Of all the parts, only one did I have to use some of my technical knowledge to figure out which lead was positive and negative for an electrolytic capacitor which was not labeled (as shown in the instruction manual with plus and minus ends! I guessed that the insulated end was plus and the lead that was connected to the case was minus). This proved to be correct since the final 'smoke' test was completed without any incidents.
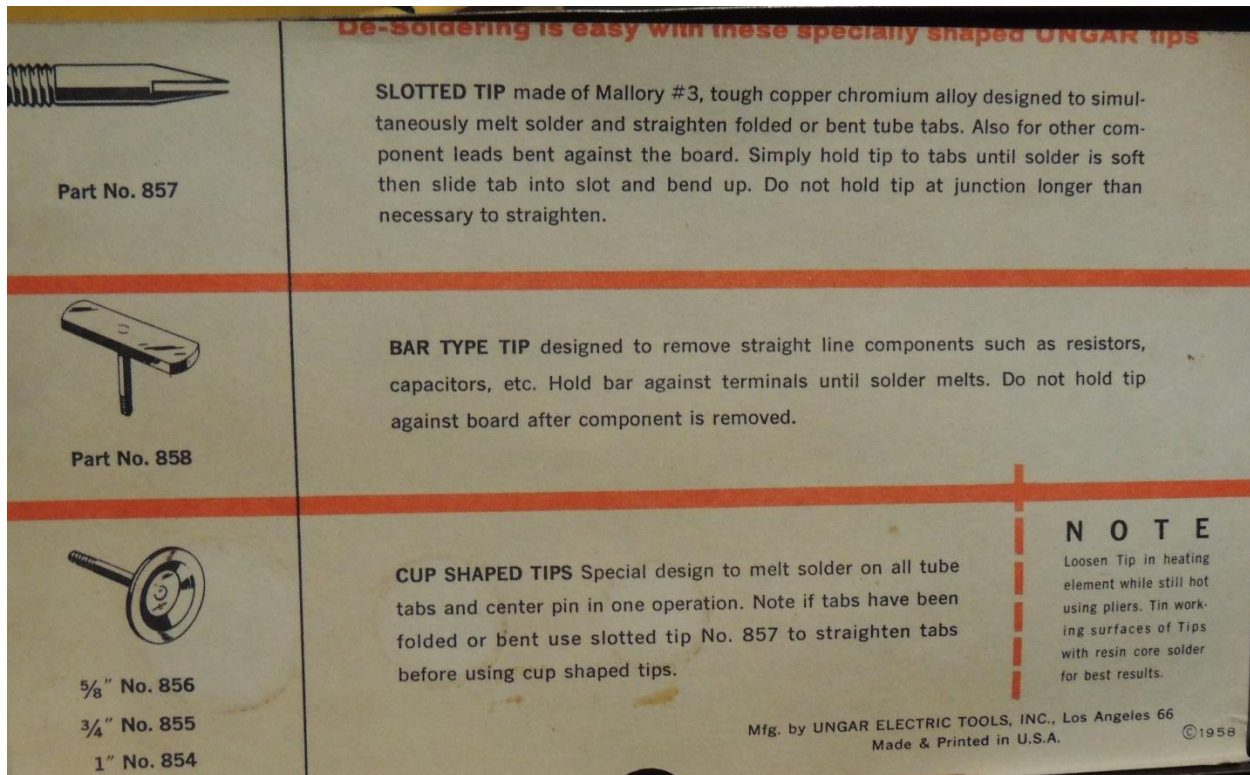
When it was time to open an envelope and/or bag of small parts, I used a plastic compartmental box to separate the different components. One can use an egg carton also. These options made it easier to find the parts when they were required.

Construction is started with placing parts on the circuit board which at the end was split into two separate circuit boards!

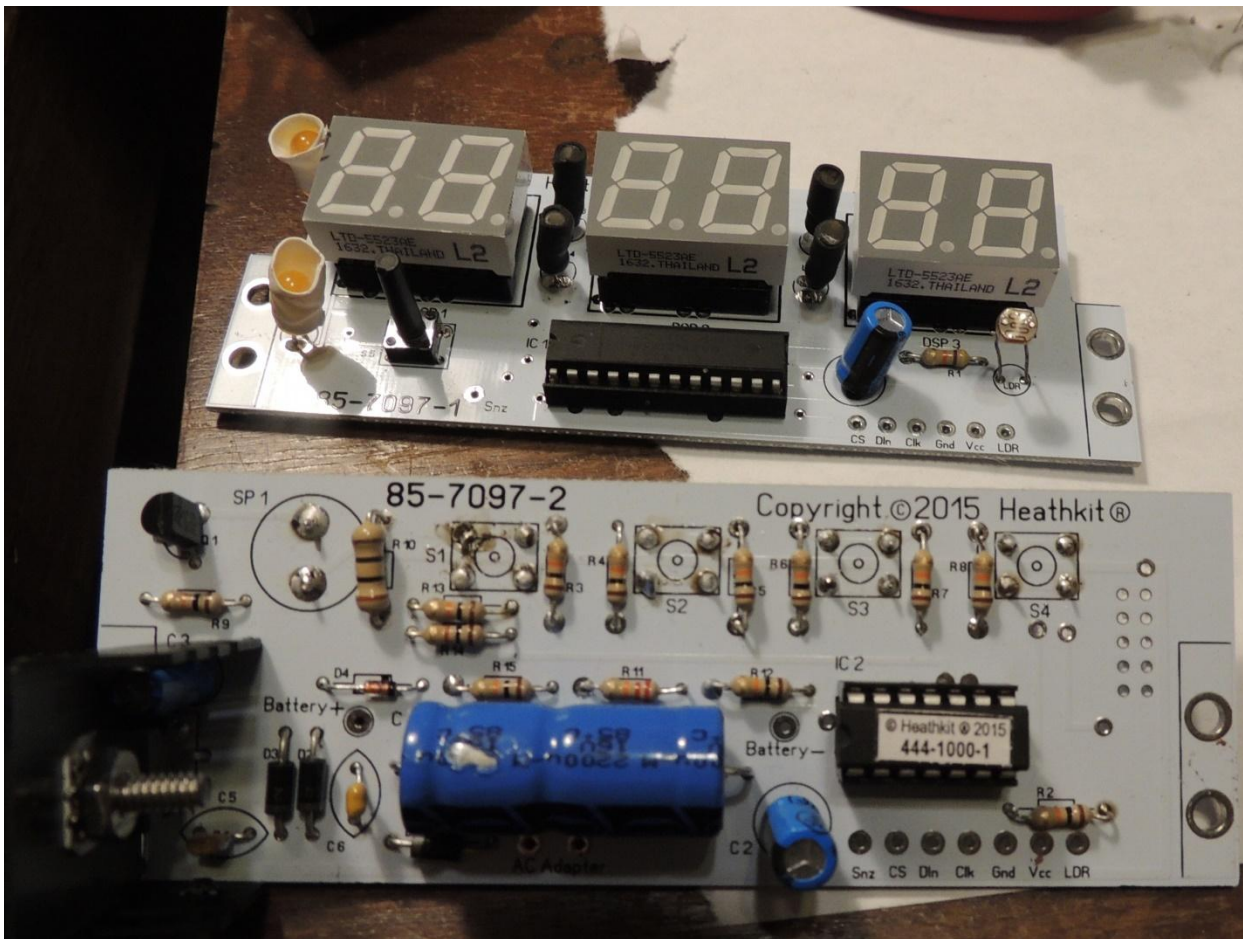For the most part the instructions were clear with the following exceptions:
- Instructed to install 2 screws and then instructed to tighten the 4 screws (The associated diagram did show the 4 screws)
- Instructed to install 5 push switches with the first one on the 'component' side of the circuit board and remaining four on the backside. Without thinking, I installed the first two switches on the component side. Having to de-solder a component with 4 pins and clean out the holes was a bit difficult and time consuming. Luckily, I had my father's (W3RKJ) de-soldering kit from 1958 (and actually knew where to find it) which had a

special tip that covered all 4 pins at once. I believe that the instructions should have made the major difference clearer with **bold characters** about the 4 switches that were to be installed on the opposite side of the circuit board.
- Measurements were given in different scales (inches, centimeters, and one case-- in thirds of inches which is not found on most household measuring devices!
- Many Heathkit instructions in the past showed measurements exactly to scale and one could use the instruction booklet to make measurements. Not in the case of this kit. I did cut the ribbon cable incorrectly, but the remaining piece was still of sufficient length as long as I spliced in one of the cables to make it reach properly. (Heathkit did offer to send a new cable when I reported the problem, but since I had already installed the spliced cable, I was not interested in disassembling just to make the internals look a little better. As it turned out, the ribbon cable is hidden by the battery holder)
- It was not clear which way to the mount the heatshield/voltage regulator on the circuit board. It fit two ways (facing off the side of the board or facing towards the center of the board) and there was no picture that clearly described the mounting. I must have guessed the proper way to accomplish this and since everything is working and the case went together easily, I must have been correct.

Only one part was defective/ missing: When I came to the step to cut and assemble the multilayered diffusion tape, I found that I only had the backing material without the tape. Heathkit quickly mailed me another strip, but was rather skeptical as to how that could have happened.
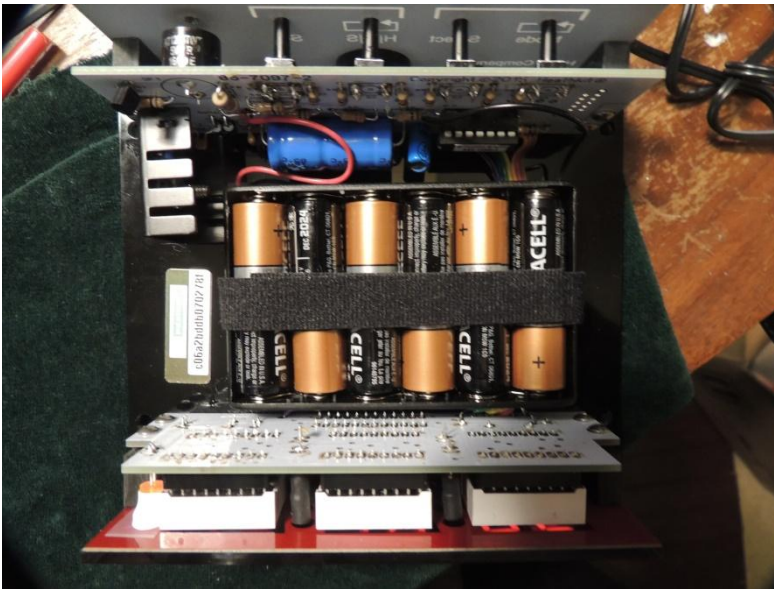
A very nice improvement over my previous Heathkits was the personal product page on the Heathkit website which is specific to the serial number of my kit. The web page did note that a diode in the schematic was shown backwards. According to Heathkit, the page could contain:

- Manual updates
- Product updates
- Tutorials
- News
- Personalized content

A little weird, the miniature speaker arrived with the following stick on label:

Nothing was mentioned in the instructions; I just removed it before the case was closed. (I did not wash it either)
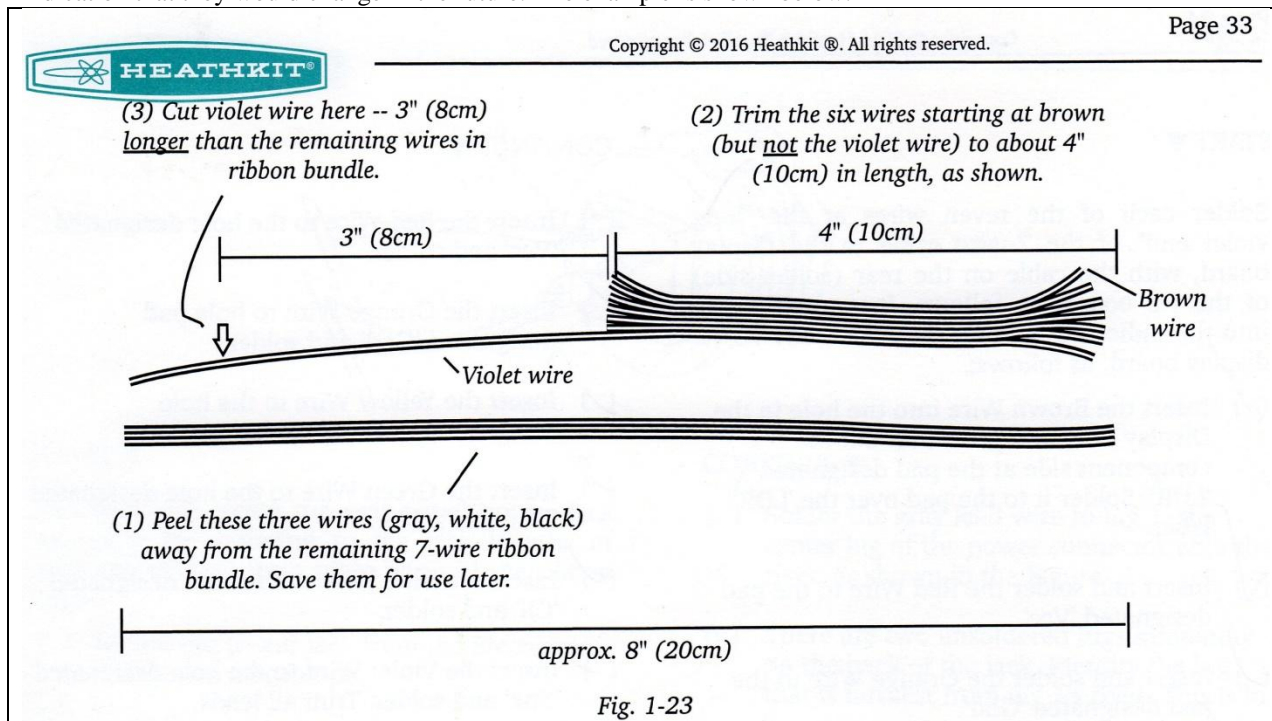
Typical of Heathkits, one created the plug in mounts for the displays by being instructed to cut some IC sockets in half.
The completed clock:

All my communication with Heathkit (email with the serial number as part of the subject was the method specified in the instruction book) were answered promptly (usually within 12 hours) which showed that they care about their customers. They did say that most of my comments had already been implemented.

Only one of my comments appeared to have been glossed over. I mentioned to them that I thought that the ribbon cable cutting diagram should have been clarified. The associated diagram should have been labeled clearly "**Not to Scale**". The response from Heathkit was that the 'old' Heathkit instructions sometimes did have exact measurements on the pages and others did not. No indication that they would change in the future. The example is shown below:

Page 33

HEATHKIT®

(3) Cut violet wire here -- 3" (8cm) _longer_ than the remaining wires in ribbon bundle.

(2) Trim the six wires starting at brown (but _not_ the violet wire) to about 4" (10cm) in length, as shown.

3" (8cm)

4" (10cm)

Brown wire

Violet wire

(1) Peel these three wires (gray, white, black) away from the remaining 7-wire ribbon bundle. Save them for use later.

approx. 8" (20cm)

Fig. 1-23

Basically, this was a fun kit to build and worked the first time power was applied and time is spot on since I first set the time and even unplugged the clock to move it around the shack.
$99.95 available from www.heathkit.com

AARA is on Facebook
/www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/