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OOTC Inc.

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Bud Smith, W4YE, #3011, son of OOTC President W5KL (SK)

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 3, SPARK-GAP TIMES  
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NEW domestic member \$26. (\$10 initiation + \$16 yearly sustaining fee).  
NEW International member, \$28 (\$20 initiation + \$18 yearly sustaining fee).

Note that the Initiation fee is a one-time fee to new members. These fees include receiving the Spark-Gap Times via email or via the OOTC website.

**Renewing USA members \$16 yearly, \$18 Canadian and foreign.** These fees include receiving the Spark-Gap Times via email or via the OOTC website.

If you wish to receive the PRINT Spark Gap Times the additional fee is \$5.00 yearly for USA members, including Life Members, and \$7 yearly for Canadian and foreign members, including Life Members.

Life Membership dues: Under age 75-\$250.00. Ages 75-79-\$200. ages 80-85-\$150. 86-89-\$100. 90-94-\$50.00 95 and above—Free. Note that Life Membership dues do not include the print Spark-Gap Times. The \$5 yearly fee must still be paid for the print copy.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT. You are eligible if you had two-way wireless communication 40 (or more) years ago (eligible on Jan 1 of the 40<sup>th</sup> year) OOTC recognizes your first two-way communication by CB, Amateur, commercial or military operation. Provide proof if possible. If never ham licensed but had eligible 2-way communication, you may also join.

OOTC wishes to have extended information about each member, activities and background. This information becomes a permanent and important part of your record as a member of OOTC, making it possible for us to publish your life work and experiences. Information is saved in OOTC archives. We would a photograph. Send a biography and/or story suitable for publication in the Spark-Gap times on separate sheets of paper, or via email attachment to our Secretary.

Notice: Call letters shown were calls they used, subject to reissue since then.

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1947-1949 IRVING VERMILYA	*W1ZE
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1968 T. FRANK SMITH	W5VA
1969 BERT GAMBLE	W5ZC
1970-1978 RAY MEYERS	W6MLZ
1979-1986 A. J. GIRONDA	W2JE
1987-1988 BERT AYERS	W6CL
1989-1990 WESLEY RANGLES	W4COW
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**K3IN AT OOTC BOOTH**

### **OOTC BOOTH AT ARRL 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION JULY 11-13**

Secretary WB4FDT, together with new member K3IN, ran the OOTC booth and the ARRL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention July 11-13. Our booth was next to the QCWA booth, which was next to the Antique Wireless Association booth! It turns out that many OOTC members belong to all three organizations. OOTC signed up 14 new members, more than the QCWA did at the next table! OOTC also received over \$100 in donations to defray booth costs. It was great fun to meet many of our members!!

38 OOTC members, new and old, signed our membership sheet. These were:

Pete K3IN	Bob N2OO	Allan W1AEL
Jeff WA4AW	Charlie W1WTG	Pip WB4FDT
Bob KK3P	John W3FSA	Pete WB2BCH
Mike K2LEK	John W3BE	Fritz WD8E
Paul K2RT	Phil K1YXX	John N4MM
Elliott K1MF	Ron KX1W	David N1EA
Bob MD0CCE	Curt W4CP	Rein W1BFM
Roy WA2NZA	Frank W2IX	Mel K0PFX
Barb K1EIR	Hope WB3ANE	Bill K5YRT
Dave WA0RKS	Bob W1IS	Jeff NY1P
Janice K4IJK	Dana K1RQ	Steve W3EVE
David WA1HRJ	Phil K9HI	

We plan to have a OOTC booth at Dayton, Baltimore, and perhaps other larger hamfests this coming year..

### **W7IBC WRITES.....**

I am writing to inform you of my new address....(my XYL and I) are moving into a retirement/nursing home. My ham station is no longer in operation. It is now sitting idle pending the sale of all gear. Needless to say this is a very traumatic situation for me after enjoying nearly 75 years of Ham radio.

I was primarily a 20 meter man, having learned the Morse code when I was about 10 years old as my older brother was an experimenter. Radio has been in my blood. I am also a Navy Veteran of both WWII and Korea as a Radioman.

I enjoy reading the "Spark-Gap Times" and will continue to do so as long as my subscription holds out—then I will renew it—it is a fine little mag and very interesting—keep it coming... Albert Lenny, W7IBC (forever)

### **New member WA3FIY #4639 writes...**

As a 17 year old kid in 1960 I obtained by FCC First Class Phone license and worked at a local AM radio station on air and as engineer....I knew just enough technical stuff to pass the test and get myself into lots of trouble. My boss was the brains and I was to go'fer. It was good experience though and contributed to leading me into a lifetime career in industrial electronics including radio remote control systems.

I was licensed as a Technician in 1966. I has been mostly active since then. Bypassing the Novice was a regrettable decision. It took several years to get me off phone and into CW. I enjoy CW but never got to the point it was second nature.

I started on 2-meters AM with a home built rig. Looking back, I have to laugh about it. Not much of a rig, Maybe 5 watts, screen modulated. Made many enjoyable contacts and probably have not had as much fun in ham radio since.

I've pretty much lost my hearing so voice modes are no longer possible but I do work some CW and keyboard modes. I'm mostly a tinkerer, much more so than an operator. So I'll build something, try it on the air for a few weeks or months, and then go back to the workbench and build something else.

I have a few hams in the family; my wife, two daughters and three granddaughters. They all learned Morse Code which may come in handy one of these days if my hearing continues to fail. Hope to work you on the air sometime. Lee, WA3FIY

### **K9UQN writes:**

The other day I received in the mail a copy of Spark-Gap Times. That go me to thinking that you were one organization on the list I never updated information after I retired and moved to Tennessee.

I worked for Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, out of college. Then I moved

K9UQN continues--

on to Motorola Land Mobile in Schaumburg, Illinois for just over 33 years. Worked in various aspects of Engineering at both companies. The last 9 years of my working life was spent working as a consulting engineering for communications in the 9-1-1 Public Safety (Police and Fire) market place. So you can see Ham Radio was a real trigger point for me. It launched my lifetime career.

I am now retired and still very active on the air. I still contest and am currently on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, and a member of the A-1 Operators Club.

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### **PY5BLG writes**

I'd like to inform you that I will be 94 in October and for sure entitled for an OOTC Life Membership! Owing to my advanced age, I have slowed down a bit with my amateur radio activity, but once-in-a-while I appear on the bands for a chat or chasing a rare DX station, mostly on CW.

I got my license as an amateur in March, 1956 call sign PY1BLG in Rio de Janeiro. Before being an amateur, I was already engaged in the field of telecommunications, beginning in 1944, as a sea-going radio officer. Except for a short while ashore as an operator in Lloyd Brasileiro Shipping Co, ship-to-shore service, my whole professional life for over 50 years was aboard ships.

I retired in 1991, but I still keep the stamina as a CW operator. I moved from Rio de Janeiro to Curitiba in 1985 and was assigned PY5BLG. OOTC #3188, Euvaldo Lyra PY5BLG.

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## **Membership**

Missing members: The following members have had their mail returned: Can any members locate anyone below?

WD9GYW Dennis Morin Rochester IN #4606  
 WA3EXX McKee Gifford Sweickley PA #2511  
 W2LAE Richard Schaeffer NYC, NY #2670 (license Expired)  
 W1FKD Harry Thomason Jr, Wilton ME #4264  
 VE7BRX Walter Edwards, Comox, BC, Canada #3714  
 SM7COS, Erland Belrup, Sweden, #4346  
 AE2L Joshua Brehl, Rose Hill, NC #2799  
 W8HKR Wendell Chapman, South Jordan, UT #3335  
 W6QHD Jay Luster, Prescott, AZ #3156

## SILENT KEYS

**Eugene Rzodkiewicz, W3RMB--#3302.** Licensed in 1951 as W3RMB, graduated from Villanova in EE in 1957, and worked for Philco and IBM. Member of the Mt Beacon ARC.

**Barrie Schwartz, W3ENL---#3828.** Licensed in 1956 as WN7DCK. SK notice in QRZ.com

**Richard Fountain, K1RST--#4593.** Licensed in 1962 as WV2RSP. SK notice in QRZ.com

**Eugene P. Rzodkiewicz, W3RMB--#3302.** Licensed was W3RMB in 1951. He was 83 and lived in Wappingers Falls, Pa.

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## NEW MEMBERS

**#3649 LEE RICHEY, WA3FIY,** Franklin, PA, first licensed in 1966 as WN3FIY. See his new member letter in this issue.

**# 3640 Peter Young, K3IN,** Baltimore, MD, licensed in 1966 as WN9TGF and has also held WA3IWB.

**#3641 Bob Schenck, N2OO,** Tuckerton, NJ licensed in 1965 as WN2RJJ, has held WB2RJJ, 9M6OO and V8500.

**#3642 Jeff Gross, NY1P,** W. Simsbury, CT licensed in 1963 as K3WJO.

**#3643 David Murphy, WA1HRJ,** Gloucester, MA, licensed in 1966 as WN1HRJ.

**#3644 Charles Chapman, W1WTG,** Virginia Beach, VA First licensed in 1952 as WN1WTG.

**#3645 Richard Wujciak, K2RW,** Randolph, NJ licensed as KN2OJD in 1955, has also held FP8CA, FP8AA , FP0CA and FP5AA.

**#3646 Barbara Lombardi, K1EIR,** Shelton, CT, licensed in 1958 as KN1EIR, long-time CW and phone traffic handler.



**#3647 David Steinberg, WA0RKE**, Burnsville, MN licensed in 1967 as WN0RKE.

**#3648 Dana Cobb, K1RQ**, Ellenton, FL, licensed in 1961 as KN1RQF.

**#3649 Phil Temples, K9HI**, Watertown, MA licensed in 1970 as WN9EAY. Has also held WB9EAY and WB9RFG.

**#3650 Robert Glorioso, W1IS**, Stow, MA, licensed in 1955 as W1EBW.

**#3651 Robert Harris, N6YQ**, Banning, CA. CB operator 1973, ham licensed in 1979 as WB6VCE. Other calls; N6SNC, AC6KS, KZ7L, WE6H, K6RAH and AA6RH.

**#3652 John Tidball, WX4O**. Anniston, AL, Licensed as WN5ZCE in 1969. Other calls held are WA4CGO, HL9JT, DA1KB and C31UM.

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## **K2HAT GIVEN HONORARY OOTC MEMBERSHIP #3653**

Lee Hatfield, K2HAT, has been given honorary OOTC membership for his work in notifying the OOTC of its Silent Keys. For some years Lee has been checking various web sites for Silent Keys, and if they were QCWA or OOTC members, he would send the OOTC President and Secretary this information along with an obituary. For Lee's work, the OOTC has given Lee an Honorary membership.

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## **TWO WAR STORIES**

(Both edited from the SGT, February 1965)

**N-A-D JR**

Stanley Hyde, K6LJ (sk) OOTC #394

“On Christmas day, 1943 I landed with the 70<sup>th</sup> SeaBee Battalion at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. Our mission in Algeria, North Africa was completed. After 30 days leave, we returned to Camp Endicott for a new assignment, which from all indications would be in the South Pacific. Among the jobs I had in the SeaBee's was as a radioman. Before this war I had some Navy radio experience in WWI, and of course, I had constructed and maintained my own ham station, then W6IAH.

At Camp Endicott, there was nothing much to do except drill—no matter what the weather, which was mostly snow, we drilled nearly every day--which I detested. On day, scanning the

bulletin board I noticed a bulletin stating that an examination was to be held for those who would like to transfer from the SeeBees to the Navy. I figured if I took the exam, being a Chief Electricians Mate, there would be lots of electronics and radio questions which would kill at least half of the day and I would miss drill!

So I took the exam, the questions being pretty easy for me, I mentioned at the end of the exam that I was a licensed amateur radio operator, and promptly, forgot about it. Three weeks later, I received orders to report to the Boston Navy Radio at the Boston Navy Yard!

D-Day was approaching, and we of Boston Navy Radio, call sign **N-A-D** had 10 transmitters which must be kept hot on the air. The transmitting room proper, in June 1944, was located in the attic of Building 39, which I was told was around 100 years old, with great wooden beams installed under the floors to hold up the weight of the transmitters.

The transmitters were both old and new. When the US got into WWII, the communication agencies of the armed forces did not have enough transmitting gear so they bought up quite a few amateur radio transmitters, one of which was already in operation at N-A-D. These amateur transmitters often replaced ones that had been robbed from shore stations to go to the fleet. The one at N-A-D we called “the missing link”. It was a homebrew 200 watt transmitter, AM and CW. All we knew about “Link” was just one circuit blueprint diagram which had down in the right corner “By Kraemer”. Here was one amateur built transmitter that did heroic wartime communication service. I often wondered if Mr. Kraemer ever knew where his transmitter ended up.

The “Link” was used for short haul and coastal communication work and was busy many hours out of the 24. We knew from the message traffic we were receiving that D-Day was coming up. Somehow, time was found to build a small power transmitter, running a simple 6L6 xtal oscillator—about 12 watts. It was tuned to the frequency that “Link” usually worked on, 2716 KC. We named it “N-A-D Jr”.

Two days before “D” day, the unthinkable happened. Poor old “Link” had been overloaded so long she couldn't take it any longer. She died right in the middle of an important message. Immediately the telephone rang and the control room wanted to know why “Link” was off the air. When we explained that the transmitter had failed, we were told too much time would be lost in re-routing this important message, so get “Link” back on the air and quick!. It was impossible, there were no more transmitters to be had. Then we remembered “N-A-D Jr”.

We quickly connected it up to the antenna and tuned it up, hoping her 12 watts would be enough to finish the message. After 15 minutes we were back on the air. The telephone rang again and said that our signal was “down abit”. We replied that we were giving it all the power we could under the circumstances. The operator went ahead with his traffic none the wiser, and for the next THREE DAYS “N-A-D Jr” we sent and received hundreds of messages on our little 12-watt rig, while the boys from the invasion fleet were hitting the Normandy beaches.

So this is the saga of two radio amateur built transmitters that helped make wartime history. No doubt there were others. N-A-D Jr is still here with us in Burbank California at K6LJ, still punching out signals on the ham bands, and especially handling traffic on the Military Affiliate Radio System of the Sixth U.S. Army. We think it has earned its keep.

Stan Hyde's first radio contact was with a one-half KW spark in 1907 and was first licensed in 1912. He was a commercial operator 1910-14. He held 6BW, W6IAH and K6LJ. SK in 1988.

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## S O S

Bill Passano, K4ES  
Chief Radioman, USS Pastores, 1918

The SS Pastores prior to April 1917 was the flagship of the Great White Fleet of the United Fruit Company. Her run was a peaceful one from New York city to various ports in the Caribbean Sea, carrying pleasure seeking passengers in the finest shipboard quarters of that era. She was also one of the few refrigerated ships and at many ports of call loaded Bananas for the New York Market. Thus when WWI broke out, she could carry not only troops, but also frozen beef to France.

At the beginning of WWI, she was taken over by the Army Transport Service and converted into a troopship, armed with four 6-inch guns. Her crew remained civilian at this time, but a navy guard was aboard to man the four guns.

She sailed from New Jersey on June 14, 1917 with the first convoy carrying American troops to France. In May, 1918 she became the USS Pastores when a complete Navy crew took over.

On August 13, 1918 the USS Pastores was out of Bordeaux inbound to Newport News with many badly wounded soldiers aboard. We have virtually no warning of a tropical hurricane which hit us that day, doing heavy damage to the lifeboats stacked on deck and demolishing our radio antenna. I was the Chief Radioman aboard. We had previously been warned of enemy subs operating off the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay and southward to Cape Hatteras. We had also received word that an enemy sub the Diamond Shoal Lightship off Hatteras.

The next day we Managed to get up an auxiliary antenna up, consisting of one wire from the smoke stack amid ship to the aftermast. It was a very poor substitute for our regular aerial, which was at least 25 feet higher, twice as long and consisting of eight wires stretched between the two masts on 20 foot spreaders. This naturally put our transmitter out of tune with the antenna circuit. We had no waver-meter aboard and also were required to keep radio silence, making it impossible to retune to the emergency aerial. This was a bad situation in waters with

“subs” operating.

About 2PM on August 14<sup>th</sup>, I had finished my 8am-noon watch, and was down on the well deck aft washing clothes and planning the 72-hour leave I had coming to me. The sound of a bugle, with General Quarters call, snapped me out of my day dreaming. As I climbed the latter to topside, where the radio-room was, I saw off the starboard the flash of a gun, then the sound of a shot and the sub was seen clearly in the distance. You could see the coning tower and its gun crew on its deck.

Just as I arrived at the radio-room and took over I was handed a message from the Bridge to send out “SOS SOS SOS from NAGD (USS Pastores call letters) Lat. 35 34N Long 69.46 W, course 255 true speed 17 knots, gunned by enemy sub.” This was about 325 miles NW of Bermuda.

I was very doubtful of the results on the improvised aerial we had put up early that morning. There was a big radio antenna meter about three feet above the key and in normal operation we showed about 22 ampers reading. Now it just barely quivered and we knew we were in trouble.

It was known that subs tried to hit the radio room if at all possible to prevent messages for help from getting out. There were nearly 2000 men on board and many badly wounded, therefore, it was up to me, and me alone, to get word to someone what was taking place.

Then I remembered something I had learned in radio school, that if you lost your antenna in a collision, remove the antenna coupler and connect your output directly across the antenna and ground. This I did as quickly as possible and then pressed the key. Hurray! 8 amps indicated, but not near normal and who knows what wavelength, but at least something is going out. Would anyone hear me?

I sent the SOS 3 times, and on the fourth try, here comes our good ole Naval Station on Fire Island, Long Island, call NAG. He said he received me OK and immediately resent our position course and speed and that we were in a running battle with a “sub”, on 600 meters. This was received by a number of east coast naval radio stations, who repeated it to others.

Meanwhile, I could hear our two stern guns firing. They fired 15 rounds at the enemy, and the enemy fired 9, none of which came close to the ship. The sub then submerged and did not reappear.

So on what wavelength were we on? Only the operator on duty at Fire Island knows that. Was the operator by chance tuning around and found us? We will never know, but I have thought about it many times and thank him so much!

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The current solar cycle has, unfortunately, been less than many had hoped for. Trying to figure out what will transpire over the next few months seems to be a rather difficult exercise. However, one source that is worth checking is the National Weather Service, Space Weather Prediction Center (<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>). Here you can find the consensus of the experts in forecasting the probable events which are expected. Provided are information sections that contain current conditions, alerts and forecasts, and various reports and summaries.

Another very interesting site is a real-time view of lightning strikes on the various continents of the world (there are several available, but the one I find most interesting is at: <http://www.lightningmaps.org/realtime?lang=en>).

I am looking forward to the Fall and Winter months so that conditions on 75/80 meters will improve. Summertime storms and the daytime absorption sure plays havoc with nets and QSOs.

One final thought to leave you with is that I have been enjoying contacting the various stations working the ARRL Centennial as W1AW/1-0, etc. There are some really top notch CW operators running these events and my hat is off to them! Of course, they operate other modes as well, but I like to work the CW ops.

I look forward to working you on 20 meters. You will probably hear me on or around 14050.

73,

Troy, W6HV

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### **Are Grumpy Old Hams Passé?**

John B. Johnston, W3BE

Q. I read where our amateur radio community is no longer saddled with the

stereotype of a ham radio operator being a grumpy, older guy in his basement with a big tower and antenna in his backyard talking to other parts of the world. Now it is a lot of people — mainly in the 25-40 demographic — who are very intrigued by learning electronics as a skill set and they're turning to ham radio to learn basic fundamental electronics.

They earn a Technician license and get a \$100 handheld radio that allows them to communicate with people in their general, local area. It's a way for them to serve their community in times of need — not just during disasters, but during public events like races, parades, things like that.

So, stop disparaging us Techs! We have passed your test. We should have all of your ham privileges. Let's put it to a popular vote.

A. FYI: Inside every old person over 40 there is a young person under 40 wondering what the heck happened so fast.

Yes. Technician Class constitutes the most populated segment of our amateur service community. Was there to be a vote, our Technician Class operators could carry a lot of weight, if they all voted. There are more Technician Class operators (356,135) than there are General Class; Amateur Extra Class; and Advanced Class combined (356,069).

The closest thing to a referendum that we have available, however, is our regulators' administrative

sluggish rule making process, i.e., petition for rule amendments, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Report and Order. Everyone is given an opportunity to comment at each step. Even then, it is not necessarily a poll; it is a process for our regulator to decide issues based upon a public record of comments.

But Technician Class operators are doing exceedingly well right now. They have all emission type privileges, maximum transmitter power privileges, all special operation privileges, and all amateur-satellite service privileges. They also enjoy station transmitting frequency privileges in some or all of the amateur service bands HF, VHF, UHF and above. In fact, the only rights they are denied are serving as volunteer examiners in preparing and administering amateur operator examinations, station transmitting frequency privileges in the MF amateur service bands and in certain HF segments, and access to Groups A and B call signs.

Nevertheless, you just may be on to something. A single operator class of license emerging from out of the Technician Class might just be in our future.

Q. So, how do we get that ball rolling?

A. It is already rolling. Our U.S. amateur service community organizers are currently pursuing a licensee expansion initiative. In RM-10870, our volunteer-examiner coordinators petitioned our regulator to make our amateur service accessible to as many citizens as possible. There are still other initiatives underway.

One initiative, for instance, is to bypass our VEs' examinations and facilitate persons to experience firsthand actual amateur radio intercommunicating without licensure. Such activity helps dispel the very notion of the need for any examination. The availability of sophisticated imported amateur station apparatus virtually eliminates the antiquated necessity for user operating and technical skills. For Q/As concerning encouraging usage of our amateur service spectrum by non- and under-licensed operators, read BE Informed No. 5.0 Our TPMSP Citizen Class and BE Informed No. 5.1 The VPOD Protocol.

Q. We want to expand our amateur service community by introducing our youth and as many other citizens as possible to our hobby. Exams scare off a lot of folks. People don't learn to drive a car from memorizing multiple-choice answers from the owner's manual; they practice driving a car. Likewise, the Get-On-The-Air experience we provide to unlicensed and under-licensed persons is superior to training currently being received from book study. GOTA facilitates immediate hands-on training by Elmers at actual transmitting amateur stations. What rule amendments would be necessary in order for GOTA training to become our license qualifier?

A. Our amateur service community seems to have embraced the GOTA protocol. No changes would be required to the international Radio Regulations in order to make GOTA training an option to the written examinations. The Regulations should, however, be accommodated within our domestic rules, i.e., ITU-R M. 1554, minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. It recommends that any person wishing to operate an amateur station have certain theoretical knowledge. That clearly includes a GOTA trainee.

As to our FCC rule amendments, one approach would be to require the VEs to give examination element credit for GOTA experience. There is already a rule that incorporates the fitting rubric. Just expand that section and add additional element credit for GOTA training. For details, read BE Informed No. 2.8 GOTA Training as Our License Qualifier.

Q. The radio spectrum belongs to all citizens. There should be one - and ONLY one - class of ham license. It should authorize all possible privileges, including broadcasting and conversing with any



citizen, anywhere, any time, using any mode. I want to support the VECs' efforts for a Citizen amateur operator license. How can I contact them?

A. You can refer to the NCVEC site and take it from there.

Q. What are the requirements for a ham license today?

A. In places where it is regulated by the FCC, an applicant must pass an Element 2 pencil-on-paper examination. The multiple-choice questions therein represents what it is that our contemporary amateur service community considers the most minimal operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service licensee holding any FCC-issued amateur operator license. Read BE Informed No. 2.9.1 W3BE's Notes: Get Your Ham Call Sign.

Q. What must a Tech do to attain the privileges being currently denied?

A. He or she must memorize some more answers to our VEs' multiple-choice questions. Read BE Informed LICENSE EXAMINATIONS No. 2.0 What Do Hams Really Need To Know And When Do They Need To Know It?

Q. That 26 correct answers out of 35 questions minimum passing score is far too generous. A single question set contains less than 7.5% of the questions contained in an element pool. An examinee, therefore, can qualify by demonstrating knowledge of only about 5% of what our amateur service community considers essential. The minimum passing score should be raised to 100%.

A. Demanding a perfect score for every examination, however desirable, is probably unnecessary. A minimum passing score nearer 95% might better allow a cushion against those inevitable slipups while preventing pure luck guesswork successful outcomes. Something such as an allowable 2 misses for the 35 question sets and 3 misses for the 50 question sets might be workable.

Q. Who makes up those question sets?

A. Each question set administered to an examinee must be prepared by a VE holding an Amateur Extra Class operator license. An Element 3 question set may also be prepared by a VE holding an Advanced Class operator license and an Element 2 question set may also be prepared by a VE holding an Advanced or General Class operator license. Each question set administered to an examinee must utilize questions taken from the applicable question pool. Technician Class operators are excluded from any participation whatsoever in preparing or administering examinations.

Q. Who determines the questions in the pools?

A. Each question must be prepared by a VE holding the required FCC-issued operator license. Our 14 VECs must cooperate in maintaining one question pool for each written examination element. They have chosen to also incorporate their own multiple-choice answers. Each question pool must contain at least 10 times the number of questions required for a single examination. Each question pool must be published and made available to the public prior to its use for making up question sets.

Q. Not having the wherewithal to install large antennas, additional HF access is meaningless to me as an upgrading inducement. Frankly, I am content with the Technician Class VHF and UHF privileges. I upgraded to Amateur Extra Class only to obtain a Group A call sign. It signals to other hams that I know all that the VEs say that there is to know about our hobby.

A. Congratulations on the upgrade! (Psst! It's our worst-kept secret that it is the reward of a Group A call sign - rather than additional HF inducements - that makes our incentive licensing-driven rules work as well as they do.) DE...W3BE

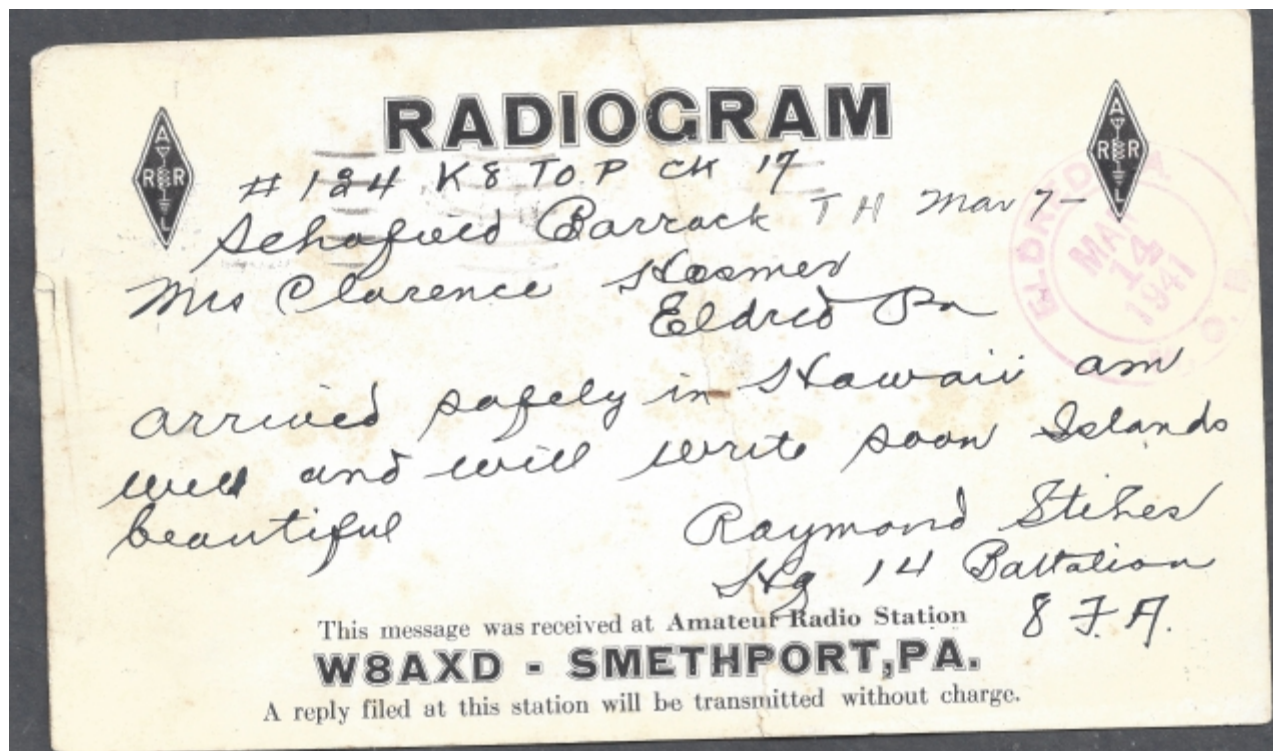
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OOTC LOGO on [www.Gifts4hams.com](http://www.Gifts4hams.com)

OOTC Member K5YRT has put our OOTC logo on his gift web site. Now members can order everything from mugs to key chains with the OOTC logo. Just go to the website listed above.

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### 1941 W8AXD Radiogram Delivery



This radiogram from a soldier in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii was delivered to Eldred, Pa via penny postcard from W8AXD in Smethport, PA.. The message was originated exactly 9 months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

