

# SPARK GAP TIMES

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 2

APRIL, 2014

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 you 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	<b>*W1ZE</b>
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1979-1984 RAY MEYERS	W6M
1985-1986 LEWIS SIEK	K4NE
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1965-1967 EUNICE THOMPSON	<b>*****W1MPP</b>
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
1991-1993 TED HEITHECKER (SK~n-office)	W5EJ
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 2009-May/2013 MILBERT WELLS W5JNK  
 May/2013- PHILLIP "Pip" SAGER WB4FDT

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Troy Wideman, W6HV, #2852  
230 Fremon St, Redlands, CA 92373 PH: 909-798-2212 [W6HV@verizon.net](mailto:W6HV@verizon.net)

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Joseph Wehner, W8KNO #4030  
11924 Alpha Rd, Hiram, OH 44234 PH: 330-569-7718 [jlwusna62@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwusna62@yahoo.com)

Exec. Secretary: Phil Sager, WB4FDT #4497  
7634 Carla Rd, Baltimore Md 21208 PH: 410-602-9030 [Philwb4fdt@hotmail.com](mailto:Philwb4fdt@hotmail.com)

Corporate Representative in Rhode Island: Janice Lentz, K4IJK

**DIRECTORS**

Dist 1: Stephen R. "Steve" Fish, W1BG, #4533  
59 Imperial Ave, Cranston RI 02920 401-280-1143 [Steve@nesoft.com](mailto:Steve@nesoft.com)

Dist 2: Gerson "Guss" Levy, W2LAP #4094  
2845 University Av 40, Bronx, NY 10468 718-548-5229 [w2lap@arrrl.net](mailto:w2lap@arrrl.net)

Dist 3 Henry "Hank" Schulz WI3U, #2717  
PO Box 3324, Erie, PA 16508 814-864-9960 [Wi3u@verizon.net](mailto:Wi3u@verizon.net)

Dist 4: Donald Traves, WN3USA #4544  
51 Meadow Way, Frostproof, FL 33843 863-224-2660

Dist 5: Charles Stanton W5LBU #3409  
3220 Davota 51 NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 505-881-4769 [w5lbu\\_st@msn.com](mailto:w5lbu_st@msn.com)

Dist 6: Vacant

Dist 7 Frank Piskur, K7FP #3628  
12002 Densmore Ave. N, Seattle WA 98133 206-364-8516

Dist 8 Joseph Wehner, W8KNO, #4030  
11924 Alpha Rd, Hiram, OH 44234 PH: 330-569-7718 [jlwusna62@yahoo.com](mailto:jlwusna62@yahoo.com)

Dist 9: Vacant

Dist 10: Douglas Tabor N7UA #4449  
1861 Raven Av, Unit 13, Estes Park, CO 80517 [dtabor@wright.com](mailto:dtabor@wright.com)

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## OOTC FLASH!!!!

The OOTC will have an organization table at the coming ARRL Centennial Convention at the Convention Center in Hartford Connecticut July 17-19. Secretary WB4FDT will be selling OOTC patches, pins and labels, and accepting donations, membership renewals and new members. The OOTC table will be next to the QCWA and AWA tables at the convention. Next year, we hope that the OOTC will be present at the Dayton Convention as well.

OOTC regrets to announce the death of OOTC Director for District 6, Lee Wical, KH6BZF #4444. His obituary is in our "Silent Keys" column.

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## OOTC PRESIDENT COMMENTS

**Troy, W6HV**

I hope you enjoy reading bout the history of the QSL card in this issue of the SGT. Stories such as these bring another bit of enjoyment to our hobby. There is so much history routed in amateur radio that it would take a very long time to learn all the ins and outs. You are **encouraged** to send in stories and articles that would be enjoyed by all.

Its antenna time here for me. I've been playing with several multi-band designs to cover 40, 80 and 160 meters. My current antenna farm includes a center fed doublet using home brew twin feeders for 40 and 80 meters. For 160 I use a rather crude inverted "L". I would like to simplify things to have only the one wire antenna. The 10, 15 and 20 meter bands are covered with my very old Mosley CL-33. When I was living in Alabama I had my two element Gern-quad up. It was a thing of beauty but, a bit much for the postage stamp lot here in California. I would be interested in hearing what

you may be using for your antenna farm.

Reading the designs and sale information on the internet for antennas has been interesting. Of particular interest has been the several designs that somewhat resemble the quad. William (Bill) Orr, W6SAI (SK) in his book "All About Cubical Quad Antennas" said a group of radio engineers installed a "gigantic" four element quad in Ecuador in 1939 (All About Cubical Quad Antennas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Radio Publications, Inc., 1977). Now I see various quad related designs (e.g.. "Hexbeam", "Spiderbeam") that would seem fairly easy to build and that should produce good results for the investment made.

Hope you are having fun with antennas too!!

73, Troy, W6HV

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## **HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO IN VIRGINIA 1908-1917**

### **Part I**

#### **Fred Dulaney "FD" 1908-12**

By Russ Robinson, W4UD (SK)

(Partially taken from The Virginia Ham, December, 1974).

Dear Pip: I thought you would want to know about one of the first amateurs here in the town of Bristol, Virginia. His name was Fred Dulaney, and he used the call "FD" in the years between 1908-12, prior to when amateurs were assigned callsigns.

Believe it or not, I was in a QSO with a Novice in Florida last month (1974), who is just getting back on the air at the age of 84, and he inquired about "FD"!!! The Novice said he remembered well his contacts on spark when he was on the air in 1909\*.

Fred's father owned the first street car system in Bristol, and also ran the local power generating plant, which supplied power for the street cars and a few businesses. The residential area did not have electricity at that time. Fred built his first spark transmitter in his father's electrical shop in 1908.

Fred operated from the shop and from his home on Windsor Avenue. He ran a line from the trolley line in front of his home to his 1 KW spark transmitter and since power regulation was not too good, it is reported by residents of that day that when he sent CQ on his spark rig they could feel it in the trolley seats due to the change in power feeding the trolley motor!. Fred never became a licensed ham as he gave up his amateur work before the 1912 law became effective. Many old timers still remember "FD" as their first Tennessee/Virginia contact back in those years.

Unfortunately Mrs Dulaney, no longer has any logs or written records of Fred's operations. In 1974 the old electrical shop still stood with the sign "Dulaney's Electrical Shop" on it. (Note: writer W4UD was first licensed as W8LPZ in Ohio in 1933, and held W3IOT, W3JGS, W4JGS and W4GCR in Virginia). W4UD is now the call of the Bristol Amateur Radio Club.

\* Unfortunately, Russ does not give us the call of the Novice mentioned in the second paragraph.

## Part 2

Who was the first radio amateur in Virginia? Undoubtedly, he came from the ranks of "electrical experimenters", who, at the turn of the century, had made electromagnetic motors, batteries, and telegraph lines, purely as a hobby.

The fascinating new art of radio drew these experimenters to this new hobby, and with the publication of construction information in the July 1899 **American Electrician**, amateurs, perhaps more properly termed "experimenters, went on the air by the hundreds (1). Prior to 1912, no license was required to get on the air. However, with the passage of the 1912 Radio Act, amateurs were required to be licensed by the Department of Commerce, and 1310 had done so by July 1, 1913, when the first "callbook" printed by the Department of Commerce was published.

In that publication, entitled "Radio Stations of the United States" there are five amateur stations in Virginia listed. These were:

3FY	Chris Core	Richmond,
3HU	Louis Falconi	Portsmouth
3JN	Harry Korab	Richmond
3GX	George Robinson	Richmond
3JD	Roger Wolcott	Norfolk

Louis Falconi (OOTC #520) (SK 1982) was to become one of the most famous spark stations in the country after WWI under the call 5ZA, later W5ZA. 5ZA was the winner of the first Hoover Cup for the most outstanding station in 1922. Almost as soon as Louis received his 3HU call sign, he became a commercial operator aboard ship and thus was not active in Virginia.

George Robinson (SK 1980) remained in Richmond his entire life and shows up again and again as an active member of the Richmond amateur radio club. He let his license lapse shortly after WWII. March 1921 **QST** notes Robinson as the first elected secretary the new "Tri-County Amateur Radio Club" in Richmond.

In 1976 I conducted a short interview with Robinson, and at the conclusion of the interview, he asked me if I would take him to a Richmond Club meeting. I later took him to a meeting, and even though it had been at least 25 years since he last attended, several OT's recognized

him immediately, and we had a real reunion! During the interview, George pointed out that the three Richmond licensees were all fellow high school students, located less than a mile from each other. He said the average DX of his spark gap was about 20 miles, and that he had traveled via train to the Navy Yard in Washington DC to apply for his license.

### PART 3

The second government callbook, dated June 1, 1914, shows 31 licensed amateurs in Virginia. Of these 31 amateurs, 20 were from the Norfolk/Newport News area, 7 from Richmond, and 4 from the southwestern area of Virginia, around Roanoke and Staunton. Three are worth mentioning. Abe Bernstein, 3VL, Roger Wolcott, 3JD, and Vincent Tabb, 3TH. Bernstein and Tabb are known to have been particularly active during this period. Vincent Tabb, 3TH, is listed in the very first issue of QST (December, 1915) as being an ARRL member.

The 1915 Callbook shows 31 licensed amateurs, and the 1916 Callbook shows 47 licensed. These 2 years produced two new amateurs who were destined to dominate amateur radio activities for the next quarter-century. These two were John Wohlford, first licensed in 1915 as 3WE, and after the war as 3CA, and Willis Gravely, 3RO, later 3BZ.

Why were these two amateurs so well known? We need to go back to the founding of the ARRL in 1914. The ARRL was originally founded, as its name “radio relay” indicates, for hams to relay messages. This was important at a time when few homes had electricity or telephones. ( In fact, originally the only amateurs who could join the ARRL were those that had the best stations on the air, and were able to relay messages over long distances. These requirements were quickly dropped after a few months to admit anyone interested in amateur radio).

A review of QST during its first year shows no mention of any Virginia regular message/traffic schedules or the ARRL appointment of a “Superintendent of Traffic” who would oversee traffic handling schedules—called a “Trunkline”. It was Wohlford and Gravely who first started to keep regular Trunkline schedules. Gravely was appointed “Superintendent of Traffic” in the winter of 1916 for Virginia and North Carolina. At this time, Virginia was part of Trunkline “D” which covered much of the east Coast. January, 1917 QST states “development of the Trunkline “D” through Virginia is very slow, but local relay work is being done by practically all stations.” There is also mention of Trunkline “D” schedules held between 3ZW in Washington, DC and Gravely in Danville, Virginia.

After WWI, Gravely served as the first Roanoke Division Traffic Manager, and also served as the Roanoke Division's first elected ARRL Director to the ARRL Board of Directors. John Wohlford, 3CA, succeeded Gravely as the Virginia “Superintendent of Traffic” and later served as Virginia's first elected ARRL Section Communications Manager (SCM) from 1924-32. Wohlford and Gravely both remained active in Virginia until the mid-1950's. W4CA is now

the call sign of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club.



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## THE HISTORY OF THE QSL CARD

"The final courtesy of a great contact is the QSL card. The term "QSL" is derived for the radio operators Q-Code and means "Can you verify reception of this transmission? Or "acknowledgment". But when did the QSL card originate? In the past some have claimed of receiving QSL cards prior to WWI, but no one has ever produced a QSL of that period. For example, an article about QSL card collecting in Wikipedia references a card sent in 1916 from 8VX to 3TQ. Pictures of pre-1917 shacks, like the two pictured in the January SGT, don't show any QSL cards displayed in the shack, so its apparent that QSLing began after WWI.

The man who probably knows more about QSL cards is Bob Green, W8JYZ. Bob's web site is: [oldqslcards.com](http://oldqslcards.com). The site features **45,000 QSL cards** from 1921-1980's. His site is also filled with amateur radio history, and short biographies of many well-known hams. I recommend it highly. Bob says that the oldest QSL cards he has seen are late 1920. The earliest one in his collection is dated November 3, 1921 from 8AHZ in Pittsburgh, Pa to 8FT in Ohio. I located a second printed QSL dated December 30, 1921, from 9AYS in Lincoln, Nebraska, to 8IQ in Ohio.

	<b>8AHZ</b>	5519 Bartlett St. Squirrel Hill Sta. Pittsburgh Pa.
Dear <u>8FT</u>		Date <u>Nov 3.</u>
Your <u>Spk</u> signal <u>Q.S.A.</u> here on month <u>11</u> ...		
day <u>3</u> .....year <u>1921</u> at <u>5:55 P.m</u>		
QRN <u>bad</u> . QRM <u>bad</u> . QSS <u>none</u> QSB <u>fine</u> . Remarks.		
<u>synch. gap</u>		
Using hr. 2-5 Radiotrons with abt. 450 volts on the plate. Radiation abt. $1\frac{1}{2}$ amps. also using $\frac{1}{2}$ K.W. spk. set, if u have hrd. either pse. QSL Rec. is single circuit reg. det. two step.		
CUL & many 73,s Sig... <u>David. Bear Jr.</u>		



So who originated the idea of the QSL card? It just so happens, we know!! Full credit goes to **Donald Hoffman, 8ADU**. This man gets the credit for we amateurs having walls full of QSL cards.

In August, 1919 QST, Hoffman, who before WWI was an QST cartoonist, wrote a letter suggested “that the fellows with long distance ham receiving sets make themselves up a form for post cards something like this (see below) and send each time a new long instance station is heard. In this way numerous relay possibilities will be discovered where some were careless and didn't notify stations heard formerly. Fellows receiving cards would keep them on file, etc. I used to do this a got a lot of thanks for it from the ones I wrote cards to” (page 28).

To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Heard your station \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_  
 Audibilities \_\_\_\_\_  
 Working \_\_\_\_\_  
 Apparatus I use \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you hear me?  
 Call \_\_\_\_\_

“Hoffman held 8ADU, 8UX, and W8FRY. Note that the 1954 QSL card listed below says; “originator of the QSL card fad”.

Hoffman was also the author and publisher of “HamFlashes” a subscription got you the mailing and it was well respected in the Youngstown region. This was a newsy 8-10 page booklet mailed monthly. The amazing thing about “HamFlashes” was this little gem commenced in 1932 and ran its limit in 1956. Sadly, Don appeared in the July 1956 QST under Silent Keys.” (Tnx W8SU and Bob Green, W8JYZ).



## The FCC Rules say.....

By John B. Johnston, W3BE

### **Q.** Can I use my amateur station to sell items?

A. That might be feasible in places where our amateur service is regulated by the FCC. Section 97.113(a)(3) says:

*No amateur station shall transmit:*

*(1) Communications specifically prohibited elsewhere in this part;*

*(2) Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules;*

*(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions \*\*\**

(ii) *An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.*

\*\*\*

Additionally, Section [97.113\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) provides exceptions for professional communicators.

**Q. Where is the difference between an *amateur* and a *professional communicator*?**

A. SEC. 3. [47 USC 153](2) of the Communications [Act](#) says the term *amateur station* means a radio station operated by a duly authorized person interested in radio technique *solely* with a personal aim and *without* pecuniary interest. The ITU concurs in [No. 1.56](#) of the international Radio Regulations (RR). The FCC echoes it twice in Sections [2.1\(c\)](#) and [97.3\(a\)\(4\)](#). Section [97.113](#) says, in effect, that no station licensee should cause or allow the station to be used for any communications unless *no* can be answered to each of 11.1 smell-test questions. Read BE Informed COMPLIANCE [No. 3.0 Section 97.113 Smell Test](#).

A *professional communicator*, on the other hand, doesn't make the cut. That is a person with something *more* than a personal aim and/or *having* pecuniary interests in radio technique. As such, the person is not within our regulators' classification as an *amateur* even though holding an amateur operator license grant.

**Q. So, how did this breach this happen?**

A. Until August 2010, most commerce was banned from our amateur service spectrum. Then, the exceptions in Section [97.113\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) were drastically broadened:

*(i) A station licensee or control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in an emergency preparedness or disaster*

*readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill. Tests or drills that are not government-sponsored are limited to a total time of one hour per week; except that no more than twice in any calendar year, they may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours.*

*(ii) (shown above)*

*(iii) A control operator may accept compensation as an incident of a teaching position during periods of time when an amateur station is used by that teacher as a part of classroom instruction at an educational institution.*

*(iv) The control operator of a club station may accept compensation for the periods of time when the station is transmitting telegraphy practice or information bulletins, provided that the station transmits such telegraphy practice and bulletins for at least 40 hours per week; schedules operations on at least six amateur service MF and HF bands using reasonable measures to maximize coverage; where the schedule of normal operating times and frequencies is published at least 30 days in advance of the actual transmissions; and where the control operator does not accept any direct or indirect compensation for any other service as a control operator.*

Employers commonly engage in commerce. Income-based intercommunications on behalf of employers, therefore, can be encountered from [places](#) where our amateur service is regulated by the FCC.

**Q. How about commercial communications with other other countries by ham radio?**

A. Section [97.117](#) still prohibits such in our international

communications: *Transmissions to a different country, where permitted, shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service and to remarks of a personal character.*

**Q. Thanks for your eye-opening explanation of the difference between an *amateur* and a *professional communicator*. Just how many professional communicators have hacked into our ham radio?**

A. No one can say for certain because the [ULS](#) does not show any such detailed information. Whether or not an applicant for an FCC amateur operator/primary station license grant is interested in radio technique *solely* with a personal aim and *without* pecuniary interest is the key determinant which - peculiarly enough - is not a stipulation for licensure by our regulators. They provide other radio services intended for those with professional communicator 11. 11 inclinations. 12

For whatever it may be worth, the unofficial reluctantly-given WAG estimate from here is that the number of professional communicators amongst us is somewhere between 10 and 15 percent of our FCC amateur service community population. There were [709,575](#) amateur stations listed on the [ULS](#) at the end of 2012. But with some persons listed thereon residing outside of our United States, the exact number is unknown.

Another unidentified number of hams residing within the United States who are not listed on the ULS are the non-U.S. citizens authorized by Part [97.107](#) *Reciprocal operating authority*. Additionally, we likely have other non-ULS-listed hams amongst us authorized by Section [97.301](#); it makes available certain transmitting frequency bands in places where our radio service is regulated by the



FCC to an amateur station having an alien control operator who holds a [CEPT](#) *radio amateur license* or an [IARP](#) (*International Amateur Radio Permit*).

So, we might have something like 70,000 to 100,000 professional communicators and 610,000 to 640,000 bona fide amateurs... give or take.

**Q. How can so many professional communicators hack into our amateur service?**

A. Probably because the FCC has previously granted so many amateur service licenses to professional communicators. Others start out as *bona fide* amateurs. They subsequently transform themselves into professional communicators as commercial opportunities arise.

Hams, moreover, seem overjoyed whenever anyone obtains a new FCC license grant. They make it all so easy. Read BE Informed LICENSE EXAMINATIONS [No. 2.9](#) *W3BE's Notes Get Your Ham Call Sign*. Practically anyone - anywhere - can speedily obtain one - free of charge - simply by answering correctly at least 26 multiple-choice questions on what it is that our VEs consider as being necessary to proving that the examinee possesses the operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service licensee. Read Sections [97.503](#) and [97.523](#).

In its [NPRM](#) in WT Docket No. 12-283, moreover, the FCC has declared the public interest will be served by making it easier for new and former amateur service licensees to enter or reenter our amateur service.

**Q. Even if your WAG is correct - and I think the real number of professional communicators is much higher - our amateur service obviously has been seriously hacked by them. The FCC is fooling no one but itself with those undefined terms utilized in the Section [97.113](#)(a)(3)(i) text: *participate on behalf of an***

employer, emergency preparedness, disaster readiness test or drill, and operational testing. That glorious governmental gobbledygook practically endorses hacking. We amateurs are the victims here. It is our radio service that is being hacked and our amateur service community organizers do not seem to care.

A. That governmental jargon can sound so magnificently authoritative when it is proclaimed pontifically in a rich baritone voice, but your observation is compelling. The professional communicators probably rationalize their activities just by tailoring their own meanings to those ambiguous terms. There resides within the professional communicator population, however, those who must believe they merit a pass on the amateur/professional communicator issue. They apparently consider themselves capable of exemplifying our regulator's notion of an amateur by effectively self-neutralizing their instinctive non-personal aims and/or their pecuniary interests in radio technique. de W3BE

### The ARRL Form 1

FORM 1

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.  
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Printed in U. S. A.

Report of Official Relay Station W1BL5 Cert. No. 13  
For month ending Apr. 15th. Section Rhode Island

MESSAGES

Orig.	Stn.	Time	Days	Stn.	Time	Days
5						
Del. 5						
*Rel. 28						
Total 38						

SCHEDULES

My regular QRH is 3500 kc. Items of general interest: Was going along pretty good but burnt out my one and only fiver on Easter and have been off the air since. Expect to get a 210 soon and meanwhile am making a few changes in the transmitter.

\*Each relayed message counts two.

Frank A. Irish Jr.  
(Name and address)



## 16

I bet many members remember this ARRL Form 1? I believe the ARRL still prints them. This is the oldest one I've ever seen. Dated April of 1930, Frank Irish, W1BLS, is reporting to his Section Manager his traffic count for the month—5 originated, 5 delivered and 28 relayed.

He reports that his “one and only fiver” (5-watt tube) burnt out and he is off the air. What makes this card even more interesting, is that W1BLS was **OOTC #1680!** He was first licensed in 1927, became a Silent Key in 1997, and was licensed for 70 years.

### **SILENT KEYS**

#### **LEE WICAL, KH6BZF OOTC #4444 District #6 Director**

Lee was our OOTC District #6 Director. He was born in Sharon, Pa in 1934 and members of his family were hams. He worked for several broadcast stations in Ohio in the early 1950's, and joined the army in the Korean war. After the war, Uncle Sam sent him to work in Hawaii, and Lee got his Novice license, WH6BZF in 1954. He quickly upgraded to KH6BZF and became interested in contesting and Dxing. Your editor suspects there are many of our members who first worked Hawaii thanks to KH6 “Blooming Zipper Flipper” as Lee called himself. .

Lee served as ARRL Section Manager for Hawaii from 1962-72, and was State Director of Army MARS. He was a Charter Life member of the ARRL. In recent years, he edited the “KH6BZF Report” regarding HF propagation. Lee passed away May 2 at the age of 79.

### **SILENT KEYS**

#### **Manuel Botelho, W3NNA Life #2450**

Botelho was licensed as W1DKT in 1931 and was licensed for 84 years! He graduated from the RCA Institute in Boston in 1932, and worked for the Federal Communications Commission in the Radio Intelligence Division (RID) as a radio monitor. During WWII he worked for the Merchant Marine as a radio operator aboard the “George Hawley”. He was fluent in multiple languages, and after the war, worked for the CIA where he retired in 1974. He was a life member of the Society of Wireless Pioneers, a Life member of the OOTC, a member of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association, and a Life member of QCWA. He was 99 years old.

#### **William Deily, Sr, W8YA #2949**

Deily was born in Philadelphia in 1918, and attended Penn State, graduating with a EE Degree. During WWII he worked for the Signal Corps and for the US Air Force. After the

war, he worked for the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia designing missile tracking systems. Later he worked for Boeing Aircraft in Melbourne, Florida. He was first licensed in 1934 as W3EYO, and also held KK4ST.

Walter H. Verdick, KA4WFS #2654

Verdick grew up in New Rochelle, NY and served in the Army Air Corps during WWII, serving as an airplane mechanic. He later became a motorcycle police officer, retiring as Sergeant with 25 years of Service. After retirement he worked as a gunsmith. He was first licensed as KA4WFS in 1971.

Noel O. Kindt, W9EFL #4229

Kindt was born in Marcellus, MI and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in EE in 1955 from Notre Dame. He then entered the US Air Force where he served at Lockbourne AFB Strategic Air Command and retired as a Major. He later earned his Master's degree in EE, and started a new career in the electronic sales and distribution business near Chicago. He was first licensed as WN9EFL in 1951. He was 80 years old.


Charles Stinger, W8GFA #4047

Born in Ludlow, Pa, in 1930, Joined the Navy in the Korean War, and was a 1957 graduate of Villanova University in EE. He received his first ham license in 1951 as W3RMB.

Edward McGrath, W5IOK, #3955

McGrath was born in Buffalo, NY and was a retired Certification Technician. He was first licensed as WV2NQQ in 1959. He later upgraded to WA2NQQ and became W5IOK when he retired to Texas. He was 75 years old.

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

Chris Ramsay, N4YE #4636

Chris was first licensed in Michigan as WN8NSQ Novice in 1964 age 12. He became WA8NSQ 6 months later. He moved to Virginia in 1967, becoming WB4IIT. In 1977, he changed his call to N4YE. Chris is now retired from the federal government after working in personnel management in several agencies, including the Coast Guard. He has been active using QRQ (hi-speed) CW on the lower bands. In recent years, he has been more active on SSB, and currently serves as the Manager of the Virginia Phone Net. Chris, who has been blind since birth, holds a BA and MBA in Management from the College of William and Mary, in Virginia.

Marc Pressman, N4DR #4637

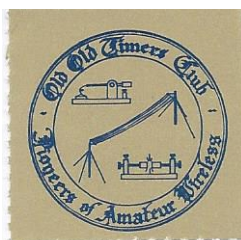
Marc was first licensed in 1966 at age 14 as WB4DRB, changing his call in 1976 to N4DR. As one would suspect with his present call, Marc is a medical Doctor specializing in Anesthesiology. He has an undergraduate degree from William and Mary and his medical degree from University of Virginia. He is active on HF using QRP CW and SSB, and enjoys building QRP transmitters and transceivers. His wife,

Gail, is licensed as WB3KFC.

Danny Shrader, WA4SDE #4638

Danny was licensed in 1975 as WA4SDE. He is very active on 75 meter phone and a long-time member of the Virginia Phone Net. He has been an employee of several amateur radio retail stores in the Virginia area, including the former Electronic Equipment Bank (EEB) in Vienna, Virginia, and currently runs a small business selling used amateur radio equipment. He is a well-known dealer at hamfests in the Mid-Atlantic area.

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## WHAT IS THE OOTC?

The Old Old Timers Club (OOTC) was founded in 1947 by a group of amateurs who had played a part in laying the foundations of electronic communications. It was Hubert Ingalls, W1NQ (sk) who was interested in trying to locate his old radio buddies from the spark gap days. "The thought occurred to me to start a 40-year club, which I figured would get the old boys off the shelf and back into circulation"

"During the fall of 1947, I put the proposition up to W1ZE, Irving Vermilya (SK), and W1ANA, Roland Bourne (SK). Between the three of us, we whipped up the Constitution. I made W1ZE, President, W1ANA, Vice President, and I took the job of Secretary." (quotes from the OOTC "Bluebook").

The requirement for membership was 2-way communication by wireless 40 or more years prior to 1947. At the time, the members were "spark" operators in 1907 or earlier when there was no licensing authority. The requirements have continued to this day—two-way communication by amateur, military CB, or commercial means 40 or more years ago.

Since 1947 and today, to be a full member you must have an amateur license at the time of application. Associate membership is available to anyone not having an amateur license currently, but qualifies otherwise. The initiation fee upon joining is a one-time \$10, within the USA, and \$20 international, and yearly dues are \$16 plus an additional \$5 to have a print copy of the Spark-Gap Times mailed. The Spark-Gap Times is available on our web site, ootc.us.


OOTC is an international organization and has issued over 4600 memberships, each is assigned a dedicated membership number in our records. We publish a journal "Spark-Gap Times" 4 times yearly carrying information on OOTC activities, historical information and data, and information on the lives and activities of OOTC members.

When you join you will have membership for life. Continued payment of dues is not mandatory but the member will not receive a print copy of the Spark-Gap Times and will not receive a ballot. However, "dues paid for life" is available for the following: Under age 75, \$250. 75-79, \$200, 80-84, \$150. and 90-94, \$50. 95 or over is FREE.

The OOTC is incorporated in the State of Rhode Island.

73 Pip WB4FDT, Executive Secretary

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	<b>W</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>1608 HIXSON PIKE, CHATTANOOGA, TENN. Zip No. 37405</b> <b>C. BERTRAM OSBORNE, "BERT" Member No. 169</b> <b>Old Old Timers Club</b>					
Radio _____ Date _____ At _____ GMT Freq. _____ UR AM, SSB, 2-Way, CW SIGS With an RST _____ /9 Power used _____					
For Old Old Timers information see classified advertising in current radio journals, or reverse side. Bi-monthly magazine Spark Gap Times available to non-members.					
<b>PSE. QSL. TNX.</b>					

In the December, 1965 SGT, Ken, W1PS suggested the above design for OOTC member QSL cards. Some wording has to be changed, but it looks like a good design that our members could use.