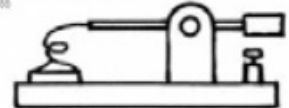


Spark-Gap Times



Published By
The Old Old Timers Club

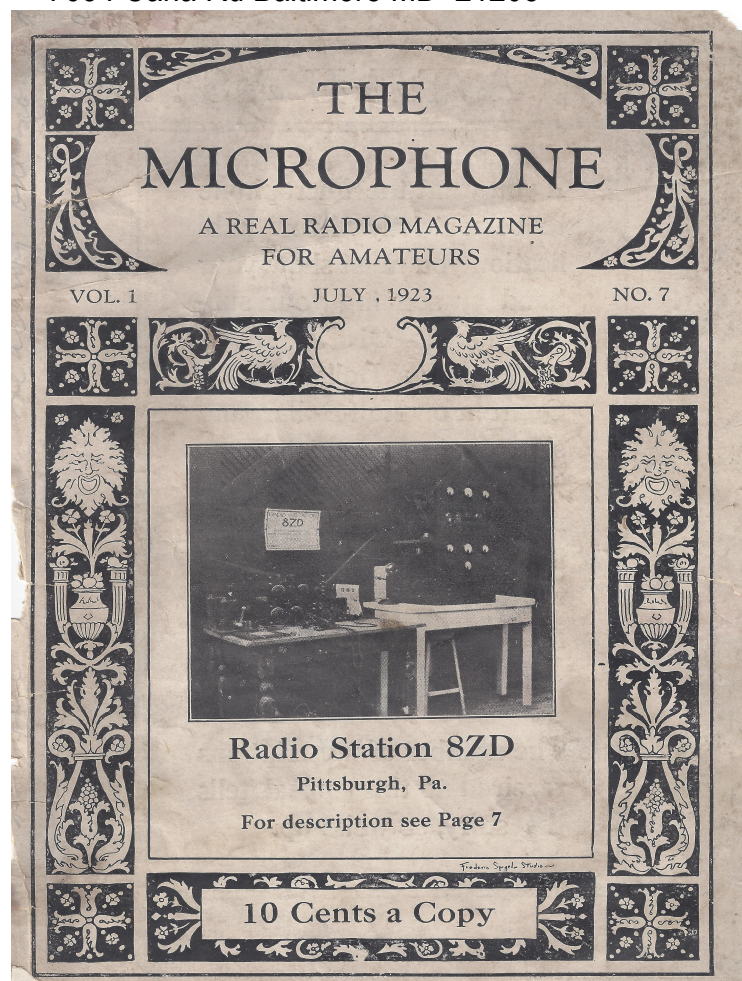


VOLUME 51 NUMBER 4, SPARK-GAP TIMES

OOTC Inc

Phil Sager, WB4FDT, Exec. Secretary and editor

7634 Carla Rd Baltimore MD 21208



VOLUME 52, NUMBER 4, SPARK-GAP TIMES
WINTER, 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 40th 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.

PRESIDENT

1947-1949 IRVING VERMILYA	* W1ZE
1950-1952 GEORGE STERLING	** W1AE
1953-1955 IRVING VERMILYA	* W1ZE
1956-1958 WATSON GREENE	W1CPI
1959-1963 EARL CLINE SR	*** W4PPZ
1964-1967 BERT OSBORNE	W4MF
1968-1969 RAYMOND F GUY	W4AZ
1970-1976 ANDREW SHAFER	W8TE
1977-1978 FRED ELSE	W6FB/KH6CZ
1979-1984 RAY MEYERS	W6M
1985-1986 LEWIS SIEK	K4NE
1987-1990 L. F. HEITHECKER	W5EJ
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1993 HARRY GARTSMAN	W6ATC
1994-2004 LELAND SMITH (SK-in-office)	W5KL 1
2004-2005 DUNCAN KREAMER	W1GAY
2006-NOWTROY WIDEMAN	W6HV

VICE PRESIDENT

1947-1952 ROLAND BOURNE	**** W1ANA
1953-1958 CHARLES ELLSWORTH	***** W1TU
1959-1961 LAWRENCE DUNN	W2CLA/W2LP
1962-1964 MERRILL BEAM	K2BX
1965-1967 PERLEY B DUNN	W6WPF
1968 FRED ELSE	W6FB/KH6CZ
1969 EDWARD RASER	W2ZI
Assistant BERT GAMBLE	W5ZC
1970-1971 WILLIAM GOULD III	K2NP
1972-1976 FRED ELSE	W6FB/KH6CZ
1977-1979 GEORGE ELDRED	W9SG
1980-1984 LEWIS SIEK	K4NE
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1987-1990 DUNCAN KREAMER	W1GAY
1991-2005 HARRISON MOORE	W2JQS
2006-2013 JOSEPH SCHROEDER	W9JUV

TREASURER

1947-1952 HUBERT INGALLS	W1NQ
1953-1958 EARL CLINE SR	*** W4PPZ
1959-1964 EARL WILLIAMS	W2EG
1965-1966 EUNICE THOMPSON	W1MPP
1967-1968 T. FRANK SMITH	W5VA
1969 BERT GAMBLE	W5ZC
1970-1976 RAY MEYERS	W6MLZ
Assistant LEE MANN	K6KP
1977-1978 RAY MEYERS	W6MLZ
1979-1986 A. J. GIRONDA	W2JE
1987-1991 BERT AYERS	W6CL
1992-1993 WESLEY RANGLES	W4COW

TREASURER(continued)

1993-2008 LEE KNIRKO	W9MOL
2008-NOW JOSEPH WEHNER	W8KNO

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1947-1953 HUBERT INGALLS(founder)	W1NQ
1954-1956 FRED MULLER (SK-in-office)	W4ZL
1956-1957 EARL CLINE SR	*** W4PPZ
1958 RICHARD KLEINBERGER	W2AEC
1959-1964 EARL WILLIAMS	W2EG
1965-1967 EUNICE THOMPSON	***** W1MPP
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
1994-2007 MILBERT WELLS	W5JNK
2008 WILLIAM CARTER	W6AJ
2009-May/2013 MILBERT WELLS	W5JNK
May/2013- PHILLIP "Pip" SAGER	WB4FDT

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Dist 2: Vacant

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Dist 5: Charles Stanton W5LBU #3409
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Dist 6: Vacant

Dist 7 Frank Piskur, K7FP #3628
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Dist 8 Joseph Wehner, W8KNO, #4030
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Dist 9: Vacant

Dist 10: Douglas Tabor N7UA #4449
1861 Raven Av, Unit 13, Estes Park, CO 80517 dtabor@wright.co

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Southern California! I am writing this during the ARRL 160 meter CW contest and the band is really hopping! For those that think CW is not popular, you should take a look at the various CW only contest events. Also, look at the mixed mode contests. There are many such activities that are run every year including state and regional QSO parties and group sponsored sprints. To find out what is happening, just Google "amateur radio contests?" and you'll see many calendars of the upcoming events.

I hope you enjoyed the last Spark Gap Times as much as I did. Our Executive Secretary, Pip. WB4FDT, did an outstanding job. He has been getting the website and databases updated and looking good. Take a look at the revised website (<http://www.ootc.us/>) and check out the section "List of OOTC Members by last Name". This is an especially useful section to look up members.

There has been a decline in members renewals for sustaining the SGT and other office necessities. If you haven't renewed or are able to help with a donation please send to OOTC. The scholarship program has been suspended indefinitely. Please consider a donation! That's about it from here for this year. I hope you all have wonderful 2015!
Troy, W6HV

QSL CARDS—AGAIN By WB4FDT

In our April, 2014 SGT, there was an article about Donald Hoffman, 8ADU, the man who gets the credit as the originator of the QSL Card. Briefly, Hoffman wrote a letter, printed in the August, 1919 issue of QST, suggesting a basic form for postcards that we know call QSL cards.

I have discovered that Hoffman wrote a second letter to QST, which was published in the February, 1925 issue. I quote the letter below:

"Editor, QST:

Having started this accursed fad of DX wall paper, permit me to make a couple additional suggestions in connection therewith:

- (1) That when having DX cards printed, also add at the bottom in very small type your "occupation". The bugs are much interested in each other's occupations.

For example, if one ham is a lawyer and he receives a card from another fan and reads that he is a lawyer, more friendships will spring up thru the air because the

6 hams will frequently find they have something more in common than radio alone.

An American machinist might be tickled to death to get a card from an English or Australian machinist for then he might want to write and ask how certain things were done overseas.

It certainly would put individuality and kick into this DX card fad.

- 2) I have received a number of cards lately from listeners who have no official call as yet. I would like to suggest that BCL's and other listeners print the name of their city in colored type on their cards as that gives an indication of the location of the listener at a glance when visitors come in to see your array of DX wall paper."

D. A Hoffman, 8UX

"THE MICROPHONE"--


A REAL RADIO MAGAZINE FOR AMATEURS

Last year SGT had several articles about the history of Amateur Radio in Virginia. Much of the material was taken from "the Virginia Section Newsletter", sometimes called "The Virginia Ham", which was published on and off between 1932-1984 era. Now an earlier publication has been found.

At a local hamfest, I came across a copy of "The Microphone"--A Real Radio Magazine For Amateurs", Volume 1, No 7, July, 1923! This 18-page professional publication, which includes advertising, is printed in Richmond, Va and apparently edited by 3BQX, Charles Campbell. Although the cover shows station 8ZD in Pittsburgh, PA, nearly all the information concerns the Richmond, Virginia area. The main story concerns the 1923 banquet of the Richmond Virginia Tri-County Radio Club at the Hotel Richmond, the predecessor of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. Another story concerns Richmond hams participating in the first Third Division Convention at the old Emerson Hotel in Baltimore.

Has anyone seen any further copies of this publication? If so, please let your Secretary know! A find like this makes one wonder how many other such early publications still exist, just waiting to be thrown out upon the decease of their owner!

**Were you licensed at least 25 yrs ago and licensed now? if so,
you should
consider joining
The Quarter
Century Wireless
Association.
QCWA INC.
www.qcwa.org
8400 NW 115TH
Avenue
OCALA, FL
34482-1098**



QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The year 2015 represents many 90th anniversaries in Amateur Radio. The most important was the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) on April 17, 1925. Delegates from 23 nations met at the Faculte des Sciences in Paris for the First International Amateur Congress. Hiram Percy Maxim, ARRL President, became its first member.

An incident best remembered at the meeting concerned ARRL representative K.B. Warner, who was so busy working on the drafting of the IARU Constitution, and drafting reports of various sub-committees, that he missed three meals in a row! A delegation of Belgium and French amateurs presented K.B with an immense ham sandwich, some three feet long and weighing all of ten pounds, all dolled up in the ribbons of Belgium, France and the United States. The sandwich was eventually taken to a small french cafe, where it was shared by many members of the Congress. The Americans commented that they washed the sandwich down with good beer, which, due to prohibition, was illegal in the United States! The sandwich is pictured in the June 1925 issue of QST on Page 12.

Perhaps as equally important to the average ham is the beginning of the Rag Chewers Club (RCC) in 1925. To become a RCC member, you had to “chew the rag” with a member of the club for a least a solid half hour. For many of us new hams, the RCC certificate was the first “wallpaper” we earned and put on our wall!

Dxing foreign countries, which took off with the first US to Europe QSO only a year earlier, became increasingly popular. In 1925 it became apparent that the 20-meter band was capable of round the world contacts during daylight hours. Many 1925 issues report longer and longer distance QSO's, until the June issue, where it was reported that on May 3, England and Australia stations worked for the first time for a 10,300 mile record.

In 1925 both the Army and Navy sought cooperative programs with radio amateurs. The Army and ARRL promoted a formal program with the Army Signal Corps for amateurs to provide communications with various reserve units. The Navy sent ARRL Traffic Manager Fred Schnell, also a Lieutenant in the Navy reserves, for a 6-month cruise aboard the USS Seattle. Schnell was to experiment with various short wave transmitters and receivers. The Navy at that time had virtually no experience with short wave frequencies aboard a ship.

Amateurs were to listen for Schnell's transmissions, using the call sign “NRRL”. During his trip Schnell worked several hundred amateurs, and his short wave equipment easily outperformed standard navy equipment under actual service conditions. Schnell received a letter of appreciation from Admiral Coontz, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, saying “upon completion of the cruise six months later, the successful application of these (short wave) frequencies for the fleet long distances work had been thoroughly tested and proved”.

Lastly, from a technical standpoint, more and different kinds of tubes began to show in this period. WD11, WD12, UV-199, UV-200, UV-201A to name but a few, made huge differences in amateur building.

1925 was quite a year!!

THOMAS APPLEBY, W3AX (1886-1971) OOTC #228
(reprinted from the April, 1965 SGT)

“Tom” Appleby, W3AX, was one of the true earliest experimenters of wireless. In 1899 he assembled the first wireless station in Philadelphia when he put up two stations a short distance apart, one for the transmitter, employing a spark-gap in the grounded aerial circuit shunted by the secondary of a Rummkorff one-half inch spark coil with a telegraph key and battery in the primary coil circuit.

The other station was for receiving only, and consisted of a grounded aerial with a marconi type silver-nickel filings coherer in series, and a telegraph relay and battery in shunt with the coherer in order to operate a bell-type tapper to shake up the filings in the coherer when a signal was received. His first call letters were “HN”.

By 1908 he had a full fledged amateur station using a one and one half inch spark coil for transmitting, an aerial about 75 feet long radiating a wave of 360 meters as listed in the First Annual Official Wireless Blue Book of the Wireless Association of America, May, 1909, using an electrolytic detector and headphones for reception.

In 1909 he went to sea as a commercial wireless operator for the United Wireless Telegraph company and later was assigned to their shore station “AX” in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1911 he returned to Philadelphia and worked at the Philadelphia School of Wireless Telegraphy, call letter “PW”. In 1912 he was employed by the Marconi Company to manage and operate the John Wanamaker-Marconi 5 KW synchronous rotary spark station “WHE” and working with a corresponding station “WHI” in New York City where David Sarnoff was manager and operator.

During WWI he entered the Navy as a Lieut J.G. He was ordered to the Office of the Director of Naval Communications in Washington, DC, where he wrote “Wartime Radio Instructions for Merchant Vessels” which was distributed to all US and allied ships and shore radio stations and stood practically uncorrected throughout the war. He later organized and directed the installation and operation of the first 33 Naval Shore Radio Direction Finding Stations on the Atlantic Coast.

After the war, he became a patent attorney and served numerous radio manufacturers and inventors, and later became a consulting radio engineer, representing broadcast

stations before the FCC. He was recalled to active duty during WWII and retired in 1947 with a rank of Commander. In 1960 returned to amateur radio with the call of W3AX, living in Washington DC. In 1967 Appleby published "Mahlon Loomis, Birth of Wireless" a 167-page book, since reprinted several times. Appleby was one of the earliest members of the OOTC and QCWA.

85 YEARS AGO IN QST

The following letter is from January 1930 QST, Page 54:

Newark, NJ

Editor, QST:

I have been getting QST from the newsstands since June 1921 and think it is about time I became a member, so if there is any more room in your League, please make me a member.

I started in 1908 to try to copy code with a coherer and relay which never worked and finished with a silicon detector, and electrolytic detector, loose coupler and Brandes 'phones. Also had a 1-inch spark coil with the vibrator screwed down in order to get that "skeeter" note, a snyc spark gap and a 6-volt 60 amp hour battery that I carried two miles to be charged.

The spark coil was purchased from a fellow by the name of Chambers in Philadelphia who was making a lot of noise in the newspapers about copying "wireless" with dish-pan and bed-spring antennas.

I copied press from WCC at Cape Cod, nearly every night, and used to hear SC, PT, MAH, NAS, NAL, and numerous ships. I quite the game in 1912 when I came home one night to find my mother had called in the junk man and cleaned me out. My mother was not to blame as... I had upset a pan of wax on the stove (trying to coat some wire) and smoked everybody out of the house!

I wonder if there is anybody who remembers hearing my station in Frankford, Philadelphia twenty years ago? I used the home made call letter WBS.

I'm going to try and slip through for a license. They say "one once a man and twice a boy". I'm thirty-five years old this month, so I guess I'm starting back again.

William B. Schaum

(I have been unable to find if he was licensed)

HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER THE OLD FCC RULES???

The following questionnaire concerns old FCC rules from the 1960's-70's. Since older folks are supposed to remember older memories better than newer ones, you should all get 100% right on this quiz....

- 1) As part of Incentive Licensing, in 1968 the FCC changed the rules for amateurs to receive one by two letter callsigns, such as W4YE. What were the requirements to receive such a "two letter" call?
 - a) being licensed 25 years and have an Extra Class license
 - b) being licensed for 20 years
 - c) having an Extra Class license prior to Incentive Licensing going to effect

- 2) In 1976 the FCC again changed the rules for amateur eligibility to receive a one-by two letter callsign. What was the major **differences** from the 1968 rules?
 - a) being licensed 10 years and have an Extra Class license
 - b) Any Extra Class licensee could apply regardless of time licensed, and new Extra Class prefixes were added
 - c) Any Extra Class licensee could apply regardless of time licensed, and choose a callsign of their choice.

- 3) Until 1977, it was possible for a non-licensed person to get an Extra Class license without having taken a current FCC examination. This was due to an FCC rule that said:
 - a) A person who previously passed an Extra Class FCC exam, but failed to renew their license, beyond the grace period, could have their license renewed at any time.
 - b) anyone who previously passed an FCC Extra class examination prior to WWII (December 7, 1941) (Old Timers clause)
 - c) anyone who previously had an amateur license prior to WWI (April 6, 1917) (Old Timers clause)

- 4) WN4DRB passes his General Exam in 1966 at the FCC. Could he immediately take an Advanced license class exam?
 - a) Yes, he could immediately take the exam.
 - b) No, he had to wait one year to take the Advanced exam.
 - c) No, there was no Advanced class exam in 1966.

- 5) WN4DRB passes his General Exam in 1966 at the FCC. Could he immediately take the Extra Class examination.
 - a) Yes, he could immediately take the exam
 - b) No, he had to wait two years to take the Extra exam.
 - (c) No, there was no Extra Class exam in 1966

- 6) WB4DRB was licensed as a General Class in 1964 and in 1966 passes the Extra Class examination. What extra privileges did he get by being an Extra Class?
- a) the bottom 25 kHz of the 80 and 20 meter CW bands.
 - b) 3800-3850 kHz of the 75 meter phone band
 - c) no additional privileges other than bragging rights and a Extra Class Certificate from the FCC if requested.
- 7) In 1967 WB4DRB passes his 13 wpm General Class CW exam at the FCC. What kind of CW Exam was it?
- a) a 5-minute message answered with 10 multiple choice questions
 - b) a 5-minute message answered with 10 fill in the blank answers
 - c) a 5-minute message with 65 continuous characters (representing 1 minute) being copied perfectly.
- 8) In 1969 WN4DRB passes his Novice license. How long is his license good for?
- a) one year
 - b) 2 years
 - c) 5 years
- 9) In 1984 Ruth passes her Novice license and is given the call KA1QWV. How long is her license good for?
- a) 1 year
 - b) 5 years
 - c) 10 years renewable
- 10) In 1960 John passes his General class license. However, John never gets on the air. When his license comes up for renewal;
- a) John's license cannot be renewed since he has ignored FCC rules which require a certain number of operating hours.
 - b) John's license will be renewed since there are no FCC rules requiring operating hours
 - c) John's license will be renewed but he will have to pay a fine.

Answers: #1 A

2 B This is a tricky question but it asked for the differences from the rules. I realize there were three “tiers” where extra class amateurs licensed longer than others could get their licenses first. But this was only for a short period at the beginning.

3. C. the last ham to take advantage of this rule was in 1977. The FCC did away with this “old Timers” clause shortly thereafter.

4. C

5. B

6. C

7. C

8. C

9. C

10. C The FCC did away with that rule in the mid-1970's.

We will have another exam on Callsigns in our Spring issue

SILENT KEYS

Walter (Pete) Wessel, Life member #1211, W0CM, aged 101. First licensed in 1928 as 9EYE. Also licensed as W9JYW. Worked over 350 countries and was on the Honor Roll for many years. Pete joined OOTC in 1970 and was certainly one of our longest and oldest members. Pete and his XYL Marte, K0EPE, were a well-known amateur couple in Kansas.

Thomas Yaeger, life member #4296, KB0JZG, aged 97. WWII Army veteran. Former call KB0MTY, first 2-way radio experience in 1933.

William E. Snow, OOTC # 2151, aged 95, W6UUC. Ex-W9NOI, W7MGP. WWII radio intercept operator. Worked in aerospace electronics research and development. First operated on the air with homebrew equipment in 1938.

Joseph Anthony La Manna, life member #1660, aged 100, W6HPE, ex W2HPE. He was born to Italian immigrant parents in NY on May 4, 1914. He married his love Frances, in 1945, having two children, Linda and James. Joseph retired from the US Navy, serving during WWII. After his military career, he earned a BS in engineering from UCLA and worked as an aeronautical engineer for McDonald Douglas until he retired. He was active in HAM radio beginning in 1934 with the call letters W2HPE. Preceded in death by his wife and son, he is survived by his daughter Linda, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Flavius Jankauskas, OOTC #3983, aged 88, of Chalfont PA, K3JA, ex-W3JAK. Amateur Radio operation was his primary interest, communicating with countless people around the globe throughout his life. In 1940, at the young age of 16, he earned his license as W3JAK. More recently his call was changed to K3JA. In 1942, he also earned his Professional Commercial license, which enabled him to work at the Philadelphia radio stations WHAT and

WIBG for a brief period.

During the years 1942-43, in the midst of World War II, Flavius became a member of an organization called the Short Wave Amateur Monitors Club (SWAM). Their mission was to relay messages from many American POWs to their loved ones back home in the USA. Later on, his personal story was written about in a book titled "World War II Radio Heroes - Letters of Compassion" authored by Lisa Spahr.

In 1944, Flavius joined the Merchant Marines as a radio officer. He remained active with the Merchant Marines until 1982.

Ullrich Scholz, #4450, DM3FZN. First licensed in 1966 as DM2FZN, also held Y47ZN.

Lawrence N. D'Angelo, Life member #3624, AB6E, aged 97. First licensed in 1934 as W1KEJ. Also licensed as W6PSL.

MAIL RETURNED

SM7COS ERLAND BELRUP

NEW MEMBERS

Some sharp-eyed members noticed in our last issue that the new membership numbers were incorrect. The new members numbers were printed started with 36__ instead of 46___. Here are the correct numbers:

#4639 Lee Richey, WA3FIY
 4640 Peter Young, K3IN
 4641 Bob Schenck N200
 4642 Jeff Gross NY1P
 4643 David Murphy WA1HRJ
 4644 Charles Chapman W1WTG
 4645 Richard Wujciak K2RW
 4646 Barbara Lombardi, K1EIR
 4647 David Steinberg, WA0RKE
 4648 Dana Cobb, K1RQ
 4649 Phil Temples, K9HI
 4650 Robert Glorioso, W1IS
 4651 Robert Harris, N6YQ
 4652 John Tidball, WX40
 4653 Lee Hatfield, K2HAT (Honorary)

14

4654 Wesley "Wes Bunker, VE7EWE, AE6ZM. First licensed as VE7DLK in 1974.

4655 Michel Haggen, N0MH. First licensed in 1962 as WN0DGX. Also WB0EVY, W00Q.

4656 Howard Rhodes, Jr, KJ4TDG. first licensed in 1965 as WN2SOV. Also held WB2ZGA.

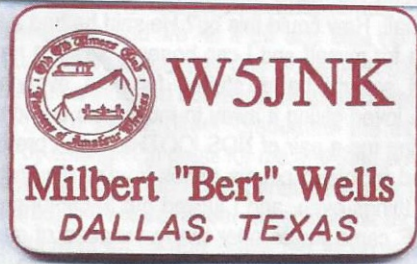
4657 J. Dalton McCrary W4WUQ. Built Heathkit CB radio in 1969. First licensed in 1971 as WN4WUQ.

4658 Cliff Cheng KI6CM

4659 Fred Findling, K5ET. First licensed in 1975 as WA1VSG. Other calls held WD4MRW, KC4ZN and WU3U.



SEW ON OR GLUE ON
PATCH AVAILABLE.
PUT ON JACKET,
OR CAP, ETC.
MINE HAS BEEN GLUED
ON MY CAP FOR YEARS.
BERT, W5JNK



The OOTC badge is \$5.00.
The OOTC pin is \$4.00
Pins are available for
40, 50, 60 and 70 years.
The 80th year is free.
Send check to OOTC C/O
secretary Phil Sager 7634
Carla, Baltimore MD 21208

OOTC #3536, Eddy Mehnert, N3NN writes:

Thanks for the SGT—and the reminder about dues. I just passed 60 years of hamming and its been a fine experience. I began in 1954 at age 12, KN2HKK in New Jersey. I got W3JZJ in 1956 when we moved to west Pennsylvania. I went to U. of Pittsburgh and for a while the Pitt club station was W3JZJ/3, I then joined the ARRL staff as /1, then as K1EUK (1963-4).

I felt I was in heaven, surrounded by so many hams “superstars” like Lew McCoy, W1ICP, Don Mix. W1DM, amed polar explorer, W1DX, W1VG and the wonderful Whites, Bo, W1CW and Ellen, W1YL, who became our best friends here in Florida 40 years later.

I spent 26 years in USAF, 1964-90, and got to operate from Senegal and Europe. Am now QRT, a disabled vet, not allowed to climb trees or towers. Have not yet found someone to help me. Thanks for all 73 Eddy N3NN

THE FCC RULES SAY.....
By John B. Johnston, W3BE

You may have to take action if you want to receive a paper authorization the next time that you renew, upgrade, relocate, or change your name

The FCC no longer issues a paper license document routinely mailed through the U.S. Postal Service. Our regulator deems the electronic version of your authorization stored in its Universal Licensing System as the official Commission document. The official status of the paper authorization is unknown. If you still want to also receive a paper authorization, however, you may have to take action.

You should access the [ULS](#), log into the **License Manager** home page and make certain that your print preference is shown as **"Yes - to Receive Paper Authorizations."** If not, change your print preference to that setting. Mine had to be changed from **No** to **YES**.

To log into the ULS License Manager home page, you will need your 10 digit FRN number (which can be found from a search of the ULS on your station call sign.) You will also need your personal password. If you do not know your password, click on the **Contact Tech Support link**, and then click the **Reset Password** button to follow the prompts for resetting the password.

There is a temporary link **Change your paper authorization preferences here** to found on a green bar across the top of the License Manager home page. The permanent link **Set Paper Authorization Preferences** can be found in the navigation bar on the left side of the License Manager home page.

Q. I have a question about operating with my wife. She is a Tech; I am an Extra. Can we operate on HF - say 40 meters - with me as control operator? Of course I would be present at all times, ect. How can she legally use her call sign is the question?

A. She would first have to upgrade so that the FCC [ULS](#) shows her station call sign as having been granted to an amateur station whose licensee is a General or Amateur Extra class operator.

Q. When she got her license I told her we would race to get a worked all states on a 40 meter WAS net. A guy got on said what you are doing is illegal, ect., ect. This was after I explained to net control that I was the control op and was and would be next to her at the mike, ect., ect. I don't see any difference between this and a unlicensed bystander calling CQ on Field Day and answering calls, ect., with a control op present, of course. In no way am saying she should operate alone.

A. Agree. It does seem logical that your WAS quest is comparable to Field Day. But there is the mystery. Field Day GOTA Rule 4.1.1.3, says: “*As per FCC rules, this station must have a valid control operator present if operating beyond the license privileges of the participant using the station.*” GOTA rule 4.1.1.2, moreover, says that a GOTA station may be *operated* by any person licensed since the previous Field Day, regardless of license class. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator. Field Day 2011 rule 4.1.1, moreover, says that a GOTA station may *operate* on any HF or VHF Field Day band. These Field Day Rules, however, do not cite any such FCC rule upon which it is claimed they are based. Nor does [Part 97](#) mention anyone being authorized to *operate* an amateur station, other than in the context of the control operator.

For more Q/A on this enigmatic development – which seems to undermine the VEs’ examination efforts - read BE Informed No.

5.2 Where’s The Rule?