Spark-Gap Times

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DIST. 0 VACANT - NEED VOLUNTEER

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ACTIVITIES - Mark Titterington W1EOF
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OOTC ON THE AIR MEETINGS

EUROPEAN CHAPTER #5 CALL IS DL0OTC
SSB 7:30 CE(S)T 3624 kHz, Tue, NCS DJ2XB, Guenter Pesch.
SSB 11:00 CE(S)T 7090 kHz, Tue, NCS DJ2XB, Guenter Pesch.
CW 17:30 UTC 3576,5 kHz, Tue, NCS DL1MEB, Karl Maerz.
CE(S)T = Central European (Summer) Time = UTC + 1(2).

Chapter #2 - CA - Tuesday, 1600 local 3918kHz. NCS W6HV, Troy Wideman.
Chapter #16 - AZ: Tuesday, 1600 local, 3913 kHz. NCS W7LGB, Lyle BROWN
CHAPTER 82 NET 7230 KHz THURSDAYS 1330 local NCS JOE W8KNO
CW OOTC GET-TO-GETHER 14047 kHz Fridays 1700 UTC, no NCS

SUPPLIES AVAILABLE –includes postage.

OOTC BADGE $10.00 - $11.00 - $11.00 - $12.00, picture pg 14, order pg 26.
OOTC 4"Dia. Jacket patch Round (Iron-on) $5.. (sew-on) $4..picture pg 14.
Free gold 1" stamps glue back, sheets of 63, send S.A.S.E.
Replacement pins 40year(no number), 50year, 60year, 70year, $3.50,
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Send U.S. Check, U.S. currency to: OOTC 3191 Darvany Dr.,
Dallas, TX 75220-1611 (credit cards not accepted)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It would seem that the economic and staffing woes are affecting everyone more and more these days. I was quite disturbed to hear from the Quarter Century Wireless Association of the drastic measures being taken due to funding and loss of personnel.

Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, QCWA President, stated, for example, "The digital Journal will be available on the QCWA "Members Only" web site. For all those who have provided QCWA with an e-mail address, you have all been sent a temporary password to sign into the 'Members Only' portion of the web site." (See QCWA Reflector Hotlist, message from Bob Roske, dated Nov 15, 2012

http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/qcwa

I've been a life member of that great organization for many years. One of the enjoyable activities for me has been QSO parties and I always enjoyed working old friends on CW in the parties such as Buddy, W4YE. Buddy's father, Leland Smith, W5KL, was president of OOTC from 1994 until becoming a silent key in 2004. Leland was the original holder of W4YE and I appreciate Buddy being able to get the call sign. I have logged a number of CW QSOs with Leland in the past so it's a treat to work Buddy (Leland Smith, Jr.) and hear "W4YE".

OOTC needs a volunteer to take over the Executive Secretary position. Bert, W5JNK, has filled that position for over 16 years. He is making lifestyle changes and needs to step down. Read "DOWNSIZING" on page 15. Please consider offering to take over the position. Interested volunteers can get the duties from OOTC Headquarters by writing to OOTC INC 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas, TX 75220-1611.

I have a vertical "Vizkey" made by Tom Desaulniers, K4VIZ. He wants to retire and asked me if I knew of any interested party that would be willing/capable of buying his company for a small sum and continue the legend? Pass the word around. Check out his website http://vizkey.com This could be an opportunity for a metal craftsman.

73, Troy, W6HV

NEW MEMBER WALTER "WALT" BILOUS #4616

Born June 9, 1956, Orange, NJ. Spouse Patricia KB3IGF. Son Jonathon is KB3MOF. **waltbilous@comcast.net**

NEW MEMBER RONALD R. RIDGWAY, W7PHX, #4617

Born June 15, 1942, Brookfield, MO. Spouse Judy 4 children, former KN0UJN. My first calls were KN0ETZ, K0ETZ and W1IBP.

I have been a ham radio operator over 55 years (originally licensed in 1956 as KN0ETZ). I am active on VHF, UHF and HF using fm and ssb voice, cw, and hf digital modes plus DSTAR. HF: Active from my home QTH plus mobile in my Ford F250 or my Hitchhiker 5th Wheel trailer while traveling or camping. Home QTH equipment: Icom 756ProIII, SB-200 amp and a G5RV dipole at 30 ft on one end and 10 ft on the other. HF Mobile Equipment: Yaesu FT-857D transceiver + ATAS mobile antenna. UHF/VHF mobile: Yaesu FT-8900R. Handheld: IC92AD dual band transceiver

Other interests:

Search and Rescue, photography, genealogy, astronomy, shooting.

Member of the Arizona Repeater Association (ARA) and ARRL

WELCOME W1BG
A NEW DIRECTOR FOR DISTRICT 1 – FOR THE MEMBERS LIVING IN CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, AND VERMONT.
Short Biography of Stephen R. Fish, W1BG, #4533.

I was born on December 23rd 1946, the son of Marion L. and Clifford E. Fish. I attended Greenwood Elementary School and Aldrich Junior High School. I moved on to Warwick Veterans Memorial High School where I took an interest in amateur radio and obtained a Novice license in 1961. After graduating from high school I moved on to the University of Rhode Island and received a Bachelor's degree in Biology and moved on to the graduate school and received a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry.

After receiving my doctorate I took a post-doctoral position at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and thereafter moved on to teaching/research positions. Unfortunately, I did not enjoy teaching and moved on to private industry, which after several years culminated in my forming Nesoft Corporation which I owned and operated for about 30 years. My parents became ill and I sold off the corporation's assets and retired to care for my parents. They died 21 days apart. My wife of 38 years has finally retired after enduring 40 years as a high school math teacher and is threatening to obtain a "ham" license of her own. Actually, I have encouraged her to do so for a great many years.

I have held Novice, General, Advanced licenses and currently hold an Extra Class License. I enjoy building kits as well as designing circuits; sometimes they work. I can be reached at (401) 280-1143 or (401) 529-0104.

w1bg@arrl.net

SUBMITTED BY BERJ N. ENSANIAN, KI3U, #4114

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY RADIO LIFE

My first focused awareness of radio, from around age three on, was at my mother's family's house in Germany, when in the evenings we would gather around a big, warmly-glowing 30's era wooden-cabinet table model, with a big backlit slide-rule dial, and listen to international shortwave broadcasts. The whole experience was "warm", and fascinating: it made me realize there was a big world out there, and the big slide-rule dial seemed to diagram it. Both my maternal and paternal uncles are the original inspirers who got me into radio as a child: I was absolutely fascinated to find out that they, that a single person, could build entire radio sets, and I wanted to learn how to do it myself. I began experimenting on my own with elementary electric circuits before age seven. I "tasted" batteries, and blew the house-fuses with awesome sparks. One Christmas Eve my uncle presented my brother and me with a beautiful electric-train set. The universal thrill of this present was further amplified for me because I could do electrical experiments with it. At age eight I had a turning-point experience: I saw a picture of a young boy operating a bread board crystal radio with a spider-web coil, connected to a long wire antenna, with signals drawn in to indicate they were coming in from across mountain ranges and oceans. An overlaid poetic text emphasized that the boy in the picture was a "Radioman"; clearly he wasn't just a child playing with just another toy. This picture absolutely electrified my imagination in some mysterious way the simple beauty of the set awakened me to the intrinsic art of radio objects, and its tremendous possibilities took a hold of me. Radio started to become an obsession for me; my experiments began to focus more on radio.

In early December of 1958, I was then ten years old, there came the moment of truth. My family had just moved to the west coast, and I was setting up my new bedroom. Suddenly I realized I had to make a major decision: radio or not. Should I get into radio seriously? If so, I'd have to pattern my room to accommodate it. This was a big decision: I was fully conscious that if I chose to get serious about radio it would become a major theme in my life to the end. I was deeply interested in a few other things, especially airplanes and rockets, astronomy and chemistry, but I sensed that radio, once I let it resonate with my soul, would never again leave me alone for a minute. I picked up a small cabinet-less All-American-Five AM radio I had watched my uncle repair several weeks earlier back east, which he had afterward given me. At that moment it was my only radio asset. I looked at its bare electronics. A moment passed, and then I thought: Ok let's get serious about this! I walked over to a small bare table and solemnly placed the radio on it, symbolically and actually creating an experimental radio workbench. An unbreakable circuit had been closed. Before the end of 1958 I realized the need for better organization of my paperwork, and I started my first formal experimental notebook; it covered all my big interests, and its earliest entry is an analysis of B-52 Bomber jet-engines, but it became dominated by radio-electronics. Its time-span concludes at the beginning of my first licensed days. It testifies that I was able to take down well better than a minute perfect copy at the Novice 5 wpm. It includes a strongly rendered drawing of a telegraph key. Among the circuit diagram

studies, the eleven-year-old aspiring radioman notes: "In an oscillator circuit condenser A is needed so grid B will not explode" From age ten on I went to my school library and checked out books on electricity and radio, and they greatly expanded my experimentation. My mother would buy me nice crystal radios for special gifts. I spent a great deal of time experimenting with cat's whisker radio circuits made from coins, razor blades, and safety-pins, trying to understand them, always being amazed by how well they worked without batteries. I discovered that I could even make my own headphone by carefully mounting a little electromagnet inside a shoe-polish can. I drifted off to sleep at nights listening to my crystal radios. For more conventional work I obtained many of my parts by scrounging trash cans behind radio-tv repair shops. Individual-owner real radio shops were unbelievable in those days: I could only drool at all the stuff in them I couldn't afford. I sometimes cut and burned my hands learning how to solder. I often saw my constructions burn up on first power-up, and I became familiar with the different smells of burning electronic components. At age eleven I was attempting construction of two-stage receivers, but their complexity was intimidating, and I hunted relentlessly for a 117N7 because it seemed to promise great results in simple 1-tube circuits; when eventually I obtained one, it lived up to its promise. As I got bolder I tried new and unfamiliar things, like transistors, saving hard to buy them, only to burn them out. I had no real appreciation of amateur radio, being only dimly aware of it, but my big goal became building a transmitter. The main motivation was the technical achievement of it, more so than the thought of what to transmit routinely. I was reading electronics magazines and searching for the simplest route to building a transmitter - I took it for granted that it would operate on the AM broadcast band as a "phono-oscillator", as such devices were called in those days. My first experiments in 1959 with transmitting caused some sort of static to issue from the family AM radio across the living room in accordance with my keying, and I thought I was on the right track, though I was still blissfully unaware of many basic principles. My excitement was infinite! My parents, genuinely impressed with my demonstration, praised me. I think that was the moment I became a radiotelegraph-man, first and foremost: I'd done it all on my own, caused a reproducible effect in a free radio receiver by my own hands. I would grow to build practical transmitters for telegraph and other modes, but the thrill of that first success and parental praise with wireless telegraphy remained unchallengeable. And I didn't even yet know the code! Also at this time, through the magazines, I was becoming aware of some of the big names in radio, like Tesla, DeForest, Armstrong, and Ross Hull, and these magazine articles ignited within me a special interest in the history of wireless and radio; I wondered how Marconi's first name was actually pronounced. And my father stunned me by buying me three kits: a computer, an oscilloscope, and a VTVM. The oscilloscope is still working! What in the world was "bias"? I kept coming across that word in my reading but I still didn't understand it. One day, in 1959 or early 1960, my parents took me along to a garden party at their friends' Howard and Jinx Snyder, in Seattle. Howard had been talking with my Dad and apparently he found out about my radio experiments. On his next visit to our house Howard suddenly said he had brought something for me. He produced a thick blue-cover book and gave it to

me, the 1949 26th edition Radio Amateur's Handbook! I had never seen anything like it! I was almost speechless thumbing through it wide-eyed and discovering wonder after wonder. On first sight of the pictures in it I resolved that I would not leave this Earth before owning a pair of 250THs. Receiving my first radio manual counts as one of the happiest moments of my childhood: I felt as if I had been given a royal estate. One of the first things I would study in it was "grid bias". Howard and Jinx also gave us all a demonstration of CB radio, and I began to get a feel for the possibilities of personal two-way radio contact. Armed with the handbook I was now really motivated to build an effective transmitter. Whenever I was absolutely desperate for cash for parts I put together crystal radio parts into a bag or shoebox along with assembly instructions, and "sold" these kits to my much more financially astute younger brother. As the earliest financier of my experimental career he was remarkably accommodating toward my proposals, especially so since he himself was experimenting with photography, and not at all with radio. Focused upon transmitter technical details, I still didn't appreciate the matter of licensing. On the school bus one day I told the boy sitting next to me that I was building a radio transmitter. He listened with peculiar interest, and invited me to come over to his house, so I did. Inside his house he took me toward a room, which originally must have been meant as a small bedroom. I walked across the threshold into that room and was never again the same: I was absolutely blown away by what I saw!

It was the first radio shack I'd ever seen - it belonged to my friend, his older brother, and their dad. Every wall had advanced radios lining it, some of them with military markings. Off to one side there was a workbench with a transmitter being built - I noticed and envied the advanced workmanship. The operating position had a map of the U.S. in front of it. There were telegraph keys and a D-104 mic. A beam antenna mast could be rotated by hand by reaching through a window. As I watched in awe my new friend fired up some radios and told me we were about to make a 6-meter contact. Bright red pilot lights warned us that high voltage was at work here. I was astounded to hear another fellow from somewhere out of the state coming through a speaker warmly inviting me to join the fraternity. My first radio conversation was to assure him I was definitely joining the fraternity! That's how I met my Elmer, Tom Parley / K7DCL. Before I went home that day he had explained a lot about amateur radio to me and we planned my getting my Novice license. We chose a crystal-controlled 6L6 oscillator-transmitter for me to build as my first rig. He would lend me an HRO for receiving. Over the next few weeks every morning and afternoon on the school bus, we sat in the back and practiced code with a little buzzer-set. Amazingly, none of the other kids on the bus gave us a hard time about our unusual way of utilizing the bus ride. Learning the code was a matter-of-fact thing for me. One evening I just decided this was it: it needed to be done and it would be done tonight. I locked myself up in my bedroom, and with a code table in front of me repeated the dits and dahs of the alphabet in my mind over and over. After about two and a half hours I knew I had it and went to bed. The next morning I awoke with the code a part of me I could never forget - it was only copying speed and a good fist to develop from then on. I had learned one of the most

useful of all languages and it was just a matter of polishing it. In August of that year, 1960, I passed my Novice in the most nerve-wracking test I ever took, given to me by an older lady amateur who greeted me as a kindly grandmother at her door and showed me her maximum legal-power station. But when it came time for the test she turned stone-cold all business and I instantly knew there would be absolutely no way I'd pass unless I passed absolutely. Years later I would experience a sort of replay of that scenario with my pilot's license check flight. I vividly recalled my Novice exam as I was trying to set up an emergency landing while being very effectively harassed by my older lady check pilot. That Novice exam must have really made a deep impression on me! For passing the test, Tom rewarded me with my second radio manual: a 1940 7th edition Radio Handbook! It was the combination of my two radio manuals together, two very different radio manuals, which began to impress upon me that unless I eventually mastered "impedance", I'd never understand radio beyond mere familiarity.

Waiting the six weeks for my ticket to arrive in the mail was agony, but I was busy getting my station ready. In the meantime Tom, who was primarily a VHF enthusiast, was introducing me to 2 meter AM operations, and also organizing a "Radio Patrol" in our Boy Scouts troop. When my ticket finally arrived in the mail in late September my homebrew station wasn't ready yet. Unable to stand it, I rushed over to Tom's QTH. He turned me loose on a Gonset green-eyed monster and I raised Fred / K7GIJ in Seattle. Fred completed my induction into the fraternity as KN7NKV! I was walking on clouds on the way back home! I was thrilled to have a call sign I liked, and which no one else on Earth possessed.

Finally getting on the air as a real radioman with my own homebrew rig out of my parent's garage in Bellevue, Washington, was a milestone of maturity for me at age twelve. Of my Novice-period contacts the most exciting one was the 3711 kilocycles CW with KN5GAW on March 13,1961, because it was a dramatic increase in range above the usual I was getting from my 6L6 and its crude antenna system. Like "K7GIJ", the call sign KN5GAW became permanently engraved upon my memory. Gradually I got hands-on experience with more sophisticated gear: learning the why and how of "dipping" the plate-current, and cutting back the RF-gain control were marks of sophistication. I was very aware that at least in one technical field I was way ahead of many kids my age - it was a lot of dedicated work to reach that stage. Learning how to work safely with high voltage presented its own peculiar generational contrast because many non-technical adults were scared to death of it. It was also so neat to be on a first-name basis with so many adults: other hams. Every visit to their ham shacks yielded new wonders and surprises, like my first encounter with a really powerful home brew station: Just what were those strangely purple- glowing tubes in the bottom of that rack? The Chief Op. very carefully introduced me to mercury-vapor rectifiers. It was like the high priest cautiously taking the new initiate to the holy fire. In school I discovered a few new friends, other radio amateurs my age. We boys measured our status against one another by how many 6L6s we owned. Those tubes were our bread and butter - we knew how to do something fantastic with them, something that even most adults couldn't do - we could make them transmit over long distances!

I still didn't know all that much about what I was doing. My initial idea of a station ground was to wrap the bare end of the ground wire around a 40-penny nail and poke the nail into the ground outside the garage door. And I was making contacts on 80 and 40 meters, even as much as a thousand miles! I was scared about the blue-glow atop my 6L6 every time I keyed down, but saw that I could tune by its glow and I figured I'd find out about it in detail sooner or later. Tom finally came over and suggested some improvements in my antenna and ground system. In the spring of 1961 I upgraded to Technician and dropped the "N" from my call; back in those days we had to draw complete circuit diagrams, totally correct ones, for our license exams. Not long afterwards my family moved back east, and I got a completely new call sign, K3QAO. I joined the Franklin Institute In Philadelphia as a student member and made many pilgrimages to that wonderland. The Univac with its thousands of glowing eyes and the Tesla Coil down there would directly influence my experimenting in years to come. For a while I shifted more to experimenting and learning circuits and less on-air operating – this pattern of alternating has remained with me. I noticed acutely that the best hams just a couple years older than I, were tremendously further along in home brewing than me, for the really motivated experimenter progress is dramatic. Around 1962 at a radio club meeting in southeastern Pennsylvania I witnessed a dramatic event during a rainy afternoon. Just as I walked into the club's operating room a tremendously bright blue flash exploded by the window behind the rigs, and the operator went flying backwards, although no storm had been forecast, a lightning bolt had directly hit the antenna and reached the operating table. Within seconds club members flew in worrying about the op. But he would have none of it, he was interested only in ascertaining the damage to the receiver and was already on it, taking it apart. That Hammarlund boat anchor was on the air again well before the next club meeting.

During high school in western New York with call sign WB2NRR, I was president of our ham club (K2LXH) for a while, and through our moderator, Mr. Schoonover K2AMI, I learned about his favorite mode, RTTY, which seemed a whole radio world of its own. RTTY was extremely fascinating, but my reaction to it at that stage was that it was something done mostly by older hams. Mr. Schoonover was generous as a source of parts and my home brewing thrived. I was starting to design better circuits and doing simple design calculations for my home brewing. A big success for me was a tube audio amplifier for an FM radio, and I made a point of informing my family that I had calculated, correctly as the demonstration showed, the amplifier's bias resistances. Bigger projects, like communications-grade superheterodyne receivers, were still difficult and not satisfactorily successful. But I was ok making good progress building AM transmitters with push-pull Class-B finals, and I received one of the most dramatic electric shocks of my life during the building of a double-TV-transformers 800-volt transmitter power supply I'd designed: it literally levitated me up across the room and against the wall to the ceiling! I learned, for all time, that big filter capacitors with their terminals left unconnected, could be charged up by atmospheric electricity from one day to the next. With my best friend, Al Granite, helping me, I made my first UHF experiments, with modified military surplus rigs, achieving distances of up to

200 feet or so. Like everyone else I had my period of operating a rock-dependable plain-vanilla WRL transmitter. In 1964 I passed my General class test at the old FCC office in Buffalo without any difficulty, having prepared well for both the code and the theory. Down there in those days they were still using an SX-28 for spectrum monitoring. Years later I would restore an old SX28A in major detail, but the physical art-deco-style beauty of that radio instrument has always been its biggest impact on me. Via our high school radio club I had the luck of meeting the Elmer who revolutionized my home brewing skills. Mr. Schoonover brought one of his friends to a meeting, Don Filer / K2ZII. Don brought with him to demonstrate a rig he had just completed: a portable transceiver complete with bells and whistles. The workmanship was breathtaking. The performance was superb. It was the most complex and tightly packed homebrew rig I had seen to date. I attached myself to him, got invited over to his shack, and saw how a master did radio design and development. He started with paper and pencil of course, but the big thing that opened my eyes was his experimental breadboard arrangement. "So that's the secret", I remember thinking. Don also taught me how to get anything conductive that happened to be handy, tuned up as an antenna if need called for it. In retrospect our high school radio club was a phenomenal learning ground with always something new and interesting. I'll never forget when Mr. Schoonover showed up with a brand new Drake 2B receiver - we boys were just amazed at all that performance coming out of that little box! Radio had a major influence on my choice of a major in college: physics. I arrived at St. Bonaventure University in the fall of 1965 and soon found myself taking a turn as the trustee for the club station (WA2DVW). We had inherited a fabulous ladder-line fed antenna installed years before by the Friar who had put it up. With our Viking Invader it was common for us to be told by the west coast hams that we were the strongest signal on the band, and we knew our antenna was the reason. We worked 15 meters a lot and I began to really like that band. Straight keys would always remain my favorites, but I started side-swiping a bug and discovered why a Lake Erie comes natural. While I was trustee our club specialized in setting up phone patches between students and their parents back home, good for everyone all the way around. It was also with the club station that I had the thrilling experience of being called for a quickie by a CW station from a certain very DX Communist country, at great risk to that operator in those days. In June of '68 I was invited by Sister Katerie/WA5TYC and Sister Mary/ WA5RQK to install an antenna for them at their nearby convent. I did, and Sister Katerie unexpectedly rewarded me with what would become my favorite amateur-band receiver: my Drake1A. AM was declining and SSB transceivers were becoming common. This affected our college club negatively, the SSB rigs were very expensive and the guys did not want to bring them to school with them. With CW being my primary love I was pretty much outside this transition, but I felt bad that the club's attendance was eroding. By the time I graduated in 1969 I myself was entering a period of low radio activity. In graduate school our physics department was loaded with hams, but not much operating was going on. Joel Ross / K2HXS presented me with a 4-1000 to build around, but instead I opted for a tiny CW rig I'd built years before and kept it on my desk along with a J38 for a contact now and then,

swearing to secrecy Joel and the \other hams concerning its interference with the department's telephone system. WA1SNP was my call at this time. Lafayette Radio Stores, among my favorites, were still in existence for happy visits. Around 1978 I finally got interested in SSB circuitry, mainly due to Joel who had built a sideband rig many years earlier. I decided to teach myself the subject by tearing out stages from an old sideband transmitter and rebuilding them, sometimes with modifications, and seeing what happened: it often blew up before I got familiar with linear power amplifier principles. Just about every time I went on the air with this arrangement it was different from the previous fire-up. Testing on 75 meters one day in the spring of 1979 I made contact with George / W1AE up in Maine. I had no idea I was in contact with someone special, other than that he was obviously an old timer, and I was always interested in contact with old timers. When I found out that George had first keyed sparks in 1908, I absolutely had to have his QSL card - it remains my most precious QSL. To this day making contact with old timers gives me the feeling of contact with the earlier days of wireless with its own special, exciting pioneering flavor.

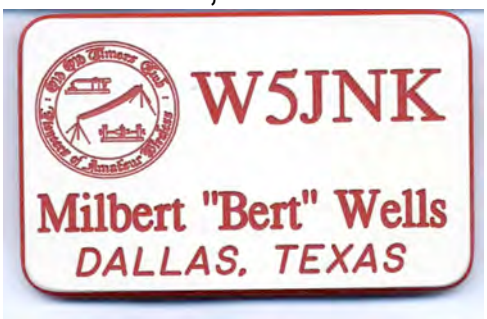
George seemed to like my interest in old timers and he invited me to eyeball with him sometime, and at any rate to join him further down the log - he would get up early in the mornings to chew the rag with his old buddies. These guys were fascinating to listen to! I felt extremely privileged to be the only kid in their "Barnyard" roundtables. From George I first learned about the existence of the Old Old Timer's Club. Considering applying for membership was still distant in the future for me. And it would be a little while yet before I discovered just who George Sterling was in things wireless. I was sad when I learned he was SK. May he rest in peace.

Back in the Bellevue period I had been given a Lear Avion and with it I had grown fond of the somewhat erie, unique sound of the longer waves. In late 1978 I became seriously interested in long waves, 1750 meters in particular, and I started on many interesting hours of experimentation, signing as "KXNKV" on 1750. 1750 was the first time, other than my original UHF experiments, that I got serious with QRP work. As the 70's ended I met my last (to this date) Elmer. I met Skeet (Romaine Watrous) W2WU on 75 meter phone and we hit it off and kept up a regular sked, and eventually began regular eyeball QSOs. Skeet was one of the most broadly experienced radiomen I ever met, and his adventures included operating airborne radiotelegraph.

In a sense, Skeet "graduated" me as a radioman, and his main method of doing it was by setting high goals for me and then pouring confidence into my abilities. For example, until I met him I had not experimented with transmitter power levels much above a couple hundred watts or so. Skeet remedied that by handing me a thousand dollars worth of brand new kilowatt tubes and telling me to go to work on one of his amplifiers, answering my hesitations with "Don't worry about it if you blow it up. It's not the end of the world." He knew I had great interest in upgrading, eventually to Extra Class, so he said I should schedule myself for both the Advanced and Extra tests at the same time, and while I was up there I might as well wrap up the commercial exams, including the Radar Endorsement.

OK, I said wondering if I could handle it all in one lump, but I got to work studying, and set for myself the goal of getting it all done by my birthday on the other side of the winter. And so in March of '82 I went up to the new FCC office in Buffalo, spent three days taking all the exams, and did as Skeet expected: perfect on my 20 wpm code test; and my lowest score on any of the written tests was a 91, a happy surprise for me, and also a surprise for Mrs. Battaglia from the FCC, but hardly raising a comment from Skeet. He did seem to like my new call though: KJ3U. Skeet was the perfect example of the magical inspirational effect an Elmer can have on you. May he rest in peace. I had been attracted to MARS since the late 70s and had been been making inquiries. But it was Skeet who brought me into Navy-Marine Corps MARS, and this was a great several years experience for me in the 1980s. I learned top notch traffic handling and emergency net procedures. Skeet(MARS call NNNOGKK) and his XYL Barb / WA2DJF /NNNOOUZ motivated me to build first-class RTTY equipment and I got hooked on that mode, while at the same time gaining tremendous respect for the hams who had developed the ST-6 and related equipments. As NNNOQAO I ran cw and ssb nets on medium waves and down, and I met lots of great and talented guys and gals in MARS. Outside MARS Skeet introduced me to Dick Yeomans / W2DMK who was a walking encyclopaedia of advanced electronic circuits - Dick greatly accelerated my technical learning. With Skeet's QTH almost 200 miles away, I was lucky to have Mike Matto / WA3GYL / NNNORLN nearby. Mike set me up with TTY iron and taught me how to make it work. In MARS I also earned speed key certificates, and my exposure to radio equipment, especially military, increased dramatically: I fell in love with the AN/GRR-5 receiver! At one point I had so many R-390A receivers and spare parts for them, that I was able to indulge in he luxury of learning this complicated receiver from inside its Collins VFO on out, assembling a complete receiver from just spare parts, starting with a bare sheet-metal front panel. But the best part of MARS was the team aspect of it: being a member of a patently American radio corps that had phenomenal talents and resources and could get the job done, regardless. It was through Skeet that I met Bill Meppen /NNNOPEC / WA2URP, "Useless Radio Parts", as he called himself. Every time I needed a hard to find part for a radio project, no matter how costly or rare, when Bill heard me talking about it, just a few days later the exact thing would arrive in the mail. How could this be? He said he had a few barns full of radio stuff. I made the trek to see for myself and I can honestly say I've never seen anything comparable! Bill literally had several barns stuffed full with everything imaginable from every period of radio. And he loved giving it away to those who would use it. "Here, this will light you up!" he'd say handing me a pair of NOS lOOTHs, those prettiest of little fire bottles. I restored and documented for him a couple radios he and his brother had built in the 20's and 30's, to try to make things even, and I lucked out in capturing on videotape the very first moment the 20's TRF came to life after many decades of sleep. Every serious experimenter should meet a guy like Bill! May he rest in peace. The 80's rolled on continuing to be an extraordinarily high radio activity period for me. I was experimenting with anything and everything, even discovering some of the secrets of operating shades-of-DeForest flame-detectors. I got a lot of experience with the Hallicrafters Hurricane and I'm **continued on page 16**

4" PATCH, SEE PAGE 3.
SEW ON OR GLUE ON
PATCH AVAILABLE.
PUT ON JACKET,
OR CAP, ETC.
MINE HAS BEEN GLUED
ON MY CAP FOR YEARS.
BERT, W5JNK



TO ORDER BADGE,
SEE PAGE 26

1ST PIN IS FREE WHEN JOIN.
TO REPLACE LOST PIN OR TO
UPGRADE PIN, SEE PAGE 3.
THE 80 YR PIN IS FREE. IF
ELIGIBLE, PLEASE ASK FOR
IT, SEND MSG TO ootc@ootc.us

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

Bert W5JNK is DOWNSIZING

I'm 92, and married to Nadine, W5ZUT, for 64 years. We are working to dispose of over 65 years of accumulated "stuff" so we can move to our daughter's home in Colorado where we hope to continue the hobby. Some of our excess ham gear has already been sold on EBay. OOTC needs someone to care enough to step up to the plate now to insure this wonderful organization continues for us Old Timers.

I am offering to detail the Executive Secretary work with a member. Today the secretary also edits and publishes the Spark-Gap Times. Please consider the need and if you are willing and ready for one or both jobs, send your overview to OOTC 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas, TX 75220-1611. (U.S.members only) The Executive Secretary position is approved by the OOTC board of Directors and they set the Executive Secretary fee. The Executive Secretary is the only paid OOTC position.

When Ted Heithecker died on Christmas day 1993, a replacement was not available and OOTC HQ was untended for almost 6 months. Ted had asked me but I did not feel I was qualified for the job. After all HQ equipment had been shipped to the OOTC President in California, no one took the job. I reconsidered and learned the job the hard way.

73, Bert, W5JNK, Executive Secretary OOTC Inc.

+ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13 +

still of the opinion that despite the rig's few flaws its transmitter portion produces the best SSB signal among commercial-made rigs. One high-point was when Skeet challenged me to beat his new code-copying computer. We set up the experiment with a crack radiotelegrapher on HF during especially bad summer static conditions: Every couple of minutes the other radioman would increase his sending speed by 5 wpm or so. Me against the computer, to see how fast perfect or near-perfect copy could go under the conditions. The machine was impressive, printing beautifully. But at around 32 or 33 wpm it began to falter and lose it, degenerating to printing garbage – the static crashes were too much for it. But I, having gotten a feel for the other guy's fist, held in for a while longer. I had beaten the computer! I think this impressed Skeet more than any other thing he ever saw me do. For Field Day in '83, Rev. Bob Williams /KA3JDD and I climbed a ridge in Pennsylvania, carrying with us 120 watts worth of gear, including a car battery; after rigging our antenna amid swarms of biting flies we had a blast working near and far from what we dubbed "Mt. Wireless" for the occasion. I had several short notes published, including restoration of glass-envelope power transmitting tubes, a method of chirpless break-in keying, and using primitive/cheap oscilloscopes in digital-circuit testing. In amateur radio politics I vigorously opposed easing of licensing standards, and I corresponded with some influential great hams like Vic Clark / W4KFC. May he rest in peace. I was among the first Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners, and by invitation from Mike Zias / NG20 of Jamestown Community College, I taught radio-electronics and math to aspiring hams at the college's Olean, NY branch. I elmered only a very few, but I concentrated on them, and tried to give them what I got from my Elmers: a good fist, and the know-how to always find a path, regardless of circumstances, toward creating radio contact. Of those I elmered, I was pleased to discover the most mathematically capable (Kirchhoff analysis) of them to be a high-school-educated housewife and mom from the country who was getting her entire family into ham radio all at once: Dottie Trask. She had no hesitation learning fabricating and restoring radio parts, and she earned her code-test-passed from me the old-fashioned way: a solid minute of perfect copy. When she got her call, KA3RAG, I said to myself: now there is a real "Radio Amateur Gal" ! For a while I experimented with amateur radio astronomy and used published NASA data to compare my results with theirs on Jupiter's radio storms. I built some serious Tesla coils and with them discovered many things that cry out for more investigation. With Joe Frounjian /KA30YJ I conducted in an unpopulated forest in Pennsylvania micro-power spark-telegraphy experiments for the purpose of obtaining estimates of spectrum-width and distance for use in all-out emergency signaling situations. I experimented with triangulation, indoor antennas and low power on the high-frequency bands. I began studying vidicons and experimenting with them. I hurt my back lifting a very heavy boat anchor - it was a low point in my radio life. With Stefan Karadian /N8BGD I co-founded the ARARAT net in 1980, which, primarily due to Steve, continues uninterrupted to this day, and has to its credit actual international emergency-relief communications (earthquake).

During the 80's I had one of my most interesting CW contacts. We were gunning along at a pretty good clip and the QSO got more into our personal details. He let on that he

was completely deaf. I asked how he was copying me, fully expecting him to say that his computer was having an easy time with my good fist. Nope! He had his fingertips on his receiver's speaker cone! My eternal interest in the old wireless art of fabricating electronic components from scratch with whatever tools and materials are available, led me to some measure of success with improvised vacuum tubes and solid-state amplifying devices: this is for me one of the most interesting and enduring aspects of wireless/radio and I constantly seek more information, and now and then I'm rewarded with something totally out of left field, like when old buddy Dennis Fedak N3ZCK finally revealed to me his technique for building an audion bottle from scratch with not much more than kitchen tools. Toward the end of the 1980s my radio activities dropped off sharply as I had to concentrate on business, landlording, consulting, and inventing. Happily the latter two afforded me opportunity to involve plenty of electronics experimentation, and from then on, and all during the 90's I worked with a great variety of: circuits from super-regenerative to digital, equipment, and sometimes cutting-edge technology components, from DC through microwave and beyond. I designed, built and test-flew a crash-survivable micro-controlled new type of general aviation aircraft instrument in partnership with a well-known aircraft manufacturer: this very complex project, although not radio, drew upon about 25% of my physics training, and 75% of my experimental radio training. It never would have gotten off the ground, much less succeeded, had not the experimental radioman been at the center of the action.

During most of the 90's my real operating was restricted to the occasional HF CW contact. In the early 90's I did take a little time to build a tiny UHF ATV rig and I transmitted video of my call sign and my smiling waving self across a couple of rooms just to gain some elementary experience with television transmission. From old timer Navy Radioman Joe Smertneck / W3KDK I learned some new tricks pertaining to antique radios, and I briefly ran a cottage industry manufacturing antique radio restoration parts, selling them by mail-order - for some of my products I developed my own secret-recipe varnishes. I also became interested in seeing what is possible with 2m FM simplex, and this interest continues today. Ludwell Sibley /KB2EVN caused re-publication of my earlier published transmitting-tube-restoration notes and included new material I had on restoration of antique-receiving tubes, in AWA OTB. In 1998 I wrote the history article "The Grandfather of Amateur Radio"; it was first archived by Gary Milton / GOCUQ at the G3XRT club, and published online, by Gary Hoffman / KBOH on his great Internet website:

This link no longer works/Editor>(http://www.cvil.wustl.edu/~gary/Ham/Miller_article.html) This article received a favorable review from RSGB old timer Pat Hawker / G3VA in his RadCom magazine column across the pond, and also, shortly after the article appeared online a few stateside hams popularized Grandfather in cyberspace, and recently Russ Kleinmann /WA5Y et al referenced it in their massive history of spark keys article in AWA Review, Vol. 14. I am grateful to all involved. My interest in radio history merges with the collecting of historical items, and years ago I managed to acquire a first edition of the Handbook which had been a personal copy of its author, Ed Handy / W1BDI. And Dave

Zimmerman / W3ZD gave me Paul Godley's personal copy of a 1930 Handbook. May Dave rest in peace. These days enjoy QRP CW and PSK-31 on HF fairly regularly, and I look for ways to improve the results when the rigs are powered independently of power mains. To me, as an experimenter, it is of the greatest value to have another radioman, no matter where in the world he happens to be, and no matter what he has available for equipment, who can get on in short order for a contact with me so I can test something - for several decades old buddy Ashley Lane, WA1ICN, has been such a radioman for me, and not infrequently, via his vast experience, he's introduced me to useful new stuff.

At this point I have nearly a half-century of radio experimentation accumulated. Being a radiotelegraph operator at heart continues to make it easy for me to land contacts with operators I have a lot in common with. Undoubtedly I've learned a lot, but the overarching feeling within me is a sensitivity to what I haven't experienced enough of, haven't learned, haven't discovered, haven't tried. You just don't know what you don't know: just a little while ago Chuck Dachis / WD5EOG set me straight on something about SX-28s, a model I've had enough experience with over the years to count significantly in the total of hot-solder splatters in my eyes. I'm still ever on the alert to re-experience long-delay echoes and other very strange things that come only rarely. I steadfastly hold the bold experimenter's attitude: Anything may be possible, so don't rule it out a-priori. I've learned tremendously valuable experimental techniques from a variety of exceptional people, not necessarily radio experimenters, for example from my buddy Eric Cheetham, who builds his own power laser tubes. Generally, whenever I needed it, I have had truly outstanding attention and support from old-line American companies like Simpson (260!), Drake, HP and Tektronix. My logs and archive reveal that over the years I've been fortunate to connect, if only briefly, with some exceptional experimenters and engineers/designers, like Varoujan "Pops" Karentz / W1YLB of SSB-transceiver-design fame. Ken Comell / W2IMB of medfer and lowfer fame, and one of the Terzians of the Sarkes-Terzian solid-state devices company. Some of the finest soldering workmanship I've ever seen was in rigs built by my Dad's lifelong buddy, Professor Al Gennaro / K3CY, a chemist. It was by trying to emulate Dr. Gennaro's solder joints that I learned that when it really matters, when it really has to be the best obtainable, then only a serious application of chemistry and metallurgy principles, plus the execution of each and every solder joint of the instrument as an individually prepared welding event, will cause the approach of the ideal of perfection. I have built so many radios and instruments over the years that are scattered here and there, that sometimes I bump into a long-forgotten one and I'm teleported back to the times and emotions attending its birth. The spirit of radio is the great bridge-builder, between people and things of nature, without limit across the universe. I always perceive radio that way. One of my most precious radio highlights illustrates this perfectly. In the mid90's I needed a break from work and I decided to refresh myself by taking time out to build the most beautiful radio I could conceive. To get some geometry ideas I researched pictures of the breath-takingly beautiful breadboards from the 20's and 30's, and decided on a 3-stage regenerative T.R.F. breadboard receiver complete with a horn speaker, to be built from a combination of actual vintage parts and period-true fabricated parts down to the battery box. When it was completed it was so

beautiful I could not believe that I had built it: I understood perfectly that the spirit of radio, the spirit that includes all the great wireless pioneers and their inspirers, and my own inspirers, had entered my being during its creation. A year or so later a group of men and women visited my laboratory. I began to notice that one of the women had detached herself from the group and was completely transfixed by something on my desk – she could not take her eyes away from it. I walked over to see what was holding her so intensely. She cried out: What is this?!! It was the beautiful one. I then lit its lamps and played it for her. Out of the homemade horn came the Victrola-like sounds she had only ever experienced in period movies. As I watched her childlike amazement she made me recall my own enthrallment upon hearing my first wireless telegraph transmissions in the radio across my parent's living room in 1959. Bridges!

Everywhere I look in science and technology and in particular radio, across all its history, I see old mysteries, and examples of techniques and approaches I haven't explored, or haven't executed as superbly, and I continue to find out things I didn't know which amaze me. As an experimental radioman I'm propelled with the thought that it's all only going to keep on getting better.

By the summer of 1949, when the family traveled to the North Shore of Massachusetts, to stay at White Horse Beach for a month, I took a 40 Meter station with me. It's hard to believe my parents let me take all that stuff in our 1941 Chevy station wagon. I set up in a bedroom on the second floor of the cottage we had rented. For receiving, I had to use a Command Set (ARC-5 version).. It was sensitive enough, but not very selective. All in all the compact station worked fine. I remember copying code sent by press stations for practice.

Back at home, one of the local hams, Vito, W2OGH offered me an HQ129x communications receiver that he had reconditioned, and I purchased it for $85 which I had earned by mowing lawns. This modern, post war unit was superior to other old communication receivers I had been using, and it provided coverage of the 10 Meter band. (At that time, 10 Meters was the lowest band on which a Class B licensee could use radiotelephone.) I installed a 100 kc frequency standard to comply with FCC requirements. I incorporated surplus audio filters and, for CW break-in, a signal blanker.

When I sought my amateur license, my intent was to operate 'phone mode, not code. Code proficiency, receiving and sending 13 WPM was a license requirement when I was tested. My first ham radio contacts were on CW because I had no way to operate 10 Meter phone. I developed an appreciation for CW operation, so I am thankful that I had to wait to get on 'phone. Some time in 1949, I acquired a surplus SCR 522, transmitter unit, converted to 10 Meter 'phone. Then Vito made a light weight, 2 element Yagi antenna, and we installed the array on a pole outside the window of my third story shack. All I had to do was reach out the window to rotate the antenna. I was finally on 'phone. I enjoyed talking with George, W2QLZ and the others (all WW II veterans) who conversed nightly on ground wave. These are the hams I had listened in on with my one tube receiver in 1946. One night they reported that my transmission was punctuated by audible "gong". A spring in the push to talk switch of

the surplus carbon microphone I was using was the culprit. They thought it was hilarious. When the band opened, it was thrilling to hear stations in far away locations and to work some of them.

By 1949, television set ownership was widespread. A huge apartment complex was constructed in the open field, north of the house, where we had had the Victory Garden a few years before. I could see the new buildings from the window of my shack. One night an apartment resident, who had been motivated to find out where W2WLY lived, called our home. My father took the call. The caller complained that my voice was coming in over TV and the picture was obliterated. It was a case of TVI (television interference). The second harmonic of 28 megacycles landed smack in Channel 2. To keep the peace, I was obliged to stay off 10 Meter 'phone until 11 PM at night—a widespread TVI reaction in those days. (Amateur knowledge of installing transmitter shielding and TV set traps was beginning to be disseminated and practiced.)

At the close of 1949, other life priorities (college, military, graduate school) than ham radio became dominant. Ham radio was not in my mind during the months I was away from home. In 1952 the family moved to upstate New York. When I was home, there, I was able to acquire my Advanced Class license, my 25 words per minute Code Proficiency endorsement and most importantly, complete the assembly of my station. There wasn't much time to relax and to operate. The family moved back in Rye in 1954, and I left for active army duty. When stationed on Okinawa I got the amateur call, KR6RH, but I never got the equipment to get on the air. After military service I lived at home and set up my station in 1956. I operated some CW during the 11 months I was there.

I moved to California to attend graduate school in 1957. I acquired a 2 Meter Gonset Communicator and 5 element beam, but never did much operating with it. I brought the Command Set components with me. When I landed in California, and began to fill my spare time with hikes, backpacks and other outdoor outings, I had no motivation to get on the air except to renew my license. (At that time we had to log at least six CW operating hours to renew.) A project to build a converter for the ARC–5 receiver was never finished. After graduate school any time I had outside of work was taken up by outings.

In spite of operating inactivity, retention of my license was important, so I made sure I renewed on time. In addition, each time I moved to another place, I had to modify the license to show a new address, so I held the calls; K6OGW, W7GBD, W0ONV, W7KKG, and finally W6TCY (in 1976).

After I had been living in Crestline, CA for 27 years, in 1994, Jim, KD6IBO, a search and rescue colleague, encouraged me to get back on the air. I did, and I found that much had changed. What happened next is the subject of a future memoir.

You are invited to contribute your story that surely would be of interest to the OOTC members. Send to Editor Spark-Gap Times, 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas TX 75220-1611. Or by email to ootc@ootc.us

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 ELSER	W6FB/KH6CZ
1979-1984	RAY MEYERS	W6MLZ
1985-1986	LEWIS SIEK	K4NE
1987-1990	L. F. HEITHECKER	W5EJ
1991-1992	DUNCAN KREAMER(SK)	W1GAY
1993	HARRY GARTSMAN	W6ATC
1994-2004	LELAND SMITH (SK-in-office)	W5KL
2004-2005	DUNCAN KREAMER	W1GAY
2006-***NOW***	TROY 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 ELSER	W6FB/KH6CZ
1969	EDWARD RASER	W2ZI
Assistant	BERT GAMBLE	W5ZC
1970-1971	WILLIAM GOULD III	K2NP
1972-1976	FRED ELSER	W6FB/KH6CZ
1977-1979	GEORGE ELDRED	W9SG
1980-1984	LEWIS SIEK	K4NE
1985-1986	HOBART JOHNSON	W3AC
1987-1990	DUNCAN KREAMER	W1GAY
1991-2005	HARRISON MOORE	W2JQS
2006-***NOW***	JOSEPH SCHROEDER	W9JUV

TREASURER

1947-1852	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 RANDLES	W4COW

TREASURER(continued)

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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 RANDLES	W4COW
1991-1993	TED HEITHECKER (SK-in-office)	W5EJ
1994-2007	MILBERT WELLS	W5JNK
2008	WILLIAM CARTER	W6AJ
2009-***NOW***	MILBERT WELLS	W5JNK

***W1ZE** Operator at old "CC", the Marconi station at South Wellfleet, Cape Cod, MA.

**** W1AE** FCC Commissioner during his term as OOTC President.

***** W4PPZ** Originator of OOTC newsletter Blabbermouth, later renamed Spark-Gap Times.

***** W1ANA** designed OOTC certificate still used today. He was top executive at Maxim Silencer Co. and close associate of Hiram Percy Maxim, the founder of ARRL.

****** W1TU** One of the three wireless operators who handled all the traffic on the Titanic sinking while he was with the Canadian Marconi Company in Newfoundland. Also received a Presidential commendation for the handling of radio traffic on the NC-4 transatlantic flight. He sponsored Marconi's daughter as the Old Old Timers Club first honorary member.

******* W1MPP** The first woman broadcaster in the United States, and no doubt the world.

#0026 K2AE Henry Broughton made radio contact across the stage, assistant to Nikola Tesla, the Chicago Worlds Fair, 1893.

This report compiled from the best records found, If better Info is known, advise editor ootc@ootc.us

- 19 - REPORTED SILENT KEYS - 19 -

REPORT A OOTC MEMBER "SILENT KEY" TO OOTC 3191 DARVANY DR. DALLAS, TX 75220-1611 or ootc@ootc.us
CALLS LISTED HERE MAY HAVE BEEN REISSUED.

NAME	MBR#	CALL	SK DATE	BIRTH	1ST WIRELESS	SK FROM
WILLIAM RICHARDS	4132	K4JWR	Date missing	June 14, 1934	WN3GTU-1956	September QST 2012
JOHN F. DUKE	4322	N5DRV	Date missing	Aug. 14, 1923	MII-1942 W5ZKT-1952	Nov.2012 QST
JOHN S. MATTHEWS	3497	W4OWJ	10/01/2012	Aug. 25, 1916	W3DPA-1933	Pete Rimmel Pres. QCWA CH69
PHILIP C. BURNHAM	3417	W3GNG	Date missing	July 17, 1914	W3GNG-1936	Nov. 2012 QST
DAVID R. BURROWS	4203	W9JWT	Date missing	Feb. 24, 1948	WN9CSR-1962	Nov.2012 QST
DUBY D. TODD	2189	K4DWW	10/25/2012	July 22, 1934	Military-1954 KN4DWW	Son Bobby Todd
FERDINAND BERTEL	2712	DJ3BE	4/9/2006	April 22,1917	Military-1940 DJ3BE-1969	DL3QY #2598
DAN GRABEL	3070	N2FLR	Date missing	March 13, 1921	Military-1943 N2FLR-1982	Dec. 2012 QST
WALDO T. BOYD	3787	K6DZY	Date missing	Feb. 4, 1918	W0YGL-1930	Dec.2012 QST
FRED A. LINN	1729	W9NZF	Date missing	Aug. 31,1915	W9NZF-1933	Dec. 2012 QST
MILTON (MILT) S. TAFFET	2925	W2ERJ	5/13/2012	Feb. 9, 1916	W2ERJ-1932	SON, BOB TAFFET, N2EVM
HUBERT DREWS	2958	DL7DH	9/16/2012	Dec. 6, 1926	Military-1944 DL7DH-1958	Gunter-DJ2XB
ROBERT L. ZONER	4126	W1IBS	Date missing	September 29,1935	KN7VON-1962	Nov. 2012 QST
GEORGE H. MC BRIDE	3526	W4DGJ	Date missing	February 15, 1918	W4DGJ-1934	Nov. 2012 QST
PETER J. HARDIMAN	3184	N7DUC	11/2/2009	Dec. 17, 1924	Military 1942 W4UVA-1947	QCWA JRNL
ARTHUR HERZOG	2596	DK8ZZ	4/12/2010	Jan. 10, 1917	Military-1932 DL3GC-1948	DL3QY #2598
JOSEPH E. SHEINMAN	4141	W2BHK	Date missing	May 11 1940	W3AZE-1955	Dec. 2012 QST
GRANT PATTON	1930	W5GPJ	Date missing	May 19, 1915	W5GPJ-1932	Dec. 2012 QST
GORDON W. HARRIS	3888	W7UIZ	Date missing	September 2, 1928	W6UIZ-1941	Dec. 2012 QST

+ 4 + NEW MEMBERS + 4 +

NEW MEMBER	CALL	#	REFERRAL
WALTER BILOUS	K3DQB	4616	W3AXC #4309-Pg5
NORMAN S SILSBY JR	WA4BRL	4618	SECRETARY-Pg23
Pg5-RONALD R RIDGWAY	W7PHX	4617	Secretary
Pg23-HUBERT J TOPLIFF	W1LIM	4619	Secretary

Dear OOTC Scholarship Donors,

Thank you for your generosity in funding the OOTC scholarship. I was selected as this year's scholarship recipient, and the scholarship will be very helpful for me as I go into my freshman year at MIT, where I plan to study Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and continue my Ham Radio Hobby. Thanks Again,

—Erin King/AK4SG

2056 Osprey Cove Dr.
Columbus, GA 31904

Ye olde copyboy

NEW MEMBER NORMAN STEVENS SILSBY, WA4BRL, #4618

Born July 7, 1954, Newport News, VA. Spouse Faye. WB4YPD, 2 children. First 2-way communication via Knight-Kit C-100 Walkie-Talkies received Christmas 1964. My father and I put them together over the next couple days and I was on the air before the new year. I discovered amateur radio looking through the Allied Catalogs coming in the mail. The R-100A/T150A twins became this fifth grader's idea of what a ham radio station was.

And, yes, I own that pair of rigs today ! **wa4brl@gmail.com**

NEW MEMBER HUBERT J. TOPLIFF, W1LIM, #4619

Born August 10, 1920, Willimantic CT. Spouse Kay, 3 children. Other calls W4HNH 1941-46, J2AAR 1946-48. W1LIM 1948 to present. Army Air Force 1941-47

BIRTHDAYS NEXT PAGES, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL.

Notice: Report member SKs to ootc@ootc.us or 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas, TX 75220-1611. Members that we have lost contact with or have requested "unlisted" are not shown. Members that have died since list created have been removed, leaving an empty slot.

1/1 LISTING PA0JAL	1/2 LOTT W6VIB	1/4 LITTLEWOOD K4HF	1/6 FINN K0HLA
1/1 STEIN KC6T	1/2 WARD K1DW	1/4 KOONCE W3GOU	1/6 CRAWFORD WB3KDB
1/1 BUTROVICH III W5UWB	1/2 SNIDER K0BGL	1/4 NUTT JR W6PN	1/6 RANDALL W1ZE
1/1 HOWARD JR K4RKN	1/3 SVEC JR WA4BKW	1/5 HOLLOWAY K4EQ	1/6 SUNDERMAN JR K4XTC
1/1 KOT W6CJO	1/3 RAUSCH WA0VKC	1/5 NIPPER W4AGN	1/6 ZANONI AH6WA
1/1 GIURGUI YO6EX	1/4 BIRD WS7R	1/6 SANDERSON KD0YZ	1/7 THOMPSON W5RFM

1/7 HAMLET JR W4ZW
1/8 WILLIS W6LPJ
1/8 GÖSCHLBERGER OE2JG
1/8 BLAIR AC4YP
1/8 STANTON W5LBU
1/8 FRANKE DL2AYJ
1/9 HOWELL W4SOD
1/9 CHILDS K6IPM
1/9 INVERGO N4MUJ
1/10 SIFF W4BUE
1/10 AARON WA2IEI
1/11 BELL W6AQ
1/11 MC CORMACK K1PLX
1/11 ERWIN W5PUT
1/11 LEACH III K4OMZ
1/11 MILLER K3ARN
1/11 COHEN N6PK
1/12 EVELAND W6QM
1/12 TOZIER JR W1GAX
1/12 O LEARY K0YCN
1/13 SCHROEDER W9JUV
1/13 MC KEE JR W3RFQ
1/13 BERRY JR K8UGL
1/13 LEVENSON W2FKN
1/14 GRANDISON K6WS
1/15 SEVER W8IM
1/15 POLITI W1NU
1/16 CHANCE W3UC
1/17 LEAKE W4BCI
1/17 GOLDBERG KD2IN
1/17 HISSERICH AF0F
1/17 MILLER VE7KC
1/18 AITON W6HAG
1/18 WORTMAN W6KTP
1/18 PILAFIAN W4SQG
1/18 TUCKER N6TK
1/18 ERWAY K2TAE
1/18 WHEELER W9QR
1/18 YEAGER KB0MTY
1/18 NIELSEN K2GRO
1/19 WELLS W5ZUT
1/21 BOTELHO W3NNA
1/21 LAMBERT W8IXD
1/21 RUSSELL N2HY
1/22 LUCCHI W6NVN
1/22 SIZEMORE SR W6ADO
1/22 IVERSON K0EWU
1/22 DOBKINS W5LCM
1/23 MARSHALL JR W1FJI
1/23 YOUNG K4KJP
1/23 SMITH W6RZA
1/23 RICHARDSON K6MHE
1/23 ROUMAN W8OWN
1/24 POUNDERS W5NJS
1/24 WALDSCHMIDT W9WA
1/25 SALEM W8VLD
1/25 NARATIL W3BNR
1/26 DOERRIE K5IS
1/26 WALKER K5CFW
1/27 HOLLOWAY W9VBJ
1/27 GARRETT NU2P
1/27 BLAKE N4DB
1/27 LEWIS W7IWE
1/27 HESS K9MDK
1/27 SHARP JR W8WWG
1/27 MALLON WA4GCH
1/28 FRANK W1SOV
1/28 RHODES K5OQ
1/28 WENZEL W2GF
1/28 RING JR N1EA
1/29 WONSON AE4AU
1/30 RYAN W7KEZ
1/30 COLEMAN K6VW
1/31 HOUGH W6HZM
1/31 WILSON K6LRN
1/31 FRASIER K2ANJ
1/31 GLAZE K4SUS
2/1 DOLESE W5KEB
2/1 FLANAGAN W2KRM
2/2 GARTSMAN W6ATC
2/2 HERZER DL7DO
2/2 MORGAN W4VAB
2/3 STEPHENS W4AET
2/3 MOORE W5DXP
2/3 STOWE W4HOZ

2/4 HARTLEY K4WSB
2/4 DIRIC K5CSK
2/5 BARNETT SR W5UJA
2/5 GUIMONT JR WB6LLO
2/6 LIVINGSTONE N6FIS
2/6 BENNETT III KF4UTH
2/6 SCHWEIZER JR W2CF
2/6 NEELY W5NFN
2/7 SIMPSON WA4SLF
2/7 SOIFER W2RS
2/7 BRANDENBURG W0QNI
2/7 GUDAS N7TP
2/7 BARGELLINI WA3KNN
2/7 WILKERSON WD6FDD
2/7 GAGNON N6MA
2/8 HILL W5HX
2/8 NOTT K5YNR
2/9 HELD K6QS
2/10 YELLEN W2EDA
2/10 WILLIAMS JR W4TY
2/11 SAGER KA1BAB
2/11 KEPNER W6SQQ
2/12 GARLAND K5WSX
2/12 BURKHEAD K4TC
2/13 WEBER K5IU
2/13 CARTER W6AJ
2/14 STRAIN W9MIU
2/14 GRANTHAM W6BCN
2/14 BIGELOW JR W3AAA
2/15 MC GAVRAN JR W5PNY
2/15 SKLOOT K1NY
2/15 BRATZ WA5JUM
2/16 SWAFFORD W4HU
2/16 PHILLIPS W7KG
2/16 LOVAASEN K0MFB
2/16 COLBORNE N1GC
2/16 FISH KX1W
2/17 MANLEY KH6B
2/17 ROULLARD K6GTP
2/17 JACQUINOT K2DL
2/18 THOMPSON W7JT
2/19 BENDER W3SYY
2/19 HOLLADAY K4VMO
2/19 LAW WB4NLU
2/19 LEVANDOWSKI WB2LQF
2/20 ALBISTON W1RCA
2/20 WONSON AC4KA
2/20 MC CULLEY K0RJS
2/20 RAVENS JR K1QLG
2/20 HUFF W6JL
2/20 DEVILLON K4ZRP
2/20 SMITH AK4RS
2/21 TEUFEL K7VHV
2/22 RECK DM2AXO
2/22 SHEPARD KK5KW
2/22 COONEY K1TU
2/22 EVANS KC2ICX
2/22 WOLFSON DJ0QN
2/23 BOUDREAU W5FKX
2/23 SOCHOR N9SW
2/23 TAYLOR KS5A
2/24 HOLTJE W2TQS
2/25 HEINRICH DL1BT
2/26 SANTOSKI K9UTQ
2/27 RAYMOND W0GQN
2/27 KIDDER W1DOK
2/27 RUSCHMEYER W0JKY
2/27 MC PHERON K8IJD
2/28 JOHNS WB0LBL
2/29 CLABO K9ASL
3/1 WEHNER W8KNO
3/1 SMITH K3SIS
3/1 MILLER W0IKT
3/1 SOZANSKI WA1HHK
3/2 PHELPS KF6RXB
3/2 SIEGEL W2ST
3/2 HACK JR NM1K
3/3 MC CONNELL W6DPD
3/3 NOLAN G3KWK
3/3 CALLAHAN WA2NZA
3/4 CHAPMAN W8HKR
3/4 HOUGH W7GK
3/4 DOE JR W1GQU
3/4 CAMPBELL K4IJA
3/5 WOODS W7TW
3/5 WHITTEN K0PFX
3/5 TIMBLIN K7HF
3/6 WILLIAMS N5RUZ
3/6 GIBSON W3DJ
3/7 CLARK W3ZMN
3/7 STROUT SR W2YC
3/7 BARROLL W7OP
3/7 ARNHOLT K9RXK
3/7 HOLLABAUGH W6TMU
3/8 WEAVER W0PTU
3/8 GOLDWASSER W4RD
3/8 JONES NM4R
3/9 TRUSSELL W7BQ
3/9 COVINGTON W4CC
3/9 ROSS K5VR
3/10 PHELPS W8TP
3/10 GOODWIN JR K5RG

3/10 RICHARDSON N8CE
3/11 KAMPS DL9YP
3/11 PERKINS WA7SNY
3/12 DIAMANTONI W8ERN
3/12 HENDERSON W5UZV
3/12 ROBINSON K1QAR
3/13 PHELPS W6LLP

3/15 EDWARDS W6MCV
3/15 HICKAM JR N3RSD
3/15 BRAY W1GRS
3/16 BROOKS II W4UMC
3/16 WILHELM W7UKK
3/17 DASO K4ZA
3/17 JOHNSTON K0FNR
3/17 HEARN K4PMT
3/18 RUSSELL K8RSU
3/18 WHIPPLE AA4CV
3/18 LEMBCKE DL1ZC
3/18 BUCHANAN W1TXU
3/18 PACE N7DD
3/19 KIRBY N3AAZ
3/20 GRÄTZER HB9JAI
3/20 ANDERSON JR KU6Y
3/20 GROB JR NN8R
3/20 NEWSOME W0HXL
3/20 SHORB W3FSA
3/21 AKINS AB4HR
3/21 HOPKINS K1GIR
3/21 ENSANIAN KI3U
3/21 HOESTENBACH W5EGS
3/21 BRATTON K5RA
3/22 SOKOL W9JXN
3/22 PFEIFFER DJ9AL
3/23 CARNETT N5PEN
3/23 DEAS JR K6VLH
3/23 STEINBERG K9IKZ

3/23 MC NULTY K0EFV
3/23 MEYER N5JM
3/23 DUNKELBERGER W6MKA
3/24 TREMBLY W5VWZ
3/24 PINGREE W1ZD
3/25 BAILEY W7SDE
3/25 PAGELS K9AAL
3/25 DEELEY K4WWL
3/26 ROTH N0LAG
3/26 TOLLER N4US
3/26 RISING K6THQ
3/26 REINHART K9PLM
3/26 PARTRIDGE K2QBZ
3/27 LANEY III K4BAI
3/27 JONES VK3BG
3/28 BENNOEHR DL1NP
3/28 OSTBY K7ZW
3/28 DOTY JR W7ACD
3/28 WEISS NH7Y
3/28 HEILMAN SR WJ3W
3/29 OAKLEY W7AB
3/31 SHOTTS W6MEB
3/31 EPSTEIN K8IA
3/31 MOYNAHAN K3EE
3/31 SCHWENGER DJ3WE
3/31 SWINNEY W8CNJ
4/1 ISSLER DL3SA
4/1 ROBINSON KC4PZO
4/1 HARLEM W1EBI
4/2 CHRISTMANN DF7IL
4/2 DOUGLAS K4YSF
4/2 NEAL N5AF
4/2 SHERIDAN W3LES
4/3 MC COY AA0SH
4/4 SIELKE W2AGN
4/5 SCHENKL OE9SLH
4/5 BUDD W5BEN

4/6 CONNER JR AB5LF
4/6 CUTCHIN JR W3ETT
4/7 PROPST K4PTU
4/8 HOSHIKO W9CJW
4/8 GOLDEN K6LM
4/8 HOFFMAN W8MHH
4/9 MÜLLER DL3QY
4/9 MAAS KT5X
4/9 MORTON W1NDH
4/9 MINICHIELLO W1BC
4/9 ELMORE N5OP
4/11 ONNIGIAN W6QEU
4/11 MINKE III N6JM
4/11 MASLIN N3EA
4/11 HOLADA K9GLJ
4/11 BECKER K9MM
4/11 SHELTON K5OK
4/12 SPENCER K7MD
4/12 DUNHAM W1LCA
4/12 BEYT W5ZR
4/12 DEVRIES W7UG
4/12 STINGER W8GFA
4/12 RANCOURT K1ANX
4/13 EVERETT W1ALE
4/14 BEACH W2LN
4/14 GIESE DL2RVD
4/14 MENEFEE AA7QJ
4/14 PETERS K6HDE
4/14 GABRIELSON W7QEK
4/15 WOMACK W6GG
4/15 DANNALS W2HD
4/15 MARSTALL K7SM
4/15 HOTCHKISS W7CNL
4/15 JANATA DL7LX
4/16 MICHEL W9OP
4/17 KORNACKI W1UBM
4/17 HYMAN W1IZQ

4/17 KAPLAN W1AEL
4/18 VALENTINE G0NQZ
4/18 SPAULDING W7JON
4/18 HARVEY AA3QR
4/19 PÖSTGES DL6VL
4/19 SOULE W7MAL
4/20 YUTER W2NBT
4/20 BRUNKE (no call)
4/20 BRANDON K5JYD
4/20 WATSON W1NV
4/21 BARBER W1PRT
4/21 ACKERMAN W3GYK
4/22 RINALDI W1CNY
4/22 SUMNER K1ZZ
4/23 LEMANEK W8OWL
4/23 ANDERSEN W7DD
4/24 HORENSTEIN K2PH
4/25 SMITH JR W4YE
4/25 BUUS W2OD
4/25 WAGGONER W0WLL
4/25 PETERSON N7BXX
4/25 MANN W1KX
4/26 SMITH W1BML
4/27 TABOR KB7QG
4/27 MERRILL W1QMK
4/28 PENNEYS N9GG
4/28 HAYES VE3JX
4/29 REMINGTON W9MYZ
4/29 COTE KD8BD
4/29 CHECK W8GC
4/29 CAMPBELL W5QNF
4/29 SAGER WB4FDT
4/29 EURE KS4RT
4/30 SCHINNERER AB6TB
4/30 KINDT W9EFL

4/30 WILSON K0JW

NOTICE

Mailing of Spark-Gap Times to members not supporting OOTC with dues is discontinued after 3 months (Does not apply to LIFE DUES members). Delivery of Spark-Gap Times can continue via e-mail PDF attachment. It is hoped that ALL members that have a computer with e-mail will request Spark-Gap Times by E-MAIL PDF attachment by sending a request to ootc@ootc.us

This is needed to get printing and mailing costs under control.

OOTC BADGE 1/16" X 2" X 3"

(see sample on page 14

White background and either BLACK or RED logo and lettering. Beveled edge gives either a black or red border. Send this order blank or a copy of it with check, money order, or U. S. currency to: OOTC INC.
3191 Darvany Dr.
Dallas, TX 75220-1611

PUT MY MEMBER NUMBER UNDER THE CALL LETTERS. YES_____NO_____
(IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE, THE MEMBER NUMBER WILL BE OMITTED)

CHOOSE RED OR BLACK LETTERING
(If you do not choose, black lettering will be ordered)

WHITE WITH BLACK LETTERING_____

WHITE WITH RED LETTERING_____

BADGE WITH LOCKING SAFETY PIN BACK ($10.00)_____
(The pin sent may be either safety pin back or clutch pin back)

BADGE WITH PLASTIC POCKET CLIP ($11.00)_____

BADGE WITH MAGNETIC BARS ($11.00)_____
(NO HOLES IN SHIRT OR BLOUSE)

BADGE WITH BOLO CLIP AND TIE ($12.00)_____
CHOOSE TIE COLOR
BLACK_____RED_____BLUE_____BROWN_____
(If you do not choose, black tie will be ordered)

_____
PRINT YOUR CALL LETTERS

_____
PRINT HOW YOU WANT YOUR NAME TO APPEAR

_____
PRINT WHAT YOU WANT HERE, CITY & STATE, OR ?
(If you want nothing here, say "nothing here")

OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, MAIL TO OOTC INC.
3191 Darvany Dr., Dallas TX, 75220-1611.

PH 214-628-0223 Cell 469-877-5089 Email ootc@ootc.us WebSite ootc.us

(PLEASE PRINT ALL ITEMS CLEARLY)

Name_____

Present call_____ **Address**_____

_____

PHONE_____ **E-mail**_____

1st 2-way HAM wireless(Year)_____ **Nickname/Handle**_____

My first amateur call was_____ **Other calls**_____

_____

If not HAM, first 2-way wireless Commercial Radio ( ) Military Radio ( )

CB ( ) Year_____ **Describe it**_____

_____

Date of Birth_____**Birthplace**_____

New domestic member $26. ($10 Initiation + $16 1 year sustaining fee).
New International member $28. ($10 initiation + $18 1 year sustaining fee.)
LIFETIME $10 initiation plus: Under age 75 $250., 75 to 79 $200., 80 to 84 $150., 85 to 89 $100., 90 to 94 $50., 95 or over FREE, just send your application.

To renew, send *$16. U.S.* or *$18. international* to
OOTC INC. 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas TX 75220-1611.

Mailing of Spark-Gap Times to members not supporting OOTC with dues is discontinued after 3 months. (Does not apply to LIFE DUES members). Delivery of Spark-Gap Times can continue via e-mail PDF attachment. It is hoped that members that have computer with e-mail will request Spark-Gap Times by E-MAIL PDF attachment by sending a request to ootc@ootc.us or to OOTC 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas, TX 75220. This is needed in order to save printing and mailing costs. INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS NOTE: Please remit American Express money order or check drawn on a U.S. Bank if a branch of a U. S. bank accessible, or U.S. currency. NO foreign bank checks.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT. You are eligible If you had two-way wireless communication 40 (or more) years ago (eligible on January 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. If you get ham license later, send HQ your call.

OOTC wishes to have extended information about each member, activities and background. The 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 the OOTC archives. We would appreciate a photograph, B&W or color. Send a biography and/or any story suitable for publication in Spark-Gap Times on separate sheet(s) of paper. Unless you advise otherwise, filing this application gives us permission to publish your membership in Spark-Gap Times.

First name of spouse_____CALL?_____ # children___

Military Branch_____service from_____

to_____, Rank_____I heard about OOTC from_____

I am sponsored by _____ or Secretary will sponsor.

Your Signature_____