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WELCOMING THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE OF SPARK-GAP TIMES

NAME	CALL	#	SPONSORED OR ELMERED BY
MIKE ZANONI	NG7A	4395	SECRETARY
HOWARD WORLEY	W3HVW	4396	SECRETARY
JERRY HENNE	N2JNK	4397	DUNCAN KREAMER, W1GAY, #1782
FLOYD BUNCH	W6BTP	4398	SECRETARY
REX KING	W0CKK	4399	SECRETARY
ROBERT MOUNT	K9LXT	4400	SECRETARY
BOB SAUNDERS	WA2JUG	4401	SECRETARY
KENNETH HOLDEN	AA6YT	4402	SECRETARY
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JOE URBAN	WB1BUC	4404	DUNCAN KREAMER, W1GAY, #1782
"SPARKS" OSS	AA0PP	4405	SECRETARY
MARK TITTERINGTON	W1EOF	4406	SECRETARY
DAVE O'FARRELL	WB0IXV	4407	SECRETARY
NED CONKLIN	KH7JJ	4408	MORT BARDFIELD, W1UQ, #3027
DICK NENDICK	W7QWD	4409	SECRETARY
BILL ENGS	W6TCY	4410	TROY WIDEMAN, W6HV, #2852
BRAD PIOVESON	W9FX	4411	MORT BARDFIELD, W1UQ, #3027
KENT MANDRELL	W9NX	4412	SECRETARY

Were you licensed at least 25 years ago and licensed now? Then you should belong to the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Write

**QCWA**  
**PO BOX 3247**  
**FRAMINGHAM MA 01705**



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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Spark Gap Times is the official publication of  
 The Old Old Timers Club Inc, 3191 Darvany Dr.  
 Dallas TX 75220-1611

THE NOMINATION PERIOD FOR ODD DISTRICT DIRECTORS TO SERVE 2007  
& 2008 IS NOW OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS

- 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT). Incumbent Morton Bardfield, W1UQ.
- 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA). Incumbent Paul Gerbracht, W3QPP.
- 5 (AR, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX). Incumbent Charles Stanton, W5LBU.
- 7 (AK, AZ, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY). Incumbent Frank Piskur, K7FP.
- 9 (IL, IN, WI). Incumbent Joe Schroeder, W9JUV.

**NOMINATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS MUST BE FOR MEMBERS LIVING IN A  
STATE OF THE DISTRICT WHERE YOU LIVE AND BE WILLING TO SERVE.**

**MAIL TO: SECRETARY OOTC 3191 DARVANY DR. DALLAS TX 75220-1611**

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**OOTC ON THE AIR MEETINGS**

**EUROPEAN CHAPTER: CALL DL00TC**

SSB 7:30 CE(S)T 3624 kHz, Tue, NCS DJ5ND, Willi Kreibohm  
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)

**U.S.A.**

Chapter 2 (CA) Tuesday, 1600 local 3917kHz NCS W6HV, Troy Wideman  
AZ CH: Tuesday, 1600 local 3913 kHz NCS W7LGB, Lyell Brown  
N.East: Thursday, 1330 local 7230 kHz NCS K2VNM, Robert Kerns CH82 E. TN &  
SW. VA: Sun, 9:00PM E. 145.110mHz down shift.

OOTC National Calling Frequency : Friday, 1700 UTC on 14050 kHz.  
Meet other members here.

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**SUPPLIES AVAILABLE – Price includes postage.**

OOTC BADGE - \$7 - \$9 or \$9.50 (see inside back page)  
OOTC 4" Round Iron-on Jacket patch - \$5.00  
126 OOTC Blue on gold 1" Dia. Logo stamps, \$1.00  
OOTC 3" Round sticker - \$1.00  
Replacement lapel Pins 40, 50, 60, 70, \$3.50.  
80 yr pin free courtesy Duncan Kreamer, W1GAY.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After assuming the office of OOTC President, my first reaction was that I had obviously taken on a task that I knew absolutely nothing about. Thank goodness for Bert, W5JNK, the OOTC Executive Secretary, and Lee, W9MOL, the OOTC Treasurer! They have been leading me every step of the way.

One of the first duties presented was the forwarding of a scholarship fund check to be awarded to some deserving young "HAM". That spurred me to find out what the scholarship was about and how it was awarded.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. (FAR) acts as manager for the scholarships. FAR's purpose is to help the Amateur Radio community by providing for education, and technical and advisory guidance. One method used is to award scholarships. The FAR Scholarship Committee manages the award process and it is responsible for the administration of some fifty-four Amateur Radio-related scholarships provided by individuals and Amateur Radio clubs from across the nation. FAR states that "This is the largest such program related to Amateur Radio in the country."

Scholarship applications are available to all licensed Amateur Radio operators worldwide proposed by a member of a sponsoring organization, such as OOTC. The amounts available vary from \$500 to \$2,500.

OOTC has been making scholarships available for several years based upon the availability of income earned on member donations invested in a money market and CD fund. The amount has been \$600 annually. We are now considering the feasibility of increasing this to \$1000 in view of rising interest rates.

The importance of contributions to our Scholarship Fund by individual members is significant. Since July 2004 until the end of January 2006 there have been twenty-two individuals contributing to the OOTC Scholarship fund. Our hats are off to them and we would like to publicly thank them for their support.

K3MRT	Joseph Valasek	W5DKK	John Hunt
K4JWR	William Richards	W5FO	Lynn Schriener
M0CCE	Robert Barden	W5JIZ	Luther Pully
N5DRV	John Duke	W6CJO	James Kot
N6ZJZ	Robert Schreiber	W6IZJ	Edward Phillips
W0IKT	John Miller	W6UUC	William Snow
W2CIX	William Laird	W6VIF	Wendell Chapman
W2MJP	Jerome Mulberg	W7ER	Clifford Bruce
W3ABC	Hugh Turnbull	W7NSN	Francis Horn
W3QPP	Paul Gerbracht	W7UNE	William Burnette
W5AE	Jerry Stover	W9QR	Larry Wheeler

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please let Bert, W5JNK know. When the scholarships are awarded by FAR the winner's name will be announced.

**SPARK-GAP TIMES BY E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL-MAIL**

If you can help save OOTC publishing and mailing cost, consider receiving the Spark-Gap Times by e-mail attachment. The Post Office has increased the cost of one-ounce mail two cents. The PDF format version of Spark-Gap Times has color, pictures look better and it can be stored or printed as you wish. This issue is about 324 kilobytes in PDF. The "smallest" file size conversion creates Adobe PDF documents best suited for on-screen display, e-mail, and the Internet. The document can be opened with Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Reader version 5.0 or later. (reader is free from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)).

**SAVE**

A few members are taking advantage of "family" dues rate. For two or more members in same household the yearly rate is \$15. One Spark-Gap Times sent.

**SPARK-GAP TIMES TORN UP WHEN RECEIVED?**

If you are unhappy with the condition of your copy of Spark-Gap Times when received from the Post Office, receive it in an envelope. Domestic regular dues or Life Dues members, if you want this special handling send one dollar for each year. That's 25 cents per issue, January, April, July and October.

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**ENTRIES LIMITED TO OOTC MEMBERS**

**HAM RADIO CARTOONS**

Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, OOTC #4341, has a collection of his HAM cartoons. E-mail [w9cbt@kya.org](mailto:w9cbt@kya.org). Phone 847-729-1955, 2731 Virginia Ln. Glenview, IL 60025. Website [www.k9ya.org/w9cbt](http://www.k9ya.org/w9cbt)

**OLD BOUND QST'S**

Bert Wells, W5JNK, OOTC #2951 has eleven binders to dispose of: 1933(incomplete), 1934 through 1941, plus two binders of (1964) 50th anniversary. The price is right (0) but there's a catch, you pay the shipping. M. A. Wells, 3191 Darvany Dr., Dallas TX 75220-1611.

**MEMBER ASKS FOR YOUR VOTE**



Bob Roske, N0UF, OOTC #4051 asks for your VOTE for President of QCWA.

[broske@hutchtel.net](mailto:broske@hutchtel.net) <http://www.qsl.net/n0uf>

**Bob Roske, N0UF**

**MICHAEL ZANONI, NG7A, #4395**

Born January 6, 1948, San Francisco, CA. USCG 1981 - 1991 PS2. First call WV6OIC later W7MMZ.

Look me up at [www.qsl.net/w7mmz](http://www.qsl.net/w7mmz). I practice Oriental medicine and acupuncture in Ashland, Oregon, with patients principally suffering from cancer, severe pain, and long-term illnesses. Amateur radio provides the respite for work that does not allow one to build a long Christmas card list.

I was first licensed at age 8 in 1956. Having done much wilderness search and rescue, and being involved with Red Cross for 35 years, ARES is a natural focus. My amateur radio interests are HF QRP, boat anchor equipment, antenna design, and packet, and, oh yes, working on getting my code over 22 WPM.

Three cats, no children, one 4x4 truck, ride bicycle and public transit, visions of "small-town homesteading" off-grid, hunt and fish, strive to be a good friend to everyone and perhaps occasionally succeed. [zanoni@mind.net](mailto:zanoni@mind.net)

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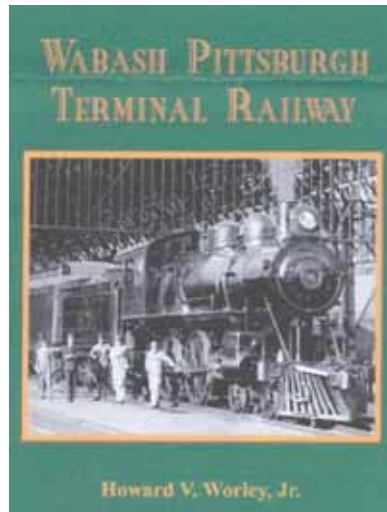
**HOWARD WORLEY, JR., W3HVV, #4396**

Born September 25, 1936, Pittsburgh, PA. Spouse Dolly. K3VPI-1962. Army National Guard, 1954-1955, USAF 1955-1959.

National award winning author, historian, and publisher. My forty plus years body of work can be found in publications such as *Antique Automobile*, *Cruise Travel Magazine*, *The Antique Collector*, *Model Railroader Magazine*, *C/B Radio News*, *The Train Collectors Quarterly*, and others. I have written features and columns for syndicated newspapers, compiled book reviews, and was a consulting writer for the book *Norfolk & Western Railway, Volume one*. Books written include *Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway*, *Pittsburgh Inclines and Street Railways*.

In 2005 I was awarded the Antique Automobile Club of America's prestigious Memorial Cup for outstanding contribution to automotive history in *Antique Automobile magazine*.

Writing credits also include college curriculum and radio programming. Contributor to Pittsburgh public television station WQED's "Pittsburgh History Series" and regularly appears on the Pennsylvania Cable Television



Network. Current freelance writing projects continue in historical, life experience, and antique and collectibles fields.

With wife Dolly, and Angus, our Scottish terrier, we reside in the historic village of Saxonburg, located in the pastoral countryside of rural Butler County, Pennsylvania. w3hvw@arrl.net

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**JERRY HENNE, N2JNK, #4397**

Born July 4, 1942, White Plains, NY. Spouse Cheryl. USN RM3 Nov 1960-63. First licensed WV2VPE 1961.

I had my first license in 1961 (novice) and then sadly never got any farther. I resolved recently to realize my aspirations for a ham license so I took all three elements at once and passed. I live in a historic house (1863) in Kingston NY and will be somewhat antenna challenged. I presently have an IC-V8000 and will probably operate only on two meters for some time to come. I have made arrangements to take my rig on the tugboat on which I work so I will be able to enjoy the hobby even when working. I look forward to getting an HF rig and possibly a High Sierra antenna or some other invisible vertical. As a former Navy radio operator I expect I'll work CW and SSB. I recently purchased an Icom IC-736 and expect to be on HF as soon as I get my "windom" up in the trees.

You might be interested in how I got my vanity call sign. When I joined the Navy and stationed on my first ship her call sign was NJNK. It was the first time I was on the air using the ships radios. I loved the way I could "swing" the call sign in Morse code. So when I got my general I looked to see if N2JNK was open and it was. If I ever get my extra ticket I will try to have the J dropped so its just N2NK, that will be almost identical to NJNK in Morse code.

Jerry, n2jnk@arrl.net

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**ADAH M. ELLIOTT, W9RTH, #3034, SILENT KEY DEC. 10, 2005**

Submitted by Anna L. Arnholt, K9RXK, #3822

I first met Adah in 1958 when she gave Mike, John and I our novice exams. I had heard much about Adah, W9RTH, because she was well known locally, in Indiana as well as the US.

Adah got her ham license in Feb. of 1941. She often told me how she and her husband Dick both worked to get their license. The nearest place one could take the FCC exam in those days was in Chicago at the FCC field office. They both worked and had a family, so everyone had to pile in the family car and make a late drive to get there and take the code and theory exam.

Adah got her license before Dick and he had built a little CW rig for her and had it ready when she got home the day her license came. One had to wait for the FCC to mail your license and it could be from 8 to 10 weeks before it came, so excitement ran high while one waited, wondering what the call might be. Her first contact was on 160 meters and was answered by a ham in Indianapolis where they lived.

December 7, 1941 shut down the ham bands so Adah had to wait until they were open to ham again. Right after WWII women with ham licenses organized a national organization known as Young Ladies Radio League, YLRL, and Adah was one of the first to belong. She was instrumental in organizing HAWK - Hoosier Amateur Women Klub which was active over many years. And she was one of the net controls for the Indiana Traffic Net and passed many messages in this area.

For a few years she and Dick moved to St. Paul, MN and she had the call WORTH but got her old call back when she returned to Seymour. It was while they were in St. Paul that Dick died of a heart attack. She came back to a telephone job that she had held before they moved and said that was what ruined her hearing.

Many of the hams around Seymour can thank Adah for helping them get their licenses. She would work with anyone that was interested. She was a member of the Seymour Radio Club and loved Field Day. Adah would be at Freeman Field helping to set up on Saturday and operated until time for her to go to work, then about 4AM she would be back operating until time to quit. She also laughed about incidents that happened like the State Police calling and telling her that she was coming in on their radio. She lived two blocks from the State Post. Several of the young hams laughed when they heard her coming over the church speakers one Sunday.

Over the years she added QCWA, Quarter Century Wireless Association to her list of clubs as well as QCWW, Quarter Century Wireless Women, and OOTC, the Old Old Timers Club.

Adah and I went to many ham conventions all over the country and made the Dayton Hamvention when it was still held in a downtown hotel and several times later.

When Adah moved to Franklin to the Masonic Home, she took her rig with her. She had an antenna for 40 meters and checked into the Indiana Traffic Net whenever possible. She still held her license and was proud of W9RTH. When I would visit her she would tell me to remind her when she needed to renew her license.

The Ham Community has lost a wonderful Amateur Radio Operator. We'll miss hearing your call, Adah.

FLOYD BUNCH, W6BTP, #4398

Born May 21, 1916, South Bend, Indiana. Spouse Nancy, 2 children. W6BTP since 1933.

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**"VI" BARRETT.  
W6CBA.  
#2754**

Refer to the October 2005 issue Vol.6 #42 for article on VI. These photos should have been with her BIO.



1948-1954 VI BARRETT, FIRST WOMAN RADIO DISPATCHER FOR FBI LOS ANGELES OFFICE



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE NOW, 2000

**BILLY W. MILLER SR., W5BWM, #4986, SILENT KEY**

I regretfully inform you that my Father, OOTC Member # 3986 - Billy W. Miller, Sr. - W5BWM, has completed his earthly journey and has been CQ'ed to Eternal Life on 12/03/05. Dad was born in Senath, MO on 03/30/1926, proudly served his Nation in the Pacific Campaign of World War II where he had his first Spark-Gap experience in 1944 and fell in love with flying. With too many lifetime accomplishments to list here he was an outstanding Christian, Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Ham Radio Operator, Mentor, and Friend. He was buried with full Military Honors and the undying love and respect of his family and friends. He truly loved to read the "Spark-Gap Times". Please sign off to another deceased member of "The Greatest Generation" our Country has ever known. May God Bless. Regards, David A. Miller, Son

---

**PETER LYCOS, KM8K, #2457, SILENT KEY**

It is with much sorrow that I must inform you that Peter Lycos passed away on December 20, 2004. Debra Hahn (Daughter).

---

**HERBERT ASMUSSEN, OZ7SM, #3369, SILENT KEY**

Herbert Asmussen, Aabrenraa, Denmark passed away October 27, 2005.  
Jens Olaf Pedersen jopp@spacecenter.dk

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**REX KING, W0CKK, #4399**

Born July 13, 1932, Elkland, MO. Spouse Susan, 4 children. U.S. Air Force 1949-1954. W0AIM-1949, W9LIE, KB9VUR.

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**JIM HURZELER, N6TKL, #3208**

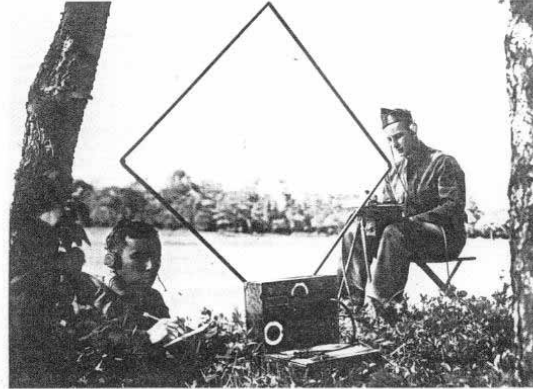
In the September 1994 Spark-Gap Times was a little of my communications history. I finally found, thanks to the U.S. Army Signal Corp. Museum at Ft. Gordon, GA., A photo of the SCR-161 like the equipment we used in the Field Artillery in 1938. This equipment, developed in the 1920's, was called "two man portables" and was transported by horse and truck. It was used by the infantry division, ground and air artillery, cavalry division, early armored divisions, costal defense sites and air groups or squadrons. Due to technical differences, patent agreements, political maneuvering and inter-service squabbling, these old sets weren't really replaced, totally, until 1942. The new SCR-600 series of FM stations, all phone, with squelch, were a dream by comparison.

The old SCR - 131-161-171 sets were 2000-6000KC., CW only in the original version. The transmitter was a single type 10 tube oscillator with 7.5 volt filament

and 400 volts plate keying. The tunable series-fed Hartley oscillator fed a field assembled loop antenna for about 15 watts output. No MOPA! Remember the communications mission was very short range - not enough for the enemy to pick up - hopefully. The receiver was 3 type 864 tubes using volts 1.1 filament. One tube was oscillator/detector and two stages of audio amp!

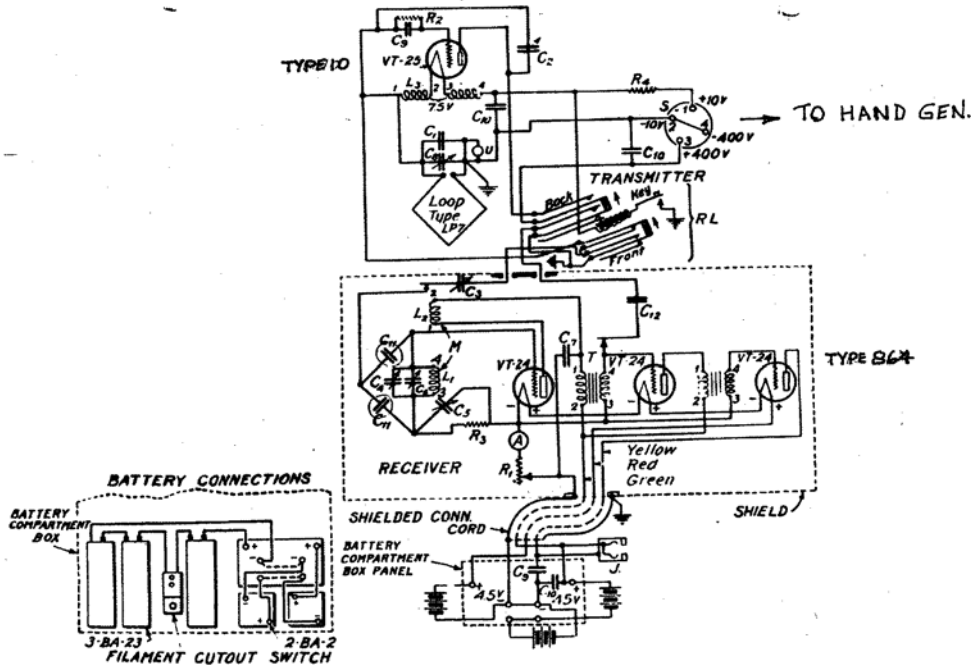
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THE SIGNAL CORPS



THE SCR-131 in operation at Fort Monmouth in 1941.

When I see photos of, and read descriptions of fixed stations on land or maritime with a warm dry shack, coffee and 500 watts output, I want us to remember the soldier boy operators and the conditions they worked with.



Circuit diagram, type SCR-131 (161)

FAS-L-112

**ROBERT MOUNT, K9LXT, #4400**

First wireless 1958. KB6MHS. Retired TSgt.

---

**BOB SAUNDERS, WA2JUG, #4401**

Born October 11, 1942, East Marlow, NY. Spouse Joanne, 2 children. Army 1965-1967 SP4 E4. rrs312@hotmail.com

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**KENNETH HOLDEN, AA6YT, #4402**

Born July 25, 1927, Muskegon, MI. Spouse deceased, 2 children. First call W8YEN. SS Nancy Hanks, Liberty ship 2nd radio officer out of San Francisco to WWII in Pacific. Radio Telegraph 2nd class license. After Japanese surrendered radio traffic via KPH etc. 1945 HF and 500Kc. After returning home, on air as W8YEN from St. Joseph Michigan 1945, various QTH's since then. Have Pacific war zone bar, Philippine liberation (with stars). Ensign U.S. Maritime Service WWII and after. SSGT U.S. Air Force 1950-1954, radar systems tech. kenholden@sbcglobal.com

---

**JOHN CIPOLLETTI, WB2SPP, #4403**

Born February 25, 1946, Lakewood, NJ. WN2SPP-1964. wb2spp@comcast.net

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**OOTC Chapter 2 29-September-2005**

We enjoyed a wonderful brunch on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September at the Long Beach Yacht Club thanks to Helen Windham (N6ZLL). The meeting was called to order by Lyman Beman (W6GP) at 1120, quickly adjourned for brunch and was reconvened about 1230.

President Hap Pearson (W6JGL) was not able to attend due to difficult health problems. Lyman Beman Secretary/Treasurer chaired the meeting in his place. Hap has also withdrawn his name as a nominee for President.

Troy Wideman (W6HV), our nominating committeeman, reports that Paul Schinnerer (AB6TB) has stepped forward as nominee for President, running unopposed. The Secretary/Treasurer position has no other nominees and Lyman Beman (W6GP) has offered to continue in that position for the next two years.

Attending were Glen Skagerberg (N6AVC), Lonnie Bingham (W6CBN), Ken Johnson (W6FU) with friend Bill Ferguson (W6FLA), Hugh Graham (W6HG) and wife Marcia, Lyman Beman (W6GP) and wife Marilyn, Don Osti (K6KJK) and wife Reba, Archie Willis (W6LPJ), Alfred Wendelbo (KK6O), Paul Schinnerer (AB6TB)

and wife Mary and, of course, our much appreciated Helen Windham (N6ZLL). Members were asked to stand, introduce themselves and their guests. Our nominee for President Paul Schinnerer (AB6TB) filled us in on his background in radio communication.

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**A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. MELLEN, W1FH, #1413, SK 1/21/2006**

Back in the 1940's, "ham radio" operator Charles Mellen used his short wave radio to talk to amateur radio operators in essentially every country in the world. Charles was the first recipient of the DXCC award after WWII. This was the coveted award for world-wide contacts, presented by the American Radio Relay League.

W1FH was well known to many of the world's short-wave operators starting in the pre-war days and continuing for almost 50 years. He was a polite and courteous operator and his operating habit was to spend his time listening for rare overseas signals, and his stateside contacts were mostly with acquaintances. He rarely called CQ but it seemed he was always the first to find weak signals and have a cordial chat with the rarest of overseas "DX" stations, and it was always before a radio pile-up would start.

In 1949 Charlie maintained constant radio contact with a British agent named Reginald Fox who was living in the closed country of Tibet. Fox used his "forbidden" wireless set to beam signals over the towering Himalayas, and Charlie was able to continually gather news and information about the Chinese communist invasion and annexation of Tibet, and especially news of the safe escape of the young Dalai Llama who had been deposed.

The information from Charlie was continuously used by the CBS radio news commentator Lowell Thomas. Charlie had received thank-you letters from both Lowell Thomas Senior and Junior. Ironically, during the late forties, I was the studio engineer that handled the "live" nightly Lowell Thomas news program that was rebroadcast over short wave station WRUL!

Charles, as he preferred to be called, was of Greek descent and maintained weekly amateur radio schedules for over 20 years with his very close ham friend in London, Norman Jolly, G3FNJ. As is typical in ham radio, they had never met in person! When my wife (G3YL) and I were in London, we had a very enjoyable visit with Norman Jolly and another distinguished gentleman, who was the chief British intelligence Officer in Greece during World War II.

When I was a young High School student after WWII, it was fascinating to tune in on Charlie as he talked to countries that I never heard of! I admired Charlie, and it was in the 70's when I visited Charlie's DX station in the West Roxbury section of Boston. He had an ordinary set-up using 600 watts and a 3-element beam.

I always appreciated learning that what counted for his far reaching radio contacts was lots of patient listening - and far less talking!

Regretfully, Charlie's major heart surgery had long kept him inactive on the short wave radio, and he passed away in January 2006 at the ripe old age of 91.

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Mort Bardfield, W1UQ #3027 (OOTC Director District 1)

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**JOE URBAN, WB1BUV, #4404**

Born September 14, 1924, Hungary. Spouse Ann, 2 sons. Army infantry 1944-46, Reserve 1946-49, 1948-54 Signal Corps 2nd Lt. 1949. ajurban@gmail.com

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**"SPARKS" OSS, AA0PP, #4405**

Born Jul 6, 1945, Bay City, MI. Spouse Jaime, 3 children. U.S. Coast Guard 1965-69 RM2 E5. zut1281@yahoo.com

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**MARK TITTERINGTON, W1EOF, #4406**

Born May 16, 1957, Providence, RI. Spouse Denise, 5 children. CB in 1965 then WN1PWA, WA1PWA. When my father died in 1999, I took his call. My father was Jack Titterington W1EOF, #1538. w1eof@hamnutz.com

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**DAVE O'FARRELL, WB0IXV, #4407**

Born August 3, 1948, Tacoma, WA. Spouse Nancy, 1 Child. KN7YXO 1963, WA7COH, WB0IXV, AC0DU. dave\_ofarrell@juno.com

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**NED CONKLIN, KH7JJ, #4408**

Born September 25, 1941, Hartford, CT. K1HMU 1958, KH7JJ 1998.

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**DICK NENDICK, W7QWD, #4409**

Born December 5, 1932, Charlottesville, VA. Spouse Tomoko, 3 children. WN7QWD 1952, other KR6RZ. USAF 1954 - 1962 MSGT.

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**BILL ENGS, W6TCY, #4410**

Born August 4, 1932, Oakland, CA. W2WLY-1948, KR6RH(Okinawa), K6OGW, W6GBD, W0ONV, W7KKG. U.S. Army 8-'54 to 8-'56 1st Lt.

-continued on next page-

THRILL FOR A NEW HAM - by Bill Engs W6TCY engs@juno.com

It all started in the summer of 1946. Two teenagers, my friend, Gil and I, had been experimenting with a private telephone scheme and listening to radio broadcasts with crystal detectors. One day we spotted an article in *Popular Science*, "Listen In on the Hams with this One Tube Superregenerative Receiver." We were fascinated and decided to build our own sets. We conned our fathers (who worked in New York City) to buy us the components at one of the shops on Courtlandt Street (years later the street was demolished to make room for the World Trade Center). Any radio or audio part could be bought there.

Soon each of us had constructed his own set; parts wired together on a "bread-board with controls mounted on a front panel. It used a Type 37 tube, and it was powered by an "A" battery and a "B" battery (common in those days for portable radios.). We already had the military surplus headphones.

When I fired up my set, I didn't hear anything for a while, then, all of a sudden heard a short wave broadcast station. It was playing songs from "Annie Get Your Gun." That was not what I wanted to hear, so I shortened the coil to bring me up to the 10 meter ham band. There they were-- local hams; W2QLZ, W2MXK and others---on ground wave. I did "listen in," and after a few months, at age 14, I decided to get my FCC license and become one of them. (Gil went on to other things.)

A bit later, I was introduced to George, W2BP, in Rye. After visiting him and seeing his station in action, he let me borrow his old Hallicrafters SX-16 communications receiver. What a break.

Now I was able to study the International Morse Code. I listened and learned the characters and, writing everything down, gradually increased my speed.

One day, I saw smoke coming out of the SX-16! I was horrified. Later I found out a condenser had gone bad causing a resistor to over heat. Replacing the condenser solved the problem.

At the time I was living in the unfinished attic of our house. My father and I built a bed room for me at one end. I constructed a ham shack, including the electrical wiring, at the other end. To outfit the shack, I built a long radio operating table and work bench using scrap lumber scrounged from the apartments they were building nearby.

In Spring of 1947, I was ready to take the FCC test, both code, and written parts. Applicants had to send and receive 13 words a minute, and they had to pass the code test before the written test was administered. I had never skipped school. But on this important day, I took off from high school and rode the train to New York City. I took the subway to the building where

the FCC office was located. The test setting was kind of intimidating. I failed the code test. For the next six months, I practiced code. By October, I was ready. I skipped another day of school. On the re-test, I passed! In a few weeks I received my Class B ticket with the station call letters, W2WLY.

To become active, I built a 6V6 crystal oscillator transmitter for 80 meters. It checked out OK, but I had difficulty mastering the skill of antenna loading. For two months, I failed to get on the air.

(Narrative from my early days follows.)

On Friday night, January 16, 1948, I was playing around with my one tube transmitter when I found to my surprise that I could light a bulb quite brightly by moving the link to the opposite end, the antenna end [of the coil]. There was also another characteristic, there was an even greater rise in the [plate] current when the rig was tuned to a certain point, but the bulb went out. The next morning W1FPS called and said he would listen for me while I made various adjustments. I did not find till later which was my best--only that I had been heard. I was very much thrilled. Finding out later which was best, I decided to go on the air. I was slowed down because the [telegraph] key broke down, and I took time out to fix the blasted thing. Then I was ready.

The day was Saturday, January 17. At 6:30 PM. I called W3IMA, but nothing happened. I called W2WXN and no reply. Then along about 7, I called W1FOO. He came back. This is the never to be forgotten moment that we amateurs have when we have nailed our first station. I was surprised, horrified, and delighted all at the same time. He was in Hartford and the conditions were bad. I got RST 569x. I was shaking. My heart was pounding heavily, and it was the greatest moment. I had conquered the ham band. I called and called all the evening, but there was no come back, and as I said, conditions were bad. I wasn't disappointed, but pleased. A new ham was on the air. I was age 15. I continue the hobby to this day.

**BRAD PIOVESON, W9FX, #4411**

Born October 30, 1950, Christopher IL.  
Spouse Sharon, 1 child. WN9KNP 1963,  
WA9KNP. w9fx@arrl.net



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**KENT MANDRELL, W9NX, #4412**

Born June 2, 1940, West Frankfurt IL. Spouse Sharon, 2 Children. KN9MGN  
1957, K9MGN. w9nx@arrl.net

THESE OOTC MEMBERS ARE "SILENT KEY". CALLS MAY HAVE BEEN REISSUED.

NAME BIRTHDATE	LAST CALL 1ST-2-WAY	SK: DATE	SPARK? REPORT BY
<b>LESTER O. GERLACH</b> B:JANUARY/28/1917	<b>W9UPM #3842</b> W9UPM-1933	SK:NOVEMBER/29/2005	DAUGHTER WENDY KLOTZ
<b>EDMUND H. MARRINER</b> B:AUGUST/15/1915	<b>W6XM #1486</b> W6BLZ-1931	SK:NOVEMBER/20/2005	ARRL LETTER VOL. 24 NO.47
<b>ROBERT A. JOHNSON, JR.</b> B:JANUARY/17/1923	<b>W5KTN #4208</b> MILITARY-1945, W5KTN-1946	SK:NOVEMBER/22/2005	SPOUSE
<b>WIBUR CHARLESS JONES, JR.</b> B:MARCH/18/1938	<b>W5GXM #3674</b> WN5GXM-1954	SK:DATE MISSING	QCWA JOURNAL WINTER 2005 P.54
<b>BILLY W. MILLER, SR.</b> B:MARCH/30/1926	<b>W5BWM #3986</b> MILITARY-1944 WN5UNR-1976	SK:DECEMBER/3/2005	SON DAVID A. MILLER
<b>PETER W. LYCOS</b> B:AUGUST/29/1920	<b>KM8K #2457</b> MILITARY-1942 WD8KCD-1977	SK:DECEMBER/20/2004	DEBRA HAHN, DAUGHTER
<b>GEORGE E. FOGG, JR.</b> B:NOVEMBER/20/1921	<b>W2HKG #2923</b> W2HXG-1951	SK:DATE MISSING	QST FEBRUARY 2006 P.94
<b>LAYTON N. RUSE</b> B:JULY/9/1919	<b>W4VBQ #2775</b> MILITARY-1942 W4VBQ-1961	SK:DATE MISSING	QST FEBRUARY 2006 P.94
<b>FRANCIS E. RHODES</b> B:AUGUST/8/1918	<b>W5OUD #2355</b> W3NYJ-1946	SK:DATE MISSING	QST FEBRUARY 2006 P.94
<b>CHARLES E. MELLEEN</b> B:JUNE/8/1914	<b>W1FH #1413</b> W1FH-1930	SK:JANUARY/21/2006	MORT BARDFIELD W1UQ #3027
<b>GERHARD ENSSLIN</b> B:JULY/26/1938	<b>DL6KP #2878</b> DL6KP-1950	SK:JANUARY/27/2006	NIECE-EVA SCHAPALS
<b>WILLIAM M. LAIRD</b> B:JULY/10/1921	<b>W2CIX #4123</b> W8NEF-1934	SK:FEBRUARY/3/2006	DUNCAN KREAMER W1GAY #1782
<b>WALTER SCHEFFE</b> B:SEPTEMBER/19/1913	<b>W2LPA #2807</b> W2LPA-1933	SK:DECEMBER/12/2005	WENDELL BENSON, WW2G, VWOA

**The Old Old Timers pause with regret and sorrow at the passing of these our friends and associates who have become silent keys. Our condolences to their families and personal friends.**

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

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 or money order to:



OOTC INC  
3191 DARVANY DR.  
DALLAS TX 75220-1611

PUT MY MEMBER # 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 (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_\_

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CHOOSE TIE COLOR

BLACK \_\_\_\_\_ RED \_\_\_\_\_ BLUE \_\_\_\_\_ BROWN \_\_\_\_\_

(If you do not choose, black tie will be ordered)

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**PRINT YOUR CALL LETTERS**

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**PRINT HOW YOU WANT YOUR NAME TO APPEAR**

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**PRINT YOUR CITY & STATE OR ANYTHING YOU WANT HERE**



### OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB

3191 DARVANY DR. DALLAS, TX 75220-1611  
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AT: <http://ootc.us/mbmrappl.html>



**(PLEASE PRINT ALL ITEMS CLEARLY)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Present call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number & Street City State/Province Code Country(if not U.S.)

Year of 1st 2-way HAM wireless contact \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname/Handle \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

My first amateur call was \_\_\_\_\_ Other calls \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

My first 2-way wireless was by Commercial Radio(  ) Military Radio(  ) Year \_\_\_\_\_ Describe it \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

**NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FEE \$5.00(required). FIRST YEAR DUES \$10.00(required) OR LIFETIME DUES (new members add \$5.00 initiation) UNDER AGE 75 \$150.00, 75 - 79 \$125.00, 80 - 84 \$100.00, 85 - 89 \$75.00, 90 to 94 \$50.00. EXCEPTION: IF YOU ARE 95 OR OVER, SEND APPLICATION, NO MONEY. All funds MUST be acceptable at a U.S. Bank.**

Members may receive Spark-Gap Times by PDF E-MAIL attachment on request. Whether dues are paid or not, members remain on the membership rolls. Dues support the operation of the club and is encouraged. Post Office mailing is not economically possible to members not paying dues. This is a non-profit club.

**INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS NOTE:** Please remit with (1) American Express money order, or (2) Check drawn on a U.S. Bank, if a branch of a U. S. bank accessible, or (3) if foreign bank, must add \$20 collection fee which is charged by our bank, or (4) U. S. Currency.

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

One must have had two-way wireless communication at least 40 years previous to filing an OOTC membership application. OOTC recognizes your first two-way communication whether through amateur, commercial or military operation. Where possible please provide proof of such operation. Regular membership in OOTC requires that you have a valid amateur station or operator license at the time of application, or you can join as an Associate member if you are qualified but have no license now or had no license in the past.

OOTC wishes to have extended information about each member, his/her activities and background. Such information becomes a permanent and important part of your record as a member of OOTC, making it possible for us to write of your life work and experiences. 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 is permission to publish your membership in Spark Gap Times.

First name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's call(if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Widow(er) \_\_\_\_\_

Military Branch \_\_\_\_\_ service from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, Rank \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about OOTC from \_\_\_\_\_ Please credit (name or call) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 digits social security number \_\_\_\_\_ (for SK identification)