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SILENT KEY 4/13/2011 AT AGE 100

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Joseph Wehner W8KNO,
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Charles Stanton W5LBU

Information contained in articles printed in Spark-Gap Times does not necessarily represent the views of the Old Old Timers Club or the officers or Directors of the Old Old Timers Club.

Spark-Gap Times Editor-Publisher
W5JNK (ootc@me.com)

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w1eof@hamnutz.com

REGISTERED AGENT RHODE ISLAND
Janice Lentz K4IJK

We honor these Silent Keys for their contribution to OOTC.
Earl E. Cline #0061 exW4PPZ
Treasurer 1953-1958
Secretary 1956-1957
President 1959-1963
Raymond E. Meyers #0188 exW6MLZ
Treasurer 1970-76 Secretary 1970-1978
President 1979-1984
Leland E. Smith #1214 exW5KL
President 1994-2004
L. F. "Ted" Heithecker #1263 exW5EJ
President 1987-1990
Secretary 1991-1993

*Replaced SK Jerry Mulberg W2MJP
**Replaced SK David Knight W4ZJY
***Replaced retired Paul Gerbracht
ODD NUMBER DISTRICT DIRECTORS SERVE 2 YEARS 2011 & 2012

1 CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT  MORTON BARDFIELD, W1UQ, #3027
3 DC, DE, MD, PA  HENRY SCHULTZ, W3IU, #2717
PAUL GERBRACHT, W3QPP, #2850, RETIRED AFTER 18 YEARS SERVICE TO OOTC.
5 AR, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX  CHARLES STANTON, W5LBV, #3409
7 AK, AZ, ID, MT, NV, UT, WA, WY  FRANK PISKUR, K7FP, #3628
9 IL, IN, WI  JOE SCHROEDER, W9JUV, #2967

THE NOMINATION AND ENDORSEMENT PERIOD IS NOW OPEN FOR DIRECTORS IN DISTRICT 2, 4, 6, 8 AND 0, TO SERVE 2012 & 2013. CANDIDATES THAT LIVE IN YOUR DISTRICT SHOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE. SEND TO: SECRETARY ootc@me.com or 3191 DARVANY DR. DALLAS, TX 75220-1611.

EVEN NUMBER DISTRICT DIRECTORS SERVE 2 YEARS 2012 & 2013

2 NJ-NY  GUS LEVY, W2LAP, #4094.
4 AL-FL-GA-KY-NC-SC-TN-VA-PUERTO RICO. DONALD TRAYES, WN3USA, #4544.
6 CA-HI  LEE R. WICAL, KH6BZF, #4444.
8 MI-OH-WV  JOSEPH WEHNER, W8KNO, #4030.
0 CO-IA-KS-MN-MO-NE-ND-SD.  POSITION OPEN, PLEASE OFFER TO SERVE

OOTC ON THE AIR MEETINGS

EUROPEAN CHAPTER #5 CALL DL0OTC
SSB  7:30 CE(S)T 3624 kHz, Tue, NCS DJ5ND, Willi Kreibohm SK, temporary NCS Guenter Pesch DJ2XB.
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 #1 - New Orleans LA no report
Chapter #2 - CA - Tuesday, 1600 local 3918kHz. NCS W6HV, Troy Wideman.
Chapter #6 - Lansing, MI no report
Chapter #16 - AZ: Tuesday, 1600 local, 3913 kHz. NCS W7LGB, Lyle Brow
Chapter #82 - (N.East) TN & SW. VA. Sun, 9:00PM E. 145.110mHz. down shift.
Thursday, 1330 local, 7230 kHz. NCS K2VNM, Robert Kerns.

OOTC get-to-gether Frequency 14047 kHz. Fridays, 1700 UTC

SUPPLIES AVAILABLE –includes postage.

OOTC BADGE - $8.50 - $9.50 or $10.50, picture page 14, order page 26.
OOTC 4"Dia. Round Iron-on Jacket patch $5.. sew-on $4..Picture page 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, 80 year pin is free. Request if eligible, picture page 14.

Send U.S. Check, U.S. currency to: OOTC 3191 Darvany Dr., Dallas, TX 75220-1611 (credit cards not accepted)
REGARDING NEW MEMBER PATRICK M. O’BRIEN, K8LEN, #4591
Pat listed in May 2011 Spark-Gap Times but Pat’s photo on page 14 this issue.

CORRECT BIRTHDAY OF NEW MEMBER MICHAEL INVERGO, N4MUJ, #4584 was Incorrectly shown in May issue

Born January 9, 1954, Illinois, USA. Spouse Kim, 1 child. USNR 1975 to 1984, RM1. WN9BYP-1969, WB9BYP, KH6JGL, TJ1MW, SV0IF, 5B4AGI, YI9MI, /OD5, /BW2, /HC1. n4muj@arrl.net

NEW MEMBER LARRY DALE SMITH, K4LZ, #4592


NEW MEMBER RICHARD W. FOUNTAIN, K1RST, #4593


NEW MEMBER CURT R. BARTHOLOMEW, N3GQ, #4594


On January 22, 2009, Mr. Bartholomew laterally transferred to his current position as the Senior Emergency Manager for the Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau. His portfolio includes serving on the FCC Incident Management Team, developing FCC participation in exercises for all National Level Exercises, conducting strategic planning, and developing comprehensive emergency plans.

Mr. Bartholomew previously served as the Branch Chief for Contingency Plans and Exercises, which included Continuity of Operations (COOP), Continuity of Government (COG), and National Security Special Events (NSSEs). His portfolio included developing intelligence for all National Level Exercises, chairing the exercise Intelligence Working Group for the National Intelligence Community and DHS Intelligence Enterprise, conducting strategic planning, and developing comprehensive emergency Contingency Plans. He developed complex adaptive response plans and operational orders, instructions, and procedures that support a comprehensive national intelligence Federal response capability, including with regard to catastrophic disasters, special events, and other extraordinary
situations. In 2008, his COOP and COG programs were rated as Number One in the US Government's Executive Branch.

During his 39 year career with the US Government, serving the last four years with DHS Intelligence, Mr. Bartholomew has served in a broad range of increasingly complex and responsible national security, defense, intelligence, law enforcement, and emergency management positions. Although specializing in contingency planning and emergency officer. He was subsequently promoted at each agency, serving one year as a top performing Radio Shack store manager; 4 years with the Federal Protective Service Police, 3 years with the US Department of State Diplomatic Security, and 4 years at FEMA HQ, specializing in COOP, COG, indications and warning intelligence, current and operational intelligence, estamative intelligence, criminal intelligence analysis, operations security and security countermeasures, and multi-discipline counter-counterintelligence and threat analysis. He is the recipient of several civilian awards and military decorations from his 22 years of US Army Intelligence service, including the Bronze Star Medal and Legion of Merit Medal, and he twice received FEMA's highest award - the Director's Award for actions taken during the response to and aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A graduate of Park University, the University of Hawaii, and the US Army Command and General Staff College, he holds a BS degree with a major in Social Psychology and a Master's Degree in Asian Studies, both Summa Cum Laude. He has completed an extensive set of professional development courses in executive leadership and management; contract management and administration; telecommunications, emergency management, emergency communications, preparedness, response, and recovery operations; intelligence and security analysis and operations; and contingency and crisis action plans and operations. Mr. Bartholomew is also fluent in French, speaks intermediate Chinese-Mandarin, and holds a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. n3gg@arrl.net

BIO OF BOB ROSKE, N0UF, #4081 SEE PICTURE PAGE 14

I was first licensed in February 1962 as WN0CLR, a Novice. My Elmer was Bob Packer, W0VHE(SK). The license was good for one year and non-renewable. In November of 1962 I upgraded to a Technician and my call changed to WA0CLR. In 1965 I upgraded, for what I thought would be the last time, to a General, a General Class License had ALL Amateur Privileges at the time. I upgraded to an Advanced Class in 1977 and finally to Extra in 1993. In April 2000 I applied for the vanity call AC0L. In April 2002 I applied for the vanity call N0UF. I lived in Central Minnesota until 1985, then moved to New Jersey for three years. Then back to the Minneapolis area for two years and have been in Kansas City, Missouri since 1991. Then back to MN in 2005.

In 1972 I operated 80-10M Mobile on a road trip from St Cloud, MN to Winnipeg to Kenora to International Falls and Home.

In 1995 I held a license for Great Britain. I did a very limited operation as I was going to power my handheld with the cigarette lighter, but the rental car(Car For Hire!) didn't have
one! I was on the Edinburgh Repeater twice in December, (the license was also valid for England, & Wales but I never operated from these countries).

In 2000 I operated from Toronto during the QCWA Convention and operated from Belize as V31TD before the CQWW SSB Contest. I logged over 1000 QSOs during the week. What a blast! We used V31GE to log over 5300 Q's for the contest, contest qsl's via AK0A.

I lived in Gladstone, MO, a northern Kansas City suburb from 1991 to 2005. During that time I was elected to the PHD board of Directors every year until the club merged with the Clay County ARC in 2002. I served as President, HamFest Chairman, webmaster and trustee for W0TE

I was in the KC DX CLUB from 1993 where I served as the Vice President. I was a charter Member of the NORTHEAST KANSAS CITY ARC (now defunct), a member of the CLAY COUNTY ARC, a member of the TWIN CITIES FM CLUB, an Assistant Director - Missouri Section - Midwest Division – ARRL, a Sorter in the Incoming Zero QSL Bureau and the trustee for The Second Class Operators Club Call W0SOC.

I moved to Minnesota in July of 2005 where I joined the Crow River Area ARC serving as Co-Chair of the County Fair Committee and Public Information Officer. I'm a trained Skywarn Spotter and an ARRL VE. I'm also a PIO for the Minnesota Section, Dakota Division of the ARRL.

I'm a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association QCWA having served as or still serving as a Director, Vice President, webmaster, President and on multiple committees. I was awarded the QCWA Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

I operate CW and SSB from 160 through 2 Meters and on 440Mhz. I have a Yaesu FT-847 at the home QTH. Other equipment includes an MFJ-986 Tuner and an Ameco PT-3 preamp. My antennas consists of a 70' trap dipole for 160-10M an AP-8 80-10M Vertical and assorted VHF/UHF antennas. My mobile rig is a Yaesu FT-100. I use a Hustler System for 80 - 6 meters a dual band Comet for 144 and 440 Mhz. The mobile operation is usually SSB or FM with the occasional CW QSO with a set of Norcal paddles. I have 250+ Keys from around the world in my collection, including over 60 by Vibroplex.

Some of my operating awards include: IOTA-200 (333/303), IOTA-NA, WAZ, 5BWAS, WAS CW, SSB & 75M 2 letter calls, USA-CA (1108/1043), The Maple Leaf Award, The Canadian Islands Award, the Canadian 2/80, the US - Islands Award, DIPLOME DE LA ZONE 2, World Radio's Worked 100 Nations, ARRL DXCC: Mixed(279/275), Phone (271/261) & CW(165/145) and I hold an ARRL Certificate of Code Proficiency(30WPM). I need 32 Q's for 5BDXCC(80M).

73 Bob N0UF ex WN0CLR, WA0CLR, GM0/WA0CLR, AC0L & V31TD
NEW MEMBER URBAN LEJEUNE, W2DEC. #4595

Born December 9 1932 Newark, NJ. ARMY SP2 1950-1956. I was originally licensed in 1950 as W2DEC. This was before the days of novice licensing. Spouse Pat – W2PKV. I was KP2/W2DEC, KA8SD in Japan in 1954 and did some operating from KA2USA. Got interested in DXing in the mid-1950s and made it to the DXCC honor roll in 1961 and was one country off the top of the honor roll in 1966. I was DX editor of CQ magazine for about 6 years in the mid 1960s.

I am one of the co-founders of the North Jersey DX Association back in 1957. The NJDXA is the ARRL incoming QSL bureau for the second call area. I am the Webmaster of the NJDXA website at http://njdxa.org. Just returning to DX after a long period of HF inactivity. Rig here is a FT450 and a trap dipole for 20, 40 and 80 meters at 25 feet. In addition, parallel dipoles for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 30 meters in an inverted "V" configuration at 35 feet at the apex. Things are sure different than the old days when I had 700 watts and a wide space 4 element 20 meter monobander 75 feet above a hilltop. Enjoying the challenge of working DX with 100 watts and a dipole farm.

Since coming back on the air at the end of October 2009 I have worked 182 countries. My wife Pat is W2PKV. She was originally licensed as KC2VDJ. Her first question was, "Why can't I have a call like yours?" She subsequently applied for, and received, W2PKV, her initials. It only took 20 years to get Pat to take the Tech exam, maybe another 20 years and she will become a General.

I have recently returned to operating with a straight key. Got interested in the SKCC group and have number 6668T. I started operating in 1949 with a straight key and I'm now back to operating with the same straight key. It's a lot of fun and the SKCC people are a great bunch. Try the SKCC real time sked page at: http://www.obriensweb.com/sked urb@w2dec.com

NEW MEMBER HOWARD H. HOOD, WA7QQI, #4596

Born July 29, 1943 Fort Lewis, WA. Spouse Marie, 1 Child. WA7QQI-1971. Army E5 1967-1970. Got my start in radio by building crystal sets and listening to the shortwave bands. In high school I took electronics and ran a little radio and TV shop after school. In college I majored in electronic technology and along the way received an FCC commercial radiotelephone license with radar endorsement.

While serving in the Army I attended advanced electronics and special circuits school and ended up as Calibration Team Chief in the Army Missile System. Following military service I was able to study advanced communication and along the way obtained a Technician Class ham radio license. This was soon followed by a General Class and then an Advanced class license. WA7QQI has been my call sign for the last forty years.

For the next 35 years I worked for the Department of Defense as an integrated Systems Electronic Mechanic. This position gave me a chance to work in Tactical Data Systems, Radar Display, and Nuclear Instrumentation on all types of ships from submarines to...
aircraft carriers.

Now that I am retired I can spend time on my favorite projects, ham radio and restoration of old broadcast radios from the 1930’s. My current project is the restoration of an RME 4350 communications receiver from the 1950’s. qqi@earthlink.net

FROM WILLIAM D C BURNETTE #3129, W7UNE
PO Box 268 Otis Orchards WA 99027

WHAT WE THINK WE WANT IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT IS BEST FOR US.

May 9, 1941 I received my diploma from Eva High school, Eva IL. May 12 I took the oath for 6 years in the U.S. Navy. Paperwork had previously been done with a rider that I would not take the oath until I finished high school. Boot camp training at Norfolk VA in July.

Transferred to NTS San Diego for group-II school. First month was a general course for Radioman, Quartermaster, Signalman, Yeoman and Storekeeper. I only learned enough code to keep from failing for I had made up my mind to be a storekeeper.

At the end of the month the schedule was posted: I was scheduled for radio. A classmate with an amateur radio license was listed for storekeeper. We worked our way up through the chain of command to the school commander. He said “Fulfill your assignment or go to sea with ‘inaptitude’ in your record and scrub paintwork for your career”. That was fortunate for me.

Radio, later electronics, has been good for me. I attained the rate of Chief Radioman USN.

In 1963, I received my conditional Amateur license (conditional because the test was given by another amateur). Later I received my amateur extra and commercial (now general) first class.

I worked for Westinghouse home electronics maintenance, RCA Service Co. on military electronics contracts, and retired from Civil Service Electronics as GS-11. I am the original and only holder of W7UNE.

NEW MEMBER BARRY L. EURE, KS4RT, #4597

Born April 29, 1955 Suffolk, VA, Spouse Dianne, 5 living children, call KG4HOQ. CB-1966 CH11 popular in my town, it was all I could afford. WN4ZQA-1972, KD4ZPA. USN Oct73 to May77 Rank E4. ks4rt@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBER GILBERT H. AMIS, JR. N5CFM, #4598


Now that this is over and done with, I’m a retired social psychologist and theologian.
having devoted over 30 years to those “hallowed halls of academia.” I’m currently a Member
of I.O.O.F. Edmond Lodge #12, P.N.G.; Lexington Masonic Lodge #72; OES #67; Guthrie
Scottish Rite Consistory; York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery in Shawnee; and
York Rite College #75. I’m so very blessed to be married to Annette, N5ANI, whom I
affectionately call Annie. Many of you may know her from RF Parts, Inc. She was the Sales
and Marketing Manager for several years for the commercial tubes division. If you attended
many of the major conventions, Dayton, Las Vegas, etc., you may have met my Annie!
Anyway, regardless of my credentials, I still have to pay for my own coffee! What a deal!

My interest in amateur radio began in 1955. My Dad, a Major in the Army, was stationed
in occupied Europe and often there was not a lot for me to do. The television reception was
lousy, we were living in a French hotel, waiting placement in base housing. As a result I was
bored stiff most of the time. One day, Dad brought home a Zenith TransOceanic to keep me
occupied and get me out of his and my Mother’s hair. I was in hog heaven; for seemingly to
me, the entire world was at my fingertips. There was Radio Free Europe (RFE), the Armed
Forces Network (AFN), the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and when the band
opened up I could receive American broadcast stations. Then, there were those weird
“beep-beep” sounds coming from certain segments of the dial, which after some inquiry the
wonderful world of Morse code entered into my life. As an eight year old stranded in a
French hotel, how was I to learn what those strange sounds meant? On the Army base
there were radio operators who were more than willing to help, also we had a scout chapter
which offered a ham radio merit badge. So I began to learn a little bit about Morse code
which remained with me throughout my life. In 1959, we were transferred stateside and my
radio interests were replaced with many other activities – hot rods, motorcycles, and girls!

About 1971, I had purchased a used 3 channel CB, antenna, hooked it up in my
bedroom, and WOW! I was on the air! Modern technology had come into my life; but to my
chagrin, I did not receive the warm and hearty welcome that I had expected as I had heard
between the ham operators while I was in Europe years ago. I was promptly told to get
my”….“ off the air until I had a license, and in no uncertain terms was I to return until I did!” I
apologized for offending everyone; including God and the Pope, and being inquisitive by
nature I ask how I was to obtain “this license.” I suppose the way I handled things caused
the operators to find some humor in my query and they gave me the needed information.
Soon I was granted the call sign of KFK 0180. I eventually became quite involved with the
wonderful, wacky world Citizens Band Radio and even adopted a “handle,” Double Eagle,
(which is my given Native American name.) After several years, I became bored, frustrated,
and felt there was something really lacking; in actuality, I ran out of things to do, for you are
so (legally) limited to what you expect out of the CB cabala. Then Buddy Luce, WD5FRB,
came into my life.

Buddy owned a used car lot in Alvin, Texas, loved Collins, building Heathkit gear, and he
had his ham shack in his car lot office. I was working at a commercial two way shop and
went into his office to buy a car. Soon we became great friends and one day he brought up the topic of CW; if I could copy any code. I'd been listening to some tapes for a while to brush up on. He took out his Heathkit keyer and began to send me a message in CW. He had a TV in his office and I was watching it at the time; when he finished, he wonder why I didn't copy anything down. I told him what he had sent, and then wrote it down for him. To my amazement, I had just passed my Element 1 Novice CW code requirement. He was going to send off for my Novice test! On December 19, 1979, I was granted a station license, KA5HDM; after that Buddy liked to call me, the “Hot Dog Man.” A few months later I upgraded to my current call sign; and Buddy named me, the “Chicken Fried Mouse.” It has been around for a while. I hope to keep it a little bit longer, and I have never thought about changing it.

I'm over the NV5V, The CW Memorial Club. The call sign NV5V is from Tom Shultz, one of my best friends, for I was his Elmer; he passed away due to cancer. He came out of the 11 meter band after coming over to my house over 30 years ago. Tom saw my station set up in my front room. There was a Kenwood TS-520 with a Commodore Vic 20 hooked up to it. I was working CW at the time on a Vibroplex bug and it caught Tom's eye and ear. Tom took to CW like a duck does to water. He began studying, obtained his license, and within a year could head copy over 40 wpm. He loved to work packet and CW DX. After he passed away, I found out that his call sign had not been turned in to be cancelled. His widow graciously allowed for me to have it for our club station call sign. Tom will always be remembered by many of his close friends, especially me.

In closing, my main interests are Low Band A1 (CW) and A3J (SSB), with my goals are to accomplish both 5BWAS CW/SSB; and maybe 5BWAS Angel Music (AM). I enjoy QRP construction, key restoration, vintage WWII rigs, and I believe REAL RADIOS GLOW IN THE DARK! Currently, I’m QCWA Central Oklahoma Chapter 63 “Prez” and Net Manager over the W5AS, K5DLE, and W5HXL Nets. In the past, I've served as chapter Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The W5AS Net meets on 3845 KHz every Sunday morning at 0730 hrs. The K5DLE Net meets on 147.107 MHz every Tuesday at 1900 hrs, and the W5HXL Net meets on 147.107 MHz every Thursday at 1900 hrs. If you’re on the air, or in the area, feel free to drop by and check in! You're always more than welcome.
So until then, I wish you a - VY 73 n5cfm@live.com

NEW MEMBER JOSEPH D. PROVENZA, W6UPN, #4599
Born October 6, 1928 Baltimore, MD. Spouse Domewica. ARMY 1992 to 1994 SFC. w6upn@verizon.net

NEW MEMBER ROGER A. KEPNER, W6SQQ, #4600
HOW WE GOT STARTED IN RADIO. A story of trying to communicate with a friend.

First I will establish the setting for these events. A small but unique island in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The Island of North Haven, 12 miles east of the port city of Rockland. It is about 9 miles long and 4 miles at it's widest. A mile long Fresh Water Pond and a two mile long Salt Water Estuary, known as "Pulpit Harbor Mill Stream." All unusual for a small island!

My schoolmate Alex lived about a mile down from me, and his folks did not have a telephone. Our contact with him was at school or an occasional visit to each other.

Both our folks had Broadcast Radios but none had Short Wave and in fact we hadn't heard of it and knew nothing of Ham Radio!

Alex had a close-by neighbor who knew of those things and had some magazines and books that he gave to him, and he shared with me. We each wanted to have a Radio of our own, so we started on what seemed to be the easiest thing, a Crystal Set. We had building materials such as cigar box wood, which in those days was real smooth, fine quality wood, very easy to work with. Not the pasteboards of today!

The local store had wire, solid, cotton covered, used for wiring doorbells, but just great for winding coils. Cocoa came in round pasteboard containers with no metal ends.

For switch contacts, brass headed carpet tacks, and for switch arms something made of scrap metal, or in my case from an Electro-Therapy gadget someone had cast off.

The big thing was the need of a Galena Crystal. The price in Allied Radio was about 50c, a large sum in those days, so we debated about that for a while and ordered one for each of us. I believe my father was the one who paid for them, as he was my only source of spending money. I am glad to give him credit for taking an interest in my scientific wishes, but of course I was expected to do an extra share of farm chores.

Each of us eventually got our Crystal Sets working but the funny thing was that we could not hear any Maine or Mass. stations, but only New York ones. Stranger yet was that Alex and I could not hear the same ones! I believe it was WJZ that I could hear. Using only tapped coils with no variable capacitor probably limited our tuning range.

Model T. Ford spark coils were plentiful, as were the vibrating point arms, which had the shape of a sending key.

A sawed off thread spool end glued onto the round part, and to be fancy, some leatherette on that worked great.

No. 6 dry cells were in every crank telephone, and by being on good terms with the local electrician, who also took care of the telephones, we were assured of having a good supply of cast-off cells, and sometimes an occasional B battery from the line amplifier.
To get extra life out of the cells we used a trick from local fishermen. Punch or drill a hole in the top, and pour in some salt water. Being the spark source for those old single cylinder bangers this was a very important thing to know, and it was said that more than one fisherman had come home using that emergency trick.

Alex was always making something. One time it was a microphone using two carbon rods from flashlight cells, and a short length of a double sharpened lead pencil pivoted between holes drilled near the ends, mounted through a square of cigar box wood, and on a slim piece fastened to a wood base. Solid copper wires wrapped around the inner ends, and coiled to make it more realistic completed the mike, which really did work even if not of the best quality sound.

What to use for a transformer? Yes, an all-purpose T spark coil with the points screwed down!

Listening on a nearby crystal set and connecting the microphone in the ground lead of another spark coil it was possible to hear some not very good modulation but enough to see that it would work! End of that experiment!

Trying to contact each other using spark coils and crystal sets between our homes, a mile apart, didn't work but I believe we “contacted” his, and my neighbors who had regular broadcast radios! We soon gave up on that!

Next we tried using signal lights, but trying to zero in on each other's location was a problem and until School next day we didn't know if we were successful. One morning he told me that I had lighted up the room he was in! I didn't know, so didn't try to send any message even though my "rig" had a sending key and my headlamp, from a Model T Ford had a quick heating filament, which could be keyed. A handicap with the signal light tests was that I could not see his house without going down on the point of land, seen in the picture. His house, just barely visible was hard to focus on.

One day he told me that he had discovered many coils of cast-off telephone wire and was going to build a line up through the woods on the south side of the Mill-Stream (left side in the picture). It was all pasture, but the problem of crossing the stream at both ends still remained, and he gave up after stringing quite a lot through the trees. Whether any remains today, 80 years later, I have never been to check!

One day when I visited, he showed me his Tesla Coil that, as you guessed, had a "T" coil for its exciter.

Another time he had built an X-Ray machine from plans in a magazine. It had been discovered that certain early vacuum tubes emitted X-Rays. Couldn't be sure if that worked as he didn't have any film to expose. I forget if it was a 01A or perhaps a 71A type in common use at that time.

-CONTINUED ON PAGE 20-
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  W1CPF
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
2006-2007 NOW TROY WIDEMAN  W6HV

**VICE PRESIDENT**

1947-1952 ROLAND BOURNE  ****W1ANA
1953-1958 CHARLES ELLSWORTH  *****W1TU
1959-1961 LAWRENCE DUNN  W2CL/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
2006-2007 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
Assistant LEE MANN  K6KP
1977-1978 RAY MEYERS  W6MLZ
1979-1986 A. J. GIORDANO  W2JE
1987-1991 BERT AYERS  W6CL
1992-2006 WESLEY RANDLES  W4COW

This report compiled from the best records found.

*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.
OLD OLD TIMER (95) JOE KEESE, W8VSK, #1787
GOOD FIST PER W6HV, IN RECENT QSO.

4" DIA. PATCH  see Pg.3

ORDER BADGE PG. 26

New member Pat O’Brien
K8LEN, #4591, see pg.4

Bob Roske, N0UF #4081
See BIO on page 5 & 6

Were you licensed at least 25 yrs
ago & licensed now? Then you
should join The Quarter
Century Wireless Association.
QCWA INC
PO Box 3247 FRAMINGHAM, MA. 01705
www.qcwa.org

To replace lost pin or upgrade pin
see Pg. 3. (80 yr pin is free)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT TROY W6HV

Dave Hayes VE3JX
#4483
To ORDER OOTC QSLS
SEE PAGE 20

W6JNK
Milbert "Bert" Wells
DALLAS, TEXAS

QCWA
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEE W1MGP PAGE 11. “A” AND “B” MARK OUR 2 HOMES

CRYSTAL SET CLOSE UP

CRystal SET AND FORD SPARK COIL

POINTS END OF SPARK COIL USED TO MAKE SENDING KEY

Model-T HEADLIGHT SIGNAL LIGHT 1930s
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We should be well into the current sunspot cycle with good operating conditions. However, it sure seems as though something is amiss. NASA has released a rather dismal forecast revision:

"The current prediction for Sunspot Cycle 24 gives a smoothed sunspot number maximum of about 69 in June of 2013. We are currently over two and a half years into Cycle 24. Three consecutive months with average daily sunspot numbers above 40 has raised the predicted maximum above the 64.2 for the Cycle 14 maximum in 1907. The predicted size would make this the smallest sunspot cycle in over 100 years." See http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml for the story. There are some scientists suggesting that we are due for a return of the Maunder Minimum including its mini ice age effects. We aren't likely to see better propagation in our lifetime if these predictions come close to the mark.

On a far brighter side, I attended the semiannual luncheon of OOTC Chapter 2 at the beautiful Long Beach Yacht Club this past May. The luncheon coincidentally fell on the same day as my birthday. To my surprise David Flesh, W6IBF, the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, and Paul Schinnerer, AB6TB, Chapter President, had arranged a special birthday cake. My hats off and my thanks go to all those involved in such a wonderful surprise at the luncheon!  

The luncheon also had an excellent presentation by Marty Woll, N6VI, ARRL Vice Director for the Southwestern Division, concerning the future of amateur radio as seen from the ARRL perspective. David Flesh, W6IBF, provided a bio of Mart Woll and a synopsis of his presentation.

73, Troy, W6HV

SILENT KEYS

LEO I. MEYERSON, W0GFQ, #0707, THE OOTC DIRECTOR FOR DISTRICT 0 BECAME A SILENT KEY 4/13/2011 AT AGE 100.

David Flesh, Secretary/Treasurer, OOTC, Chapter 2 reports

From Lenore Sussman, daughter

It is with regret that I am informing you of the death of my dad, Hugh S. Allen, W6MFC #1657. He died Jan 11, 2011 at the age of 93-years old and he will be greatly missed. There is a memorial site on Tributes.com under Hugh Silas Allen, Jr. Please pass this along to the club members, too. There are places for friends to write notes of tribute to us. Also, there is quite a lot of information on Hugh's activities as a Ham Radio Operator which I think fellow hams would enjoy reading. By the way, my mother, Elvira is also deceased as of 2005. Thanks for being such a wonderful part of Dad's life.
From Barry Cammer, brother of Leslie S Cammer, WB6OLL, #4085

Les passed away 4/28/2011. Les suffered with cancer for 6 months. We send you much gratitude for your friendship, pen-pal relationship or other manner in which you knew Les. We are interested in knowing about your relationship with our brother and we would love to hear from you. Barry, 2815 McGee Av Berkeley CA 94703. Ruth Gordon, sister, and Paul Cammer, brother, 6427 Colchester Rd Fairfax Station, VA 22039

REPORTED SILENT KEYS

PLEASE REPORT ANY “SILENT KEYS” TO OOTC.US OR OOTC 3191 DARVANY DR. DALLAS, TX 75220-1611. CALLS MAY HAVE BEEN REISSUED.

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NEW MEMBERS

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BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER.

Notice: Please report any SKs to ootc@me.com or 3191 Darvany Dr. Dallas, TX 75220-1611. Some calls listed may have been reissued.

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**BEVERAGE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 -**

Along the way we had discovered that if we tuned up to the very top of the Broadcast Band on our folks sets we could hear other things going on, Police Radio, and the low end of the 160 Meter Amateur band!
Our first real awareness of Short Waves.

The nearest Amateurs we found were at Stonington to the East and Rockland to the West and Castline to the North. It was really interesting listening.

We both decided we would have to do something about being able to really tune in the Short Waves, and with help we each bought a Kit for building what turned out to be Regenerative receivers that could, with proper plug-in coils, cover much of the Short Wave spectrum. I got mine from Harrison Radio in NYC. His was an ACE, but from where I don't recall. Mine had a metal chassis but his was on a wooden base. New discovery, "Hand Capacity"! Once hands were in place and something got tuned in, hold still!

Eventually some of these things got solved and we had great fun listening to far-away places, also the nearby ones. Then the great day came and we were graduated from High School and went on our Class Trip to Boston, Mass. After the others had gone home, I stayed a few days more with relatives in Cambridge.

I went to all the Radio places I could find, including the Cruft Lab. of Harvard University, where I saw some experiment they were doing with a "Doorknob" tube on UHF. They showed me their Radio equipped panel truck they could go to various locations in to test signal strengths, using portable antennas.

It had an HRO-5, which I believe they said, was the first one produced by National Co. of Malden, Mass.

In Boston I discovered some Radio Stores, such as Radio Shack, Brattle Radio, Ben's Radio and several others.

I bought a brand new ARRL "Radio Handbook", price $1. and "How to Become a Radio Amateur", price 25c!

While looking in the window of Ben's, which was near the corner of Washington St., on Boylston St. a fellow spoke to me and asked if I was interested in Radio. He said his name was Harold Sweet, Amateur W1JEF, and he was attending a Radio School on an upper floor of that very building! He offered to take me there, which I accepted and that was my introduction to Mass. Radio and Tel. School, which both Alex and I attended a year or so later!

But, that is not all of my story. After we got back to the Island we took a Sunday Excursion trip to Stonington where we met Ed, W1HSO, Ken, W1EFX and Bonie, W1EF, who showed us the super Ham Station of Howard, W1ITC, which had very tall stepped wooden masts, ship-rigged, and a transmitter with big final tubes. Howard was out of town that day but Bonie showed us that when the microphone was turned it said W1ITC on one side and W1EF on the other.

Ed, W1HSO, met us at the Steamboat wharf and drove us around Deer Isle, which was still an Island, but would soon be connected to the mainland by a bridge.
At his house he had some tall stepped masts also, and a huge knife switch on back of the house which he said was kept in the grounded position when not in use, because big antennas attract lightning.

Then he took us into his Radio room, which we learned is always called a "shack" even if it is in the very best room! His transmitter was in a wooden rack standing about 4 ft tall, and with a plywood panel with meters and switches of all sorts, and a carbon telephone mike. His pride and joy was a receiver in a black crackle cabinet. I believe it was a new superhet, whose brand name escapes me at this time.

He turned on the transmitter and put out a call and got several stations calling all at once! We didn't realize it at the time but it apparently was all prearranged as we had written Ed to tell him we would be coming. There was Elmer, W1HKP, of Jonesport, Cal, W1UG of Machias, Olin, W1AQB, of Millbridge and of course, Ken, W1EFX of Stonington.

A real demonstration of Ham Radio! Ed put both Alex and I on the mike but about the most we said was our name and "I will turn this back to Ed now". Ed told us that his son was Chad, W1ATE, and that is how he happened to get licensed so they could contact.

We had dinner with Bonie, W1EF and XYL. He did Radio repairing and told us that it always pays to use the best quality parts such as Centralab resistors and volume controls. His receiver was an early Hammarlund Pro.with plug in coils.

When we got home about the first thing we were thinking about was to build a transmitter rack with a plywood panel just like Ed's! Yes it did happen, but it was not for several years later when I became W1MGP and Alex W1MIR. From then on we could really communicate, first on CW which Alex liked best, but eventually on Phone. Then WWII intervened and he shipped out as a Radio Operator on a Liberty ship, and myself in the Army Signal Corps.

Ham Radio came to a halt for the duration, but some of those early experiences really helped both of us.

earlier days. Long distance telephone calls were rare, and Cell Phones, Computers and all the things, taken for granted today just didn't exist, but Radio Hams could and would handle messages to about any place at no cost to the sender. They were also ready to relay messages in an emergency when needed. Many of the people who had radios that could tune in Ham bands would tune in and listen to our contacts.

On the Islands of Penobscot Bay, and all up and down the Coast listening on the Ship to Shore channels was a favorite pastime. One could also tune to the Coast Guard frequencies. Most of these along with the Police were just below or just above the 160 Meter Ham band.

A great listening area that now, 80 years later, doesn't have as much attraction because most services have gone to VHF and UHF.
Let me say here that things were much different in those days. Nothing to do with Radio, but another word about those wonderful Model T Ford spark coils. I had mine mounted in a wooden box along with the No. 6 Cells and a panel with a control switch and two insulated leads with clips on the ends.

In those days we could buy all the Fireworks we could afford, from the smallest to the largest Cannon Crackers, Cherry Bombs and other powerful ones.

I had obtained several pipe-fittings from the local Plumber and mounted them. I had mine mounted with its fuse between the points of a spark plug and set this off at a safe distance with a very gratifying increase of volume. A very primitive Electric Cannon!

Using the same Control Box it was easy to safely ignite Sky Rockets and all those other great Fireworks.

I really think we had more real fun learning and doing things in those days than is possible for anyone now, with everything commercially made, and taken for granted.

The Rules Say...John B. Johnston, W3BE

CROSS CHANNEL OK?

Q. I recently monitored two hams talking cross-channel using two different repeaters. The first ham was speaking on one repeater and listening to the second ham on the other repeater. The second ham was doing the same in reverse. I thought Section 97.113 prohibited such cross-channeling above 30 MHz. Is that correct?

A. Section 97.113 does not list cross-channeling as a prohibited transmission. The applicable rule, rather, is Section 97.101(b): Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies.

The issue, therefore, is whether or not any particular arrangement – cross-channel or otherwise is making the most effective use of our amateur service frequencies. There are situations – most notably split-channel HF DXing - where our amateur service community seems to almost universally endorse cross-channeling as a good amateur practice. If another ham’s communication was precluded because of two repeaters being occupied for one conversation, there could be a conflict with Section 97.101(b).

Q. For our club’s VHF net, our club’s station location is changed each week to the then current net control’s QTH. When acting as net control, should the net control operators identify using their own call signs or should the net control identify using the club’s call sign?
A. That's a question to be answered by the license trustee of your club station license and the licensees of the primary stations serving as the net control station.

See BE Informed No. 4 for a discussion of the several issues that you should be considering.

Q. I want to access more reliably our local 2-meter repeater. Can I use a 2-meter/70-centimeter transceiver in my car to relay the signal from my 70 cm handheld to access our local repeater?

A. Yes. There are several ways that could be done compliantly. The easiest way might be to use one of the several available 2-m/70-cm transceivers that transmit on one band while receiving on the other. You could configure a remotely controlled relay system using such a mobile station operating under the telecommand provisions in Section 97.213. Read Be Informed No. 45 REMOTE BASE, REPEATER AND OTHER SYSTEMS. Use your hand-held as an auxiliary.

Q. A friend uses a 440 handheld while mobile to reach his home-based cross-band repeater. His home transceiver in turn re-transmits his signal on 2-meters. He also uses this technique at home as he moves about. What do the rules say about this practice?

A. There are at least two compliant possibilities. One is that his UHF handheld transceiver is used as a point-to-point auxiliary station and his home station is his remote base. Another possibility is that his home transceiver is being used as a repeater.

Q. Does my remotely controlled mobile station have to transmit a station ID?

A. Yes. Section 97.119(a) says that each amateur station must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at specified intervals.

Q. My mobile station doesn't have an automatic IDer. How can the ID announcement be made?

A. One how-to would be to rely upon the same station identification announcement for both stations. After all, you would be the station licensee and control operator of both stations.

Q. I want to allow my ham friend W3** to use my mobile station relay K3** as its control operator. How would he ID the two stations?

A. He would have to find a way to comply with the station identification rules in Section 97.103.

One way is for him to identify both the originating and relay auxiliary stations with something such as: This is W3** through auxiliary station K3**.

BE Informed! Have a question about the amateur service rules? Visit http://www.w3BEInformed.org; and e-mail john@johnston.net.
When I was in High School (1930s) propagation was very good. I had homemade receiver & transmitter, a VFO that started on the broadcast band, buffered and doubled all the way to 10 meters. It was powered 24/7 and was stable, no drift, in a separate box with vernier knob, power supply external. It was put on frequency by zero beat with incoming signal. A homemade receiver with plug-in coils for 160 to ten meters. Homemade antennas. A doublet for 160 that traversed neighbors back yard on both sides (with their permission). Dipoles for 80, 40, 20 strung from a A-Frame on top of the house to another in an open field behind us. Also a fixed 10 meter “8JK” beam and a Sterba Curtain (ten half-waves in phase) for 10 meters, I boiled wood dowels in wax for the phasing and matching stub spreaders. The curtain was one continuous length of copper wire and could de-ice the antenna from basement by connecting filament transformer to coax. The first hamming was with the 160 meter dipole, a crystal controlled modulated tri-tet 59 tube, The telephone carbon mike and transmit switch wires were fed from basement through a hole in the floor behind parents broadcast radio in the living room. It tuned the 160-meter band (with a little help from me). The 5 watts (+-) reached out 10 miles west of us to Kansas City, Liberty, MO. and stations in nearby Kansas.

Prior to this, I bootlegged with a friend about a half-mile away. We both built transceivers using a single duo-triode type 19 tube and vertical dipoles on 5 meters.

On 10 meters, kept Sunday schedules with Brickie, ZS5T, S. Africa. Short skip all over the Midwest in the evening and into the night. Early mornings Europe and afternoons Hawaii and more. Of course, it was beautiful AM and narrow band FM. Shared 11-meter band with the diathermy machines. Early Sunday the only 10-meter noise was ignition when a car started somewhere, fading when it drove away. The 10 half-waves in phase had a matching stub hanging down from the middle with coax attached. It ran along the back yard to a basement side window. Winter time was cozy by the furnace. The coax was covered with snow.

My dad put the A-frame on top of the steep house roof, quite a guy. Mother and father supported me in my quest to become a high-speed radio-telegraph operator. Dad gave me a touch-typing book to work with. They bought a Ted McElroy code practice machine, inked tape on large reels, photocell keyed audio oscillator. I had code speed copied on “Mill” to around 50 WPM. I got a job with a Dallas TX based Airline that lasted 48 years, 1940 to 1988. 73 Bert W5JNK #2951 Secretary/Editor
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(see sample on page 14)

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My first amateur call was___________ Other calls_______________________
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CB ( ) Year_______ Describe it________________________________________
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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 join as an Associate Member. If you get ham license later, send HQ your call letters and you will be a full member.

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 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 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_________________
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