

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing: WRRRC ARES net...Every Monday at 19:30L, 147.015, positive offset and 100 Hz PL tone.

Ongoing: All sorts of Ham Radio celebratory activities for the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-gso-party#QSLs> or <http://www.arrl.org/centennial>

March 11: You're all invited to come out and enjoy the 3rd meeting of our 10th year as a club. We start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. The program will consist of a presentation on how to build web sites and their value to organizations and individuals.

There is always a wealth of information at www.westriverradio.org—Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC_Pages/prgmplan.html

March 19: The first quarterly Hospital Drill will be held at local area hospitals. These are short affairs, an hour or so. Contact John, notox@comcast.net if you can help out.

March 29: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC Board of Directors at the Panasian restaurant in Brattleboro, VT by Staples. All our welcome. Bring your ideas for what club activities or suggestions to make your club even better than it is. Whether there are a few or many we always have fun.

June 27–29, 2014: It's spring (OK, I lie a little.) and the thoughts of young men, in heart, at least, turn to thoughts of Field Day. Consider yourself invited to this popular operating event.



NANCY KOTT—WZ8C A Silent Key

Your editor brings you sad news, indeed. Nancy was the Head Honcho, mover, and driving force behind the North American branch of FISTS International—www.fists.org

I've been a member of FISTS for a long time. My member number is 5173 and current membership numbers are at 15,000 plus. Our club is a member, #11450 and the certificate is in the station cabinet.



I had the very good fortune to meet and talk with Nancy at the FIST's booth at Dayton in 2008.

Requiescat in Pace.

Digital Dispatch— March 2014

TIP OF THE MONTH

Never miss a good chance to shut up.
Will Rogers

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

It's All About Love

I'd better get some things defined right off the bat. I know you guys and can see where your imaginations are leading you.

Know right from the get go that this is about our wonderful hobby, Ham radio.

Here's how. We're also known by another term besides Hams. Actually, your neighbor probably has a lot of words to describe you, especially if your signals tend to wreak havoc with his TV or hi fi system. I'm thinking of a more endearing term - how about *Radio Amateur*?

The word *amateur* can be used in a derogatory term, such as, "He's a real amateur when it comes to fixing his car." The connotation is, of course, that a professional would do the job right. This is usually the case. I sure wouldn't want an amateur orthopedic surgeon carving a new hip for me,

But the word amateur doesn't always denote sloppiness or shoddy work. The word itself comes from the Latin word for *love*, namely *amour*. See the point I'm driving at? *Amour* = love. An *amateur* is someone who does whatever they do because they love it - no money involved. In fact, the rules governing our hobby state that we cannot be paid for what we do.

Used in this sense amateur actually becomes a complimentary term. We like what we do so much that we do it without pay. Each year we have at least one "roundtable" type meeting where we take turns telling our fellow Hams about the newest piece of gear we bought, or about a new antenna we've hung. I'd like to hear some comments on what we like or *love* this fantastic hobby.

In the meantime, if an when you hear someone derogatorily referred to as an amateur be brave and let them know what being an amateur is all about.

ANOTHER GOOD DEED DONE

On February 26 friends and members of the WRRRC spent the good part of another day paying their dues as Ham radio operators. Thanks to all who participated.

As RACES members several of us participated in another VY drill. The plant will be closing before too long so we're not sure what the future holds for us. As long as there is a cadre of Hams interested in Emcomm, though, communications, when needed, will be supplied.

Now my definition of paying dues goes thusly. As Amateur Radio operators we have access to some very valuable spectrum. One reason we do is that over the years Hams have proven their capabilities in providing assistance during emergency situations. Does Hurricane Irene ring a bell?



The emergency services provided by Hams shows that we are a public spirited group. If you'd like to get involved in this kind of Ham activity your services would be greatly appreciated. Give a shout to any of the following to get the ball rolling

n1tox@comcast.net - John Borichevsky

ka1zqx@svcable.com - Tim Bell

hagertysse@myfairpoint.net - Bro Frank Hagerty.

A BIT OF HISTORY

[Ed - Here's a brief summary of the past taken from the last ARRL e-letter. Al Brogdon, W1AB, is responsible for these tasty tidbits of information. You can subscribe to many mailings like this by going to <http://arri.org> and signing up.]

Radio History: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

Following the resumption of Amateur Radio activities after World War I ensued a thundering herd of advances in the state of the Amateur Radio art. Here are some highlights from that period.

April 1922 -- The first contact was made between California and Hawaii.

September 1922 -- 1CCZ worked every US call district in one night, the first time that had ever been accomplished.

November 1922 -- Another record-breaking relay was accomplished, from 1AW to 9AWM to Hawaiian 6ZAC and back to 1AW in 4 minutes 18 seconds.

June 1923 -- The first expedition using Amateur Radio sailed. The schooner *Bowdoin* (WNP) had Don Mix, 1TS, aboard as its operator. This and later *Bowdoin* expeditions were searching for the land mass that was thought to exist at the North Pole.

September 1923 -- VK2CM contacted ZL4AA (a 1500 mile path), with VK2CM running 4 *milliwatts* on CW!

November 1923 -- 1MO and 1XAM worked F8AB, the first transatlantic contact.

December 1923 -- 1EH made contacts with England, Italy, and Holland.

May 1924 -- The first contact was made between New Zealand and Argentina, a new DX record of 6400 miles. The same month saw the first contact between North and South America.

July 1924 -- All previous shortwave work had required "experimental" licenses. After considerable groundwork

by the ARRL, the government allowed shortwave work by all amateurs, with band assignments of 1.5 to 2.0, 3.5 to 4.0, 7.0 to 8.0, 14.0 to 16.0, and 56.0 to 64.0 MHz.

September 1924 -- The first confirmed contact was made between California and New Zealand.

December 1924 -- The first *daylight* transcontinental signals were heard, from Connecticut to California, as John Reinartz, 1QP, made experimental transmissions on the new 20 meter band.

April 1925 -- The first published article on the theory of shortwave propagation appeared in *QST*, authored by John Reinartz, 1QP. Also in April, the International Amateur Radio Union was formed at a conference in Paris, and Hiram Percy Maxim was elected as its first president.

May 1925 -- The first contact was made between Australia and England, during daylight hours on 20 meters.

April 1926 -- The Worked All Continents award was first offered; it garnered eight initial members.

May 1927 -- The first annual ARRL DX Contest was held.

March 1928 -- The 10 meter band was opened to Amateur Radio use.

These were just a few highlights from that wonderful era of advancement of the radio art by amateurs. Next week: On to the 1930s. -- Al Brogdon, W1AB

KL7USA

Now is that a call to die for or what? I operated that station in 1978 just after I had become a Ham.

Bill Reiter, KL7ITI, one of my Elmers, was then a Major in the Air Force, He invited me out to Elmendorf Air Base to visit their Ham and emergency radio set up.

Now what Ham in their right mind would turn down an invitation like that? Not this one!

After showing me the station Bill said, "Why don't you sit down and operate a bit." Another invitation that any right minded Ham couldn't say no to.

It didn't take long after tossing out a couple of CQ CQ CQ de KL7USA calls with a full gallon backing you up to be swamped in a real hurry.

What a thrill for a new Ham. I've been hooked on the hobby ever since.

I bring this up because on March 2, while browsing the 10 meter phone band I heard KL7USA loud and clear. A bit of beam rotating and on the second call, barefoot, I might add, he came back to me.

I didn't need it, but nearly 36 years after becoming a Ham I had just been given yet more proof that this is one great hobby. You just never know who'll you'll find out there.

(Ed: It's always time for more late breaking news from our fearless reporters at Ham Hijinks.

Local Ham Told To "Turn Up The Mic Gain"

By WB0RUR on the scene

BILLINGSFIELD, Fla.— Local ham radio operator Stephen Blakely is confused and concerned over the purchase of a new microphone.

"I've not been able to make any contacts on the local repeater since I bought my mobile headset," says Blakely.

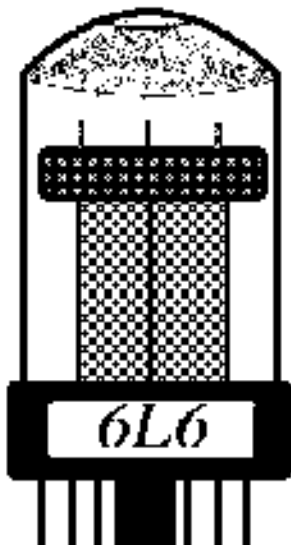
The headset – which looks great, fits comfortably and has a frequency response, from 30 Hz to 19,000 Hz – was purchased from a well-known national retailer of ham radio gear.

Although the high-tech black and chrome unit came with a detailed set of instructions, Blakely failed to read them and discarded the pamphlet with the unit's packaging.

Now, he's at a loss about what to do when fellow hams say "Turn up your mic gain!"

The newly licensed ham says the topic of "mic gain" was not covered in his entry-level ham radio class. And due to the headset failure he can't respond and ask anyone what they are talking about.

Blakely says he'll continue to listen to the local VHF repeater for now, but may get out of the hobby since it "seems to be very technical."



**Remember when real radios
glowed in the dark?**

Ham Tells Joke AGAIN

By WB0RUR on the scene

PETALUMA, California– A Sonoma County amateur radio operator has told the same joke 1,742 times on the local VHF repeater.

As part of his daily ritual, Jonathon Cartwright announces his call sign during the morning commute roundtable on the 146.91 MHz repeater. If there is no immediate response from others, he cracks "Guess I should have worn more deodorant!"

The side splitting humor is so frequent that many hams now silently mouth the joke to themselves while stuck in southern California rush hour traffic.

"It started as an absent-minded remark," says the 52-year-old forklift operator "I had no idea it would become such a big part of my daily life."

A spokesman for the Guinness Book of World Records says Cartwright is closing in on a world record.

"At his current joke-telling rate, he'll achieve the record within 2.6 years," says Guinness' Director of Notifications Oliver Newcastle-Ipswich.

Cartwright says he tried to change the joke a few times, but his comic forays into other subjects (80's television or 70's music) simply fell flat with the morning commuters.

He says he will continue to run the forklift at the Sonoma County Winery for a few more years, so listeners should expect to hear the deodorant joke until he breaks the record.

"Then maybe I'll change it to 'Guess I should have taken a bath.'" he quickly adds.

Reporters note: Newcastle-Ipswich says the current record holder is Delbert Cole of Kissimmee, Florida, who told the same joke 3,272 times as net control of the "Swan Radio Collectors Net." After each station check-in, Cole confirmed the station with the phrase "Well, I'll swan!"

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



Be forewarned!

THE APRIL ISSUE IS NEXT