



September 2014

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club
WM3PEN 146.685 Mhz Repeater
K3RJC 444.9 Mhz Repeater
K3FI - CLUB CALLS - WM3PEN
Web Site <http://www.harcnet.org>



Shortwave Listening in the 21st Century

September 18, 2014

Noted SWL expert Richard Cuff to Speak at September 18 Meeting

Richard Cuff has been an active Shortwave Listener (SWL) for nearly 30 years, with a primary focus on programming content and programming diversity. He has been co-chair of the Winter Shortwave Listeners' Festival, the largest gathering of SWLs in North America, since 2000; the Fest will celebrate its 27th anniversary in 2015.



(www.dxing.info)

Richard will talk about how shortwave listening has evolved in recent years, focusing on the shift in broadcaster ideologies since the fall of Communism, the challenges posed by developments in broadcasting and listening technologies, and the limits imposed by governmental fiscal austerity initiatives. He will touch on shortwave broadcasting (SWBC) DXing, Utilities, Pirate radio, and "easy listening" opportunities.

Shortwave Broadcasting "of Marginal and Continuously Declining Impact," Committee Concludes

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) Special Committee on the Future of Shortwave Broadcasting foresees a dim outlook for the medium. The Committee this month released its [assessment](#) of the current and projected use of shortwave radio as a platform for programming by US international media.

"United States international media must optimize delivery by audience/market," one main finding concluded. "While there is still a critical need for shortwave in key countries, it is a medium of marginal and continuously declining impact in most markets." The report said that even in countries where shortwave radio will enjoys significant usage levels, "audiences will migrate to other platforms as they become more accessible." Among other things, the Committee reviewed audience-based research, including analysis of user experiences and user choices, as well as opportunities and limits of the medium. It also examined "the characteristics and listening experience of shortwave users in the BBG's target markets, the use of shortwave radio by the BBG's networks, the networks' relative success in reaching their target audiences through shortwave, and the costs of operating the BBG's shortwave transmitting facilities."

(Continued pg. 3)

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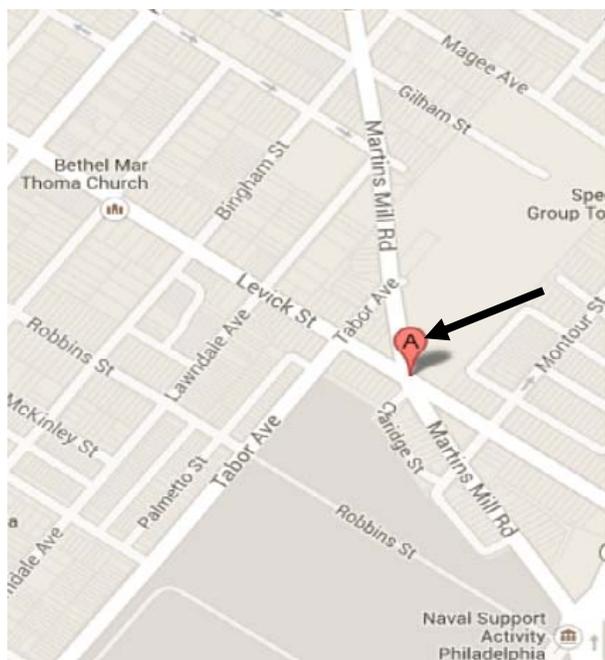
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H.A.R.C. Monthly Meetings - The Board of Directors meets on the 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM (Even number months). General meetings are held the 3rd. Thursday @ 8:00 PM. Pathway Bldg, Philadelphia Protestant Home, 6401 Martins Mill Road at Tabor Rd . Phila PA. Picnic in August. Holiday Dinner in December.



H.A.R.C maintains the 146.685 repeater located @ Univ. of PA., Phila PA with inputs in Abington, N.E. Phila, and Cherry Hill, NJ; More Club Information & Member Applications can be had by contacting any of the Directors via E-mail. WM3PEN@arrl.org, the web page <http://www.harcnet.org> or writing to HARC 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

Keep up on the latest HARC news by checking out the Club website www.HARCNET.org
Upcoming Events

Shortwave Listening in the 21st Century – September 18th

PHILA ARES INFORMATION

All amateurs interested in participating should check into the Phila ARES Net, Sunday's at 9:00 PM, hosted on the Phil-Mont Repeater System; 147.030 MHz (+offset 91.5 PL) ;444.80 MHz (+offset 186.2 PL) When control operators are available, Echolink node 29742, WU3I-L, is on the repeater. Backup link is KB3IV-L.

All interested amateurs are welcomed and encouraged to check in for more information. There is always a different topic of interest to the amateur community discussed with an informal round table of comments and suggestions.

Look forward to having all check in on Sunday nights @ 9:00 pm. See web site for more information.

- Visit the Philadelphia ARES web site
<http://www.harcnet.org/aresindex.html>



VE SESSIONS

PhilMont Mobile Radio Club has testing in Ambler, PA on the 4th Thursday of every month. Exams , 1414 E. Butler Pike in Ambler, PA.

Registration begins at 7pm.

Warminster Amateur Radio Club has testing the last Wednesday evening of each month except August and December. The sessions are at the Warminster Recreational and Educational Center on Little Lane, and start promptly at 7:00 PM (registration 6:45 PM).

Bryn Mawr - quarterly on a Saturday. Contact Bob Lees, W3ZQN, rjlees@aol.com

Callsign Change

**Robert, AB3UU
Is now N3FJ**

HF AWARDS MANAGER

Are you getting close to having all 50 states confirmed for the Worked All States award or working enough grid squares for to qualify for the VUCC Award? As a HARC service you can now have your QSL cards verified by Bob, WA3PZO, and not have to ship the cards to ARRL Headquarters. You must be an ARRL member to qualify for the awards. Additional information and links can be found on the HARC website (www.harcnet.org)

The panel recommended that the Broadcasting Board of Governors take "an aggressive approach to reduce or eliminate shortwave broadcasts where there is either minimal audience reach or the audience is not a target audience based on the BBG's support of US foreign policy."

The report said that its evidence suggested that declining use of shortwave radio is primarily due to the availability of high-quality content on "preferred platforms" such as AM and FM radio, podcasts, and mobile streaming, which are more widely

used for audio consumption.

The committee found that shortwave use does not



increase during times of crisis. "Audiences continue to use their existing platforms (TV, FM, and the Internet) or seek out anti-censorship tools, including online firewall circumvention, private chat software, flash drives, and DVDs to access content," the report said.

The report also said that shortwave radio was "a relatively expensive platform to operate and maintain" and that digital shortwave radio (ie, Digital Radio Mondiale or DRM) "is unlikely to become an established mass media distribution methodology in enough of the BBG's current or future markets to justify the costs."

The committee said it largely supports the reductions in shortwave radio broadcasts previously approved by the Board. Those include [recent cutbacks](#) in a number of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia broadcasts. But, the committee added that given the current situation in Ukraine and nearby states with significant Russian-speaking populations, it recommended that the BBG revise its fiscal year 2014 operating plan to ensure that

"shortwave broadcasts in Russian to Russia and the Caucasus be continued at current levels, subject to re-evaluation during FY16 budget formulation processes." (via ARRL Letter)

WM3PEN GETS SWL Reports

The 13 Colonies Special Event is announced in the shortwave publication NAWSA so its common that we get a few SWL reports. Some are a qsl card. Others are in the form of a letter. Here is one example.

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to report reception of WM3PEN on 2 July 2014 from 0052 to 0115 hours UTC on a frequency of 7225 kHz, operating in the LSB mode. This logging took place during the 13 Colonies Special Event and I am happy to report a clean sweep!

After tuning in at 0052 UTC, I heard KP4C working WM3PEN, followed by AK4TW. I continued listening and at 0115 UTC, I heard KC2WWY contact WM3PEN.

Reception conditions at my listening post here in northern New Jersey were good, despite frequent static bursts. I recorded a S9 signal on my Eton e1 portable receiver, attached to an external PAR Electronics End-Fed Z EF-SWL antenna, which provides very good results on the 40 and 41 meter band.

I have been a SWL'er/DX'er since 1968 and received the call sign WDX2RVO from Hank Bennett in 1969. Since there are so few SWBC stations on the air these days, I no longer have QSL cards, which used to be quite popular.

If my report is correct, please send me your qsl card of verification, for which I have enclosed a SASE.

Thank you very kindly and 73's.

Edward Insinger
Summit, NJ

Over 500 of the WM3PEN 13 Colonies Special Event QSL Cards received can be view on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/100929051@N08/sets/72157646664045725/>



Dutch SWL station reporting reception of WM3PEN during the 13 Colonies Event.

13 Colonies Event Update

The 2014 13 Colonies Special Event is starting to wind down. At the end of August WM3PEN received 563 QSL cards and 1441 EQSLs. As time permits qsl records will be checked to see if we can apply for additional levels of the US County Hunters award and the CQ Worked All Prefix (WPX) award.



Looking Forward to 2015

Plans are already being made for the 2015 – 13 Colonies Special Event. In the Philadelphia area this has grown into one of the largest multi-club member events.

The 2015 Certificate will feature Founders and Patriots of the Republic. Next year the British will join us. The newest bonus station will be staffed by the Durham & District Amateur Radio Society G4EUZ. They will be using the special event call "GB13COL". They are also writing an article about their participation for the RSGB Journal. A contact with GB13COL will net you a "Union Jack English flag" as an endorsement on the certificate.

Pennsylvania "67" Challenge Award

Amateur Radio operators around the world have the opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania "67" Challenge. The Challenge, sponsored by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, is to make contact with all 67 Pennsylvania Counties. The Challenge is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of individual station capabilities. All contacts must be 2-way communications made in real time. These contacts may be on any Amateur Radio band/mode.

Contacts made using repeating devices such as FM repeaters, Amateur satellites, moon-bounce, and keyboard-to-keyboard contacts through digipeaters/nodes are valid, because these QSOs are made in real or near-real time. Contacts using IRLP, Echolink, or D-Star are valid as long as a radio is being used by both operators. All contacts must be made from the same county.

As an incentive Pennsylvania "67" Challenge certificates may be earned by working stations in 20, 40, 60, or all 67 Counties. Paper or electronic QSLs are acceptable. The contacts can be verified by a local club officer or mailed to the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club.

Complete rules are posted on the HARC website. Questions on the Award can be directed to HARC at WM3PEN@ARRL.NET.

NE Phila Youth Run Sunday, October 19 NE Philadelphia Airport

It's that time of year for HARC to support northeast Philadelphia Youth by helping provide route and safety communications in the area of the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. This will be HARC's 11th year to support the 5 mile run and 2 mile walk. The walk starts at 8:15 and the run at 9:00 am. HARC members need to be on site by 7 AM. Our work is finished between 10:30 and 11. The event organizers are very appreciative of our efforts. Each year HARC is mentioned in the program booklet and receives several plugs by the public address announcer. To help out contact Rich, AB3EO or Bob, WA3PZO.



ARRL Atlantic Division Elections this Fall

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar will be stepping down when his term ends on December 31. Edgar has served as Division Director since 2006. Prior to that he served as Vice Director of the Division and Western Pennsylvania Section Manager. Two candidates are hoping to succeed Edgar in the Atlantic Division. They are current Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, and Phil Theis, K3TUF, who ran for the office in 2011. A Google web search on W3TOM's work in the Division produced no results. The results did show

that W3TOM is known for RVing and ham radio. Tom is a past Maryland-DC ARRL Section Manager. Phil, K3TUF, is currently the President of the Mt. Airy VHF Society (Packrats) and is active on all bands, RACES/ARES, and homebrewing. He recently spoke at the ARRL Convention in Hartford, CT. Phil spoke at a HARC meeting last year and supplied some info which you will find below.

There is a three-way race for the Vice Director's position. Running are Scott Bauer, W2LC, who served previously as Western New York Section Manager; Bob Famiglio, K3RF, the current Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager, and John Mueller, K2BT, the current Western New York SM.

In ARRL Division elections it is rare to have both the Director and Vice Director from the same section.

EPA SM K3RF has focused on his area of interests of emergency communications and the law. Now in his second term as EPA Section Manager he has failed to assemble an entire leadership team and only promotes himself and his areas of interest.

The Director and Vice Director represent all ARRL members. Not just those who share similar interests. Both NY candidates take an interest in all aspects of the hobby. It is suggested that you read their statements when your ballot arrives and vote for candidates that will represent all of amateur radio.



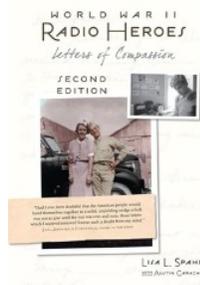
The lifeblood of amateur radio is the affiliated clubs of the ARRL. Here is the cradle for all new licensees and the place where we go to share our interests and experience the wonderful social and technical aspects of our hobby. Clubs are the key to growth in amateur radio—not just raw license numbers, but actual knowledge and skills. They are also key to the health and growth of the League.

Since they are so important, I believe that the League needs to pay careful attention to the affiliated clubs and consider and act on their ideas and concerns. Club input is an important tool in the development of amateur radio.

Let's use the clubs as a communications conduit to League activities and include clubs in the process of decision making at the highest level, to give every amateur who is a member of an affiliated club a feeling of inclusion.

Affiliation with the League needs to be seen as a significant benefit to every amateur radio club. When elected, I intend to use the office of Atlantic Division Director as a means to convey the benefits of the ARRL to each affiliated club, and bring every member of each club in closer to the League policy formation process.

Please see my website for more details:
k3tuf.com



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A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

(From the ARRL Letter. By Al Brogdon, WIAB)

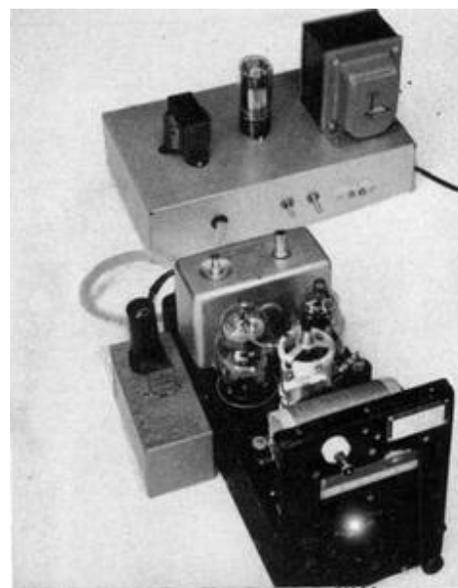
Let's continue our stroll through ham radio in the early 1950s.

TVI was the major technical problem facing radio amateurs during the 1950s, and the ARRL led the fight. Articles appeared in *QST*, authored by George Grammer, W1DF; Phil Rand, W1DBM; and others. The League worked with TV manufacturers to reduce TVI problems in future

TV designs. Hams started using low-pass filters at the output of their HF transmitters, and band-pass filters at the output of their VHF and UHF transmitters. Yet the TVI problem persisted for many years.

In addition to TVI, there was ITV -- interference from TV receivers, caused by strong radiation from the horizontal oscillators at 15.734 kHz and multiples thereof, well into the HF range. As you tuned across a lower HF band, there would be raspy "markers" every 15.7 kHz.

In the early 1950s, a few hams started working with amateur television (ATV), building complex equipment to generate NTSC video signals. They were successful, but usually there were only a few stations near enough to make contact -- sometimes only one other ATV-active ham. Although it was an excellent technical accomplishment, ATV never caught on in a big way in the 1950s.



An ARRL Handbook project showed how to convert a military surplus "command set" into a Novice transmitter for 80 meters.

Military surplus equipment and its conversion to amateur use continued to be of considerable interest, with articles in *QST* detailing how such conversions could be made. New vacuum tubes that had been developed for military use during the WW II years found great utility in ham

equipment, particularly the tubes developed for high-power HF and VHF/UHF transmitters.

These surplus tubes were very inexpensive. One popular one was the 1625, the 12 V filament equivalent of the 807, a workhorse tube that was good for 75 W or so. They sold for 25¢ each, or four for \$1. The 813 was another popular tube for higher power, A pair could run 500 W input.

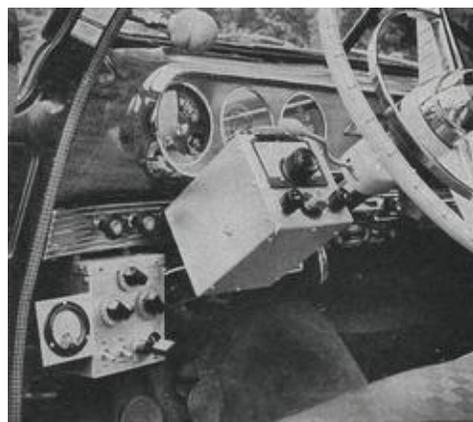
The ARRL continued the push to get more hams on the VHF/UHF bands. Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, wrote many articles about the VHF/UHF equipment he designed and built, including a 2 meter station for Novices. *QST* began publishing a box listing of states worked on 50 MHz (with maximum path lengths noted), and the first 50 MHz Worked All States (WAS) awards (48 states back then) were earned.

A new idea -- voice-operated transmit (VOX) -- appeared in the early 1950s, so phone operators could chat back and forth quickly, rather than taking turns transmitting long monologues. A few AM operators used VOX, but the idea was quickly put into use by SSB enthusiasts. The earliest VOX switches required the operator to use headphones, so the VOX would not be triggered by the receiver audio, but anti-VOX circuits were soon published in *QST* that would allow use of the station speaker.

Next week: A continuing look at Amateur Radio and its advances in the early 1950s. -- *Al Brogdon, WIAB*

Continuing our look at ham radio in the early 1950s, we see that *QST* reported regularly on states that offered call sign license plates for motor vehicles. Just a handful of states offered call sign plates at first, but the idea gained momentum as more and more states joined in. Ham clubs -- or groups of ham clubs -- would lobby their state legislators to introduce bills requesting a new law. One notable example was Mississippi, where an *eight-member* Amateur Radio club lobbied successfully, leading to a new state law allowing Amateur Radio call sign tags!

With the help and advice of the ARRL, governments at the federal, state, and local levels started looking at ham radio's role in Civil Defense. The idea was to get a CD organization in place *before* an emergency, rather than waiting until afterward (as happened in World War II). By this time, the value of hams in providing emergency communication had been demonstrated to and appreciated by government agencies all over, so the ARRL's role was to get things operating smoothly while in the planning stages, rather than having to make a "hard sell."



Going mobile in the 1950s was not for the faint of heart, as can be seen in this 1952 ARRL *Handbook* photo. Note the crystal poking out from the transmitter below the dashboard.

aspects of emergency preparedness, should a nuclear device hit the city, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps -- as ARES was known in those days -- was a major asset during the test. On a related note, *QST* carried several articles on radiological monitoring during the early 1950s.

Following World War II, the number of private automobiles in the country increased by leaps and bounds, as vehicle production shifted from military to civilian needs, and as the populace became more affluent and more mobile. In 1938, about 1.7 million American cars were built; in 1953, more than 6 million. As a result, *QST* published many articles on mobile receiving converters, mobile transmitters (single-band and bandswitching), and mobile antennas -- particularly multiband antennas.

The 1950s were, of course, the time of the "Cold War" and the threat of all-out nuclear war. Seattle, Washington, was the scene of a massive "A-Bomb Test," to test all

Other areas that received attention in *QST* included VHF topics, the Military Affiliate (now "Auxiliary") Radio System (MARS), huge rotary arrays for 10 meters, antennas for VHF/UHF, RTTY, HF receivers and transmitters, and electronic keyers.

The ugly face of zoning restrictions first appeared in the 1950s. The ARRL got involved in helping hams wage legal battles against overly restrictive community limits on antenna and tower heights -- or, in some cases, complete prohibitions of antennas. These cases were reported in *QST* as they developed. Happily, the radio amateurs always won complete or partial victories in the court cases, thereby setting precedents for future battles of a similar nature. -- Al Brogdon, *WIAB*

A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began, with a surprise invasion by North Korea. In the days following, Amateur Radio played a valuable and unexpected role. When the invasion began, military



personnel who were hams -- mostly in South Korea, Japan, and the US -- were the first bearers of the bad news, even before military communication links got word back to Washington. Until United Nations military personnel became organized with their own communication, hams continued to provide early radio communication.

Throughout the Korean War, the Military Affiliate (now Auxiliary) Radio Service (MARS) and amateur operators devoted tens of thousands of hours to handling phone patch traffic between military personnel and their families back home.

In 1952, W2ZXM/mm, Captain Kurt Carlsen, [brought the world's attention](#) to Amateur Radio in

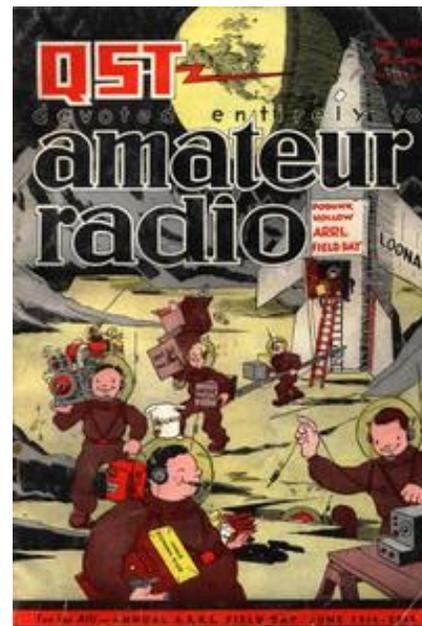
a huge way. His command, the passenger/freighter *Flying Enterprise*, was damaged mid-sea by hurricane-force winds and high seas. "Captain Stay-Put" -- as the news media dubbed him -- ordered crew and passengers to abandon ship when the vessel started taking on water and listing heavily. Using his ham know-how, he managed to stay on the air using improvised equipment, antennas, and power, even after the radio room was flooded. He remained in radio contact from the ship until just before it sank. He was the star of an New York City ticker-tape parade and was knighted by the King of Denmark for his heroism.

The 15 meter band opened for US hams on May 1, 1952 -- at first, for CW only. At the same time, the 40 meter voice sub-band was opened to US hams.

On August 15, 1952, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) came into being. *QST*

continued to publish article on mobile/portable Civil Defense equipment for 10 and 6 meters. In addition to RACES operation on 10 meters, many hams were becoming quite interested in the band for its DX potential.

Two interesting articles appeared in *QST* describing extreme 10 meter antennas. One was a 3 element vertical beam for mobile use. A quarter-wave director and reflector were added to the typical mobile whip for portable (*not* mobile) use on a rear bumper-mounted boom. The driver



Sixty years ago: The June 1954 cover of *QST* featured this fanciful Field Day on the moon cartoon by Gil, W1CJD.

would position the car to "rotate" the antenna. The second extreme antenna was a full-sized Yagi featuring rack-and-pinion gearing to adjust the lengths of each element from the shack, so the antenna could be tuned exactly.

A third extreme antenna -- not reported in *QST* -- was built by a Midwestern ham who commuted daily in his VW Beetle. Much of his commute involved about 40 minutes of driving on a long stretch of highway with no overpasses. He built a quarter-wave mobile antenna that could be assembled and disassembled quickly. When he reached the start of his unobstructed drive, he would put up his antenna and put out a *big* signal on 40 phone.

Lots of things were happening in Amateur Radio in the early 1950s, so next week we will look at that period a bit more. -- *Al Brogdon, WIAB*

Looking further at the early 1950s, we see that amateur incentive licensing (an on-again/off-again thing with the FCC) ended on February 18, 1953. That same month, a *QST* article by W1GXJ introduced a new gadget to hams -- ferrite cores.

K2AH authored a *QST* article in March 1953 telling of what appears to be the first use of a transistor in a ham transmitter, running 50 $\hat{1}$ /₄W output on 2 meters to make contacts of up to 25 miles away. In the same issue, an article reported the success of W4AO and W3GKP in receiving a 2 meter ham signal bounced off the Moon!

W6QYT and W6POH were exploring another new frontier -- meteor-scatter communication on 20 and 15 meters.

CW still reigned as king in the 1950s, which saw many articles published in *QST* about electronic keyers. Those ran the gamut from W3FQB's tubeless "Corkey" to W6SRY's "Ultimatic Keyer" with three dual triodes and *seven* relays. In the May 1953 issue of *QST* W6DSR described building a 40 meter CW transceiver around a BC-453 command receiver; as you tuned it, the transmitter frequency moved in sync.

Effective March 28, 1953, phone operation was allowed on 15 meters.

One facet of the Amateur Extra exam during the 1950s was amusing: The transistor, invented in 1948, was in its infancy.

The FCC, wanting to keep up with the latest, formulated *one* question about

transistors, which found its way into various study guides and appeared in *every* Extra class exam for a couple of years.

The May 1953 issue of *QST* published an article by W3FQB that remains, to this day, one of my favorite *QST* offerings -- "The Man Who Broke the Bank." Although written as a humor piece, it had the ring of futuristic hamming about it. It tells the tale of a radio club with a new member whose day job was working with those newfangled electronic calculators. Sweepstakes rolled around, and the new ham turned in an unbelievably large score. There was much heated discussion over the entry's validity, but the club finally agreed to submit it to ARRL, which didn't believe it, either. After cross-checking every single contact, they



During the early years of the Novice license, theory and code classes sprang up all over. Most were taught through radio clubs, but even ham employees of Allied Radio started a class, as a volunteer effort. This 1958 photo shows father and son Ed Bachner, Jr, and seventh grader Ed III, at one of the classes. Father Ed, now SK, became KN9OIS, and son Ed became KN9OBZ.

admitted that it was accurate and correct. Two weeks later, Ed Handy, W1BDI, visited to tour the new member's station to get to the bottom of the story.

A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

In the early 1950s, television interference -- TVI -- became a major problem for hams. The ARRL took two important steps toward educating hams and the public about TVI, and how TVI was often the fault of the TV set, not the ham. Talk about a hard sell! Lew McCoy, W1ICP, went on the road with a live TVI-education show, complete with "fixed" and "unfixed" TV sets, ham transmitters, etc. His show was a success but it couldn't reach everyone. The ARRL also scripted and supplied photographs for a 15-minute slide presentation that could be shown on local TV stations or to live audiences. As more hams started using 50 MHz, TVI problems frequently showed up there, especially in areas that had a TV station on channel 2, which was immediately above 6 meters.

The League also began a strong effort to get more hams on 220 MHz, to show the FCC the band was being used and to help fight off other services' efforts to take over the shared band.

As more hams became seriously interested in 2

meters for long-haul

communication, beams became enormous. Articles and photos in *QST* showed rotatable arrays with as many as 104 elements. Long-haul 2 meter tests were pursued by W4HHK, W4AO, W2UK, W1HDQ, and others, pushing the 2 meter DX envelope. In 1954, the first successful coast-



The CK722 germanium transistor was introduced in late 1952.

to-coast message relay on 2 meters occurred. With such efforts underway, it was no surprise that the 1954 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes broke *all* records.

Modern-day DXpeditions started being staged. A notable one was the 1954 effort to put much-wanted Clipperton Island on the air. The FO8AJ DXpedition was organized and executed by W0NWX and a large supporting cast.

Multiband tank circuits became quite popular, used in projects such as W1JEQ's three-control, six-band, 500 W transmitter, described in *QST*. New 10 GHz DX records were set and reset by W7JIP and W7OKV, out in the land of tall mountains. The 813 beam-power tube, developed during World War II and available on the surplus market, became a very popular final tube. The popular CK722 germanium transistor showed up in various small projects in *QST*, such as W6CHB's tiny code-practice oscillator. Herbert Hoover Jr, W6ZH, was appointed Undersecretary of State. And, effective June 10, 1954, Novice and Technician license exams would be sent by mail and administered by a qualified local radio amateur, rather than making applicants appear in person. -- *Al Brogdon, WIAB*

This week, we'll look at the 1950s. Danny Weil, VP2VB, began his well-known series of *Yasme* DXpeditions around the world in 1955, putting some rare countries on the air. That series lasted until 1963, and it gave thousands of DXers the opportunity to work some new ones.

In the mid-1950s, The FCC ran out of 1 × 3 call signs with W and K prefixes and began reissuing lapsed W and K call signs. When those ran out, they went on to 2 × 3 call signs with WA (and, later, WB) prefixes.

The log periodic antenna -- a new and very useful concept -- was introduced to hams in the late 1950s. It had been developed by D.E. Isbell at the University of Illinois.

Late in 1958, hams lost the shared use of 11 meters, which then became the Class D Citizens Band.

During the late 1950s, amateurs continued to push the limits of VHF and higher bands.

W6NLZ and KH6UK ran regular schedules on VHF and succeeded in making two-way contact on 144 MHz in 1957, and on 220 MHz in 1959.

Another Amateur Radio first took place in 1960, when the first EME (moonbounce) [contact](#) was made on 1296 MHz between W6HB in California and W1BU in Massachusetts.

During the 1950s and 1960s, The USSR and the US were in the midst of the so-called "Cold War." Fearing that Soviet bombers could home in on radio signals to find their targets, the CONELRAD (CONtrol of ELEctromagnetic RADiation) system went into effect from 1957 to 1962. For their part hams were required to (1) monitor an AM broadcast station at least every 10 minutes to be sure it was still on the air; and (2) shut down, if broadcast stations went off the air. In the event of such an emergency, key 50 kW AM stations would move to either 640 or 1240 kHz to broadcast emergency information. The stations on each of those frequencies would go on and off the air in a continually varying sequence, while all carried the same audio to provide continuous information to the public.

During the decade of the 1960s and subsequently, Gus Browning, W4BPD, traveled the world and operated from over 100 countries, many of them extremely rare ones and sometimes the first ham operation for that country. Gus was an ordinary guy, always a gentleman, and an unflappable pileup operator. He was the first DXer elected to the DX Hall of Fame.

An ARRL OSCAR



A CONELRAD information poster from the 1950s, advising citizens where to tune "for official information."

On December 12, 1961, OSCAR 1, the first Amateur Radio satellite, was launched into orbit.



OSCAR 2 followed on June 2, 1962. Both paved the way for the amateur satellites that followed.

By 1963, the US ham population had reached a quarter of a million, although at that time there were more CB operators than hams.

During the 1960s, repeater operation began on 2 meters. At first, there was a fair amount of confusion -- questions of legality had to be sorted out by the FCC, a lot of hams thought channelized operation wasn't a good thing, equipment had to be developed, etc. But eventually things settled down, and repeater operation on 2 meters took off, with repeater operation on other VHF/UHF ham bands and 6 meters soon to follow.

On March 27, 1964, a magnitude 9.2 [earthquake and the resulting tsunami](#) struck Alaska and caused extensive damages in many parts of the state. As in most natural and man-made disasters, hams were quick to put together emergency communication links to help with disaster relief.



Late in 1967, incentive licensing returned to ham radio. This had been an on-again/off-again issue with FCC for about 15 years. -- *Al Brogdon, WIAB The ARRL Letter* – ARRL.

Stay Connected!

The HARC Club net meets every Wednesday night at 8 PM on the Club repeater. Check in and see what's going on.

HARC has a Facebook page. Sign up today. Follow HARC on the web at www.harcnet.org and via the HARC Spark.

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136

“Serving the Community Through Ham Radio”

September 18, 2014 – Shortwave Listening in the 21st Century

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