

IN-SERVICE



Summer

Volume 105

August 2008

SILENT KEY

Harold Bert Haworth

Harold Bert Haworth, WDØFPE, an ASCRA member since 1974, died Saturday, March 8, 2008, at Kansas City Hospice House. He was 88 years of age and is survived by his widow, Betty. They were married for 63 years and had 3 children—Joyce (now deceased), Robert, and Patricia—7 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.

Harold served in the Army Air Corps during WWII and was a life member of the VFW. He enjoyed ham radio and electronics in general, flying remote-controlled model airplanes, sewing fishing bags and hats, gardening, camping, woodworking, and playing the guitar.

MY INVERTED-V ANTENNA

Ever since Zahra and I moved to Arizona last year, I have been experimenting with a straight-wire inverted-V antenna. As I mentioned when I wrote about this before (Vol. 102, November 2007), I had to leave my tower and beam antenna behind when we left Iowa. The home we rented when we arrived in Arizona was in a Home Owners Association (HOA) with rules that prohibited installing visible changes (such as a ham radio antenna) on the house. Consequently, I set up my antenna in the backyard when I wanted to check into the net and took it down again when the net was over.

We purchased a home last fall, but it is also encumbered by HOA rules. I tried the temporary antenna in our back yard at the new location but soon moved it from the back yard to the rooftop. The higher position worked better, but I still had to put it up and take it down each time I used it. That setup allowed me to try out various configurations but the extra chores took much of the fun out of using the radio.

In May, I had done enough experimenting that I thought I had something that would work for me and yet be unobtrusive enough to be acceptable to the HOA, so I filed an application for their approval to install the antenna on our rooftop. I kept it as simple as possible so there wouldn't be any complaints. In June, I received their approval and proceeded with the installation.

I used a hammer drill and masonry bits to make a hole in one of the tile near the end of the ridge on the east side of the house. An iron rod inserted into this hole supports a nested set of PVC pipes that hold a balun at the top about 3 ft above the

ridge. My feed line goes from the radio-computer room up into the attic, out the attic vent, and through the PVC pipe to the balun. The antenna is composed of two 15-ft (approximate) lengths of #12 single-strand electrical wire extending north and south from the balun parallel to the slope of the roof. Each one ends in a glass insulator with a cord that extends to an anchor point on the roof. My calculations indicated that the antenna lines should have been longer (about 16 ft), but Ernie Miles loaned me his antenna tuner and it showed a minimum SWR of about 1.5 with the lengths near 15 ft for the ASCRA net frequency of 14.287 Mhz.

The antenna functions well enough that I suspect there is some gain from the aluminum heat reflector that lines the underside of our roof. It is not as good as the beam I had in Iowa, but it is simple, inexpensive, and approved by the HOA. Now I can come in and turn on the radio without worrying about whether it is too windy to set up the temporary antenna.

My new antenna stands about 3 ft above the roof of our house.

Fred Troeh, NØELM

ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO CLUB

Anne Arundel Radio Club Jr. has a great website and Bulletin Board.

www.ki3ds.org

Worth checking out for both new comers to Ham Radio as well as Old Timers... Lots of reference information for license upgrade testing and more.

Have fun!!

73 Doug WAØEMX

HAM RADIO IN THE UK

Now that things are starting to settle back down at home, thought I'd drop you (Doug Shaw WAØEMX) a note to update you on of the recent happenings in our family here in the UK. I'm afraid I'll have to start with some very sad news, but there are also some happier things to report.

First, thanks for your faithful e-mails - ASCRA and otherwise - which I've enjoyed reading, as always, over the past few months. Sorry that I've not been in a good position to return a reply until now; think the last time I mailed was at Christmas!

Things have been 'interesting' since then, particularly over the past six months or so, with a fair bit of adjustment needed in our family following the loss of Pauline, my Mother (aged 61) at Easter-time. I'm not sure how widely this news was circulated among the church in the US; my Father was a church appointee in Europe for 10 years in the 90's (British Isles Region President), and my Mother was reasonably widely known among the US church leadership due to her travels on 'business' with my Father, so I guess these sad tidings may have appeared in one or more of the US CofC newsletters.

I didn't publicise this sad news on the ASCRA e-mail group at the time it happened; not sure why, but guess I had a lot to contend with personally and also my Father to support. As my Mother never held a radio license, it didn't occur to me that any ASCRA people would know her, but I remember now that you guys must have met them at least once or twice during conference over the years. Interestingly, my Father (surviving, aged 67) has never sat for a radio license either, despite being an electrical and electronic engineer for all of his working life and being more than capable of obtaining one! I guess the idea of talking to people over the air just isn't his thing, even though he's still a dab-hand with a soldering iron!

In fact, my ham radio heritage comes from my Mother's side, as my maternal grandfather (Roland Fretwell - great initials for a radio fan huh!) had a great interest in communications radio listening. He grew up in pre-WW.II era, when radio was relatively new, and was all about experimentation - HT lead-acid accumulators, ex.WW.I headphones and the like!

Unfortunately my Grandfather never held a ham radio ticket - I think he felt it would be too difficult at his stage in life to learn all the necessities (including obligatory 12wpm Morse at that time) to pass the strict UK licensing examinations. In fact I think he was much closer than he ever thought, but instead he actively encouraged me to take the test, which I did some years later. However, it was the regular short wave listening sessions that we used to share in at his home during my childhood and teenage years that gave me a keen early interest in communications radio. In fact, I chose my first (novice) callsign, 2E1ERF, in memory of my Grandfather (Encourager Roland Fretwell), who had also sadly passed away just a short while before I gained my first ticket. How pleased he would have been to know that I now hold a full privilege all-bands UK license.

My Mother had a part to play in this story too, when she lived at home with her parents, as the peacemaker daughter who tried to manage my Grandfather and Grandmother's joint use of the family kitchen! You see my Grandfather's radio equipment, the key item of which at that time was an Eddystone 730 valve communications receiver, had it's home on the kitchen sideboard - this being the optimum location within the house to minimise feeder length from his collection of garden-strung

antennas! While this was good for remote signal-to-noise ratios, it was less optimal from my Grandmother May's perspective during meal preparation times - my Grandfather introduced quite a lot of local AF QRM to the surroundings from his receivers, as well as 'getting under my Grandmother's feet' during the cooking process!

- will have to stop here for this eve, but lots more to report in due course!

Many blessings,
Mark Riley, M5BOP
Ipswich, UK

THIS AUGUST MAILING

We are continuing the system that started with Volume 104 of mailing this newsletter with regular postage, since the bulk mail option is no longer available to us. This increases our mailing cost to about \$100 for this issue. We need to defray this cost through increased contributions and/or reduced costs. The Associated Radio ad on page 3 pays for part of the difference and some of our members have opted to receive the newsletter electronically, thus reducing our printing and mailing costs. When you are ready to send in a contribution, please mail it to our treasurer:

Chuck Palmer
700 S. Fuller Ave.
Independence, Missouri 64052

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please notify me by e-mail so I can add your name to that list:

Fred Troeh, NØELM
ftroeh@onmbb.com

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

NCVEC Special Events Call Signs

This is the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators home page, <http://www.ncvec.org/>.

This subpage addresses the 1x1 Special Event Call Signs, <http://www.ncvec.org/1x1.php>. One can search for the assigned special event call signs over a date range at www.ncvec.org/search.php.

How Global Positioning Systems Work

www.pcmag.com/print_article2/0,1217,a%253d228183,00.asp

Start of the Digital Revolution

www.nsa.gov/publications/publi00019.cfm

Field Day Video: Raytown (MO) ARC *et al*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIS7pT6_FAM>

Sorry, neither Robin Cross WØFEN nor Doug Shaw WAØEMX will be seen although both operated with the RARC KØGQ 2A group; total score 10,792 points.

Electrocuted While Erecting Antennas

Be very careful out there. It can be dangerous...

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/14/10211/?nc=1>

(Doug Shaw WAØEMX)

HAM LICENSE RENEWAL AT FCC.GOV

My Advanced Class license was up for renewal on 02 July 2008, so in late June I was about to use the W5YI or ARRL renewal options to do so but decided to check out www.fcc.gov first. The ARRL mails renewal forms to all members QST mailing address. W5YI VEC mails renewal offers to expiring licensees' FCC mailing address. While the ARRL process is free to members for simple renewals, it requires more lead time to submit a renewal to them by mail rather than on a website. W5YI renewal can be submitted by mail for \$7 or on their website for, I believe, \$8. I had heard that the free FCC renewal process was a bit convoluted and difficult, but I'm a Scot and adventurous, so off I went to FCC.gov.

I found the ARRL *Instructions for License Renewals or Changes* (www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html) and the FCC's own instructions and FAQs to be very helpful. If you don't have the two page version sent with ARRL's renewal reminder, a printed copy of the five page ARRL website document is also excellent and covers additional instructions for Vanity Call Sign and Modification application procedures. I won't repeat here what is very well documented in the ARRL's instructions for using the FCC process. Actually, the FCC's renewal process is very straight forward, so it may have been improved from earlier years.

To use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) one must have a Commission Registration System (CORES) FRN number and password associated with one's Social Security Number. If your license does not show an FRN, you may already have one, which you may find on www.qrz.com. You must login to CORES and ULS using the FRN. If you have not established a password and security question you can do so

online or with FCC Tech Support weekdays at 877-480-3201. Your CORES database name information must match the Universal License System (ULS) to successfully complete the renewal process.

If you have any significant changes to make and it is close to the expiration date, it may be best to renew without most changes first, then file for modification, most of which do not have any fees, except of course for a request to change to a vanity call sign. Vanity applications submitted directly to FCC generally cost less than those submitted via VECs such as ARRL or W5YI. The 800 technical help line was especially useful. They are happy to help you understand the process before you begin and as you proceed through it to renewal. A license can be renewed any time within 90 days of expiration. So, in case one does run into problems, you may want to consider beginning the process at least a month before the expiration date to reserve plenty of time for resolutions, and stay on the air until your new license arrives.

Once submitted and granted, my application breezed through in 24 hours and I received my new license by mail in just a few days, although the FCC indicates it may take up to two weeks to arrive. If the renewal application is received at FCC before your license expires, one may operate provisionally until the application is acted upon. The FCC does allow a two year grace period in which one may renew an expired station license. After the grace period one must retake and pass all the license examinations required to re-gain the expired operator class and be issued a new station call sign. All told, my license renewal was a very positive experience.

Doug Shaw
WAØEMX

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REDDINGS IN NEW MEXICO

This year the Redding Family, Terry W6LMJ, Barbara W5HKY, and Sarah Lynn KD5YYT organized our trip out west around a dinosaur dig with the Mesaland Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Barbara and Sarah Lynn are anthropology students, with a specialization in forensic anthropology.

While the girls were involved with the college I volunteered with the state of New Mexico Park Service to provide star parties first for Conchas Lake State Park near Tucumcari, and then Sugarite State Park near Raton, New Mexico.

I was able to daily check into the 40 meter rag chew net with my friends in Florida on 40 meters at 6 AM. Later at 7 AM I checked into the 40 meter RV net, and then still later checked into the 20 meter RV net. The afternoon Sunday ASCRA nets proved more problematic

The girls were required to be at Mesaland College each morning at 6 AM to then travel as a group to the dig site 30 miles south of Tucumcari. They were at the dig in the morning and then back in the lab at the museum in the afternoon. They were released each day at 6 PM. This caused them to be away from the trailer about 13 hours each day.

Cell phone coverage was non-existent for Sprint, our carrier, from Conchas Lake, my location. So we fell back on amateur radio. Both the trailer and the suburban have VHF and HF. That meant that we could use those bands to keep in touch. HF is problematic by time of day, and required a retuning of the HF screwdriver antenna on the suburban. VHF, on the other hand proved to be the simplest and most reliable method.

This picture taken at Conchas Lake State Park shows the trailer with its HF CHA250B Comet antenna and the suburban with its HF screwdriver antenna. Not seen is that both also have 2/440 through the glass VHF/UHF antennas.

In New Mexico they have the Mega Link System. Most of the state can communicate via low power two meter radios with all other parts of the state. One morning I had an interesting conversation with a few hams on 40 meters discussing antenna theory. One was in White Sands, New

Mexico, and the other was in Phoenix, Arizona. Once we were done running antenna tests on 40 and 80 meters, I said my farewell and moved back to the Mega Link. I was surprised when the first station I heard was the one from White sands. Another time, I listened to two ranchers talking about the best restaurant in New Mexico, they said it was located in Pie Town, near Socorro, New Mexico. A week later, while visiting the Very Large Array (VLA), famous from the movie first contact, I drove within 20 miles of Pie Town and was very tempted to stop in at the restaurant.

Daily, I heard ranchers, and game personnel out of range of the cell towers routinely using the Mega Link system to stay in touch with home, friends, and offices. Reporting their location, and the location of mountain lion and deer tracks.

At the dig site, which Barbara and Sarah Lynn had to walk into, they carried handi-talkies in order to access Mega Link.

Clearly ham radio is alive and well in New Mexico.

Terry Redding, W6LMJ

This is a photo of the VLA on the high desert near Socorro, New Mexico. Sarah Lynn is standing with Steve Welch who much reminds us of the scientist at Area 51 in the movie Independence Day, and Steve's daughter, appropriately named Aerial.

SPECIAL CANADIAN PREFIXES

To commemorate the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858, from October 1st through November 30, 2008, all Radio Amateurs in Canada are welcome to use the following Special Prefixes:

VA use CJ then your suffix
VE use CK then your suffix
VO use CY then your suffix
VY use CZ then your suffix

Further information can be found at www.hambc150.info. This is a great opportunity to collect some unique QSL cards for working all Canadian provinces this Fall...!

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX

20-M and 40-M NET CHECK-INS

July 31, 2008

The following is my best attempt at recording the 20 M and 40 M net checkins since May 5, 2008. As always mistakes are made but we do our best.

Ernie Miles, WB2UJL

20-M net

NØAIX, Larry Ragan
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
WØFEN, Robin Cross
KAØGFC, Charles Brady
NØJHX, Gary Martin
KCØNZM, Larry Wilson
NØTPE, Willard Adey
KCØZOO, Richard Wolgram

W1RKT, Robert Tendler

N2LAZ, Dean Honadle
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

KG4DKY, Lawrence Helton
W4FDD, Felix Dudley
KB4GRD, Jay Rinkle
KI4KUT, John Hadaway
N4MZW, Gerald Morris
N4TIM, Michael Popejoy

KE5BM, Paul Morrill
K5VX, Jonathan Sennetti
WE5WOW, Ashton Langlinais

W6LMJ, Terry Redding
W6WFR, John Beckenholdt

KE7BRD, Kevin Turner
K7RTH, William Herberg
K7RQN, Robert Fairfield

KC8BHB, Donald Gebhart
K8MTH, Willard McCartney
KC8RUR, Jill Raymer

KB9YHE, Christopher Brown

40-M net

KDØBZP, Woodrow Lawson
WØDZX, Dave Atkins
ABØIR, Terrell Perry

AB2TI, Raymond Wasinger
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles

KJ4BPN, Roy Bradley
KE4VXC, Chester Allen

K5VX, Jonathan Sennetti
KC5YGM, Joseph Wrather

W6EMC, Alwyn Broaddus
W6LMJ, Terry Redding

K9JAI, Donald Larson
K9SET, Scott Taylor
N9RDQ, Russell Lockard

ASCRA BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are open once again for election to the ASCRA Board of Directors, for the 2009-2010 class. A maximum of six (6) nominations may be submitted by each member to be received by the ASCRA secretary no later than Saturday, October 4, 2008.

The following directors are serving for the 2008-2009 term and are not eligible for nomination at this time.

David Gates, N5LCL, Newcastle, OK
Fred Troeh, NØELM, Maricopa, AZ
Terry Redding, W6LMJ, West Palm Beach, FL
Tom Thatcher, W2TFT, Shawano, WI
Jim Fish, K7NCG, Woodinville, WA
Larry Ragan, NØAIX, Gladstone, MO

All other licensed ASCRA members are eligible for nomination, including the following six directors whose terms expire in the Spring of 2009.

Barbara Redding, W5HKY, West Palm Beach, FL
Chuck Palmer, NØONN, Independence, MO (Treasurer)
Doug Shaw, WAØEMX, Raytown, MO (Secretary)
Ernie Miles, WB2UJL, Durham, NC
Michael Hahn, KGØXU, Independence, MO (President)
Robin Cross, WØFEN, Kansas City, MO (Executive Dir.)

Please verify with your nominees that they are willing to serve before you submit their names in nomination. Service as a director may entail travel to Independence, Missouri, or attendance by conference call, for at least one annual directors' meeting. It is also very helpful if all nominees have E-mail capability, but should not be considered a requirement for nomination or serving.

Only one nomination is required to place a willing nominee on the ballot. Each ASCRA member submitting nominations should clearly identify who is making the nomination, such as using a separate piece of paper or a separate E-mail.

Submit nominations by postal mail to:

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
ASCRA Secretary
P.O. Box 73
Independence, MO 64051

Or by E-mail to wa0emx@arrl.net.

Since ASCRA asks no dues of its members it is dependent on your donations to cover minimal operating expenses. Please consider sending a donation by postal mail even if submitting nominations by E-mail. Any questions about the nomination process may be directed to the ASCRA Secretary.

Doug Shaw, WAØEMX
ASCRA Secretary

CHINESE PROVERB

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.
If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone.

Submitted by Doug Shaw, WAØEMX

If you have any changes for the database (upgrades, new post office or e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.), please send them to Fred Troeh by either regular mail or e-mail.

Send comments, suggestions, and material for future issues to:

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