

IN-SERVICE



Spring

Volume 76

May 2001

ASCRA Election Results

Doug Shaw Secretary of ASCRA announced the results of the election of Directors. Reelected were:

Robin Cross	WØFEN
Bob Farnham	KGØII
Ernie Miles	WB2UJL
Doug Shaw	WAØEMX

Newly elected were:

Melvin Francis	WAØPTG
Michael Hahn	KGØXU

(Michael has served extensively in past years)

Members of the Board continuing for one more year:

Gene Chadwick	KØBKZ
Hale Collins	W6RWH
Steve Fagan	KGØTQ
Larry Oiler	NØBGG
Terry Redding	W6LMJ
Jeff Winship	NØOXK

Board Meeting Highlights

The ASCRA Board of Directors elected the following officers for the 2001-2002 term.

President	Ernie Miles	WB2UJL
Secretary	Doug Shaw	WAØEMX
Treasurer	Jeff Winship	NØOXK

The President appointed Michael Hahn as the Executive Director. The appointment was sustained by the Board.

The Treasurer reported that the Lamoni Chapter has returned a check for \$270 to him as a result of the failure to complete the Lamoni link in the proposed Wide Area Communications System. The project was dropped after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) failed to develop and deliver a promised circuit board required to complete the project. The funds will be divided between ASCRA and the funds held for the Independence Chapter according to the amount of the original contribution of each group.

A committee was appointed to review the Bylaws and suggest simplifications as considered appropriate. Michael Hahn agreed to be chairman.

The Board discussed the implications of the change in name of the church. The Board's consensus was that the recent name change does not necessitate a change in name of ASCRA.

Feel free to Comment and give your opinion on the name by sending a letter to the IN-SERVICE.

**Send letters to Hale Collins Route 1 Box 228
Lamoni IA 50140. E-mail to w6rwh@arrl.net**

20 Meter Net

Frequency 14.287 MHz 1530 Central Time Sunday
Net Control WB2UJL Ernie Miles

The following names and call signs checked into the 20M net since Jan 8, 2001. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

Ernie WB2UJL

WDØARL, Ed Gordon	N4WTW, Mike Glowaski
KØBKZ, Gene Chadwick	N4WZ, Ed Owens
WØDZX, Dave Atkins	K4YJZ, Homer Perry
NØELM, Fred Troeh	N5ECP, Jeff Salmons
KCØHBD, Leo Hannel	W5HKY, Barbara Redding
WAØIBS, Andy Ferrara	N5LCL, David Gates
KGØII, Bob Farnham	
WAØPTG, Melvin Francis	W6LMJ, Terry Redding
KØSRI, Mary Ann Alden	W6RWH, Hale Collins
KGØTQ, Steve Fagan	WA6QXK, Charles Cummins
NØWZH, Steve Hampton	
W2TFT, Tom Thatcher	W7FDL, Floyd Lehman
N2UCH, George Hurley	KL7GNW, Peter Shugar
WB2UJL, Ernie Miles	KD7JOR, Billy Donnell
	WB7PPP, George Kendall
WB3AOA, Alice Nunmaker	KA7VMA, Dick Wynes
W3HEN, John Seither	
HP3XUD, Denny Weldon	W8QK, Muirl Robinson
N4EJA, Earl Adams	NG9B, John Bowman
WA4FQQ, Dennis Campbell	KA9BLH, Dan Dare
KE4UOD, Mike Bladock	KB9JLC, Ken Collard
AF4UQ, Paul Lansing	
KC4WAO, Eugene Schaufler	

Another Interesting Thatcher Trip

Tom Thatcher W2TFT

My trip in October 2000 to the East Coast and back grew to include a variety of activities. These included: a visit to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV, visits with old and new friends in Virginia, attending a reunion of Signal Corps personnel in Chevy Chase, MD, visiting friends and former neighbors in New Jersey, sightseeing in New York City while staying with my daughter in Brooklyn, NY and visiting a son and family in Michigan on the way home. I drove alone, leaving Shawano, WI October 8 and returning October 31.

The morning of October 10 I was able to join a group visiting the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV to hear the introductory presentation and then ride into the antenna field in their bus. As it stopped briefly near each of the seven parabolic reflector-"dish" antennas the use of each antenna was explained by the grounds guide. The antenna sizes ranged from about 40 to 330 feet in diameter. Later I walked the road past the antennas to take photographs. Walkers and bicycle riders are welcome to take self-guided tours, following available descriptions and map. Only diesel-powered vehicles are allowed into the antenna field (each spark plug of a gasoline engine is a wide-band radio transmitter). See their web page, <<http://www.gb.nrao.edu/>>.

Just past the sign, as one enters the Green Bank Observatory from WV Highway 92, on the right is a replica of the directional 22 MHz antenna used by Karl G. Jansky in the late 1920s and early 30s at the Holmdel, NJ radio research facility of Bell Telephone Laboratories. Using such a rotating antenna, one revolution per hour, and signal strength recorder, he was the first person to discover and publish the existence of radio frequency signals reaching earth from beyond our solar system. On the left side of the entrance road is the parabolic antenna used by Grote Reber, an Illinois radio amateur, who continued mapping the sources of those signals at 400 MHz. in the late 30s and 40s. I remember reading his article in QST.

My last 20 years at Bell Labs were at the Holmdel location, a former 355 acre farm purchased in the mid-20s. Just before I retired at the end of April 1986 I borrowed from the in-house library a copy of the first company phone directory which held my name (issued the end of January 1943). I photo-copied almost every page. Among the employees listed were R. V.L. Hartley (oscillator circuit), Karl G. Jansky and R. A. Heising (AM modulator circuit). I don't remember meeting or seeing any of them. I do remember one trip to Holmdel, to the one wood building, containing as little metal as possible, during the 15 years I was based in Manhattan, on the west edge of Greenwich Village. The 1943 phone directory listed 42 people at Holmdel. When I was transferred there in 1966 the new facilities housed 4000. It had been enlarged and held 6000 by the time I retired.

The afternoon of October 10 I made a short visit near Roanoke, VA to obtain autographs from the author and composer of Hymn 46 in my "Sing for Peace" hymnals. I've accumulated 19 autographs in the US and Britain since 1995, seven of them in the person's home or nearby. I continued with a two-night stay in the home of former Fair Haven, NJ neighbors now living in Charlottesville, VA. On the day in between my host and I visited the University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson's home, Montecello.

Thursday evening through Sunday morning, October 12-15, I participated in a reunion, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, of US Army 805th Signal Service Company personnel whose Detachments operated the 12 SIGSALY voice encryption system terminals installed at war theater headquarters locations around the world in World War II. Just after graduating from Iowa State, Ames, IA, in December 1942, my first job at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York City was in the group that produced, from Bell Labs Research Division's shop-made demonstration models, the manufacturing specifications and drawings for Western Electric's manufacture of the encryption equipment. I was in Washington, DC April, May and June 1943 assisting in installation of the first of the two terminals located in the Pentagon building. From November 1944 through June 1945 I was a civilian Technical Representative, in uniform, with the Signal Corps Detachment personnel in Brisbane, Australia; Hollandia, New Guinea and Manila, Philippine Islands. In Brisbane I assisted in installation of a terminal on a small cargo ship (the OL-31), later moved to Hollandia en route to Manila. The sea-borne terminal served in Manila until the reinstalled Brisbane equipment was in operation. After the Japanese surrender the OL-31 was moved to Tokyo. The ship always had to be towed because its engine room was occupied by the two 50kw diesel-electric generators needed to power the bays of encryption and associated equipment.

On Friday, October 13, a bus took the reunion group to The Department of Defense's Fort Gordon Meade, MD where we were guests of the National Security Agency. We were divided into three groups for short tours of small portions of their facilities, then rejoined for lunch. Afterward, we were taken to the National Cryptologic Museum (which is open to the public, the NSA is not) for the official opening of an exhibit, a replica of half of an encryption terminal. That alone consisted of 15 seven-foot by 19-inch bays plus two four-foot high cabinets. See Web Page <<http://www.nsa.gov/wwii/papers/sigsaly.htm>>.

Sunday morning I went to Church on Massachusetts Avenue, in Washington, DC, and met several friends from past years, including one from 1945-46 when my wife and I were courting. John Menzies was the presider. In the afternoon I drove on to East-Central New Jersey and stayed three nights with former neighbors in Fair Haven while visiting several others. Wednesday through Saturday I stayed with Steve Goodman (N2TNO) and wife Pat Bacon, Somerset, NJ, and visited other Middlesex Branch church friends in Northern New Jersey. On Saturday I went with Ogden Bacon and visiting daughter Wendy Gillilan to a Mission Center Conference at Deer Park Campgrounds and saw many other friends.

On Sunday afternoon, October 22, my daughter Constance, in Brooklyn, New York, drove over and took me back to her apartment where I stayed four nights. In the daytimes I

visited the American Museum of Natural History, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the renovated Grand Central Station main lobby, the Aircraft Carrier Intrepid, the British Tourist Authority office and the South Street Seaport Museum and shops. My daughter then was the volunteer president of the board of directors of The Center for Elimination of Violence in the Family, an organization providing several services helping abused women and their children. I had contributed enough to the organization to qualify for a seat at the group's annual Gala, that year at a hotel in the New Financial District, honoring the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) for his efforts in behalf of abused women. So, late Wednesday afternoon, I went to my daughter's office (1 Wall Street) and walked with her to the Gala, where she made the welcoming speech.

Thursday morning I returned by train to New Brunswick, NJ, retrieved my car at the Bacon-Goodmans in Somerset, attended the Fall Luncheon of retired co-workers in Matawan, NJ (I had organized the twice per year luncheons from 1969 through the Spring of 1993), and drove to central Pennsylvania. Friday night I visited Bill and Violet Fortin in Chillicothe, Ohio. Bill was Caretaker at Deer Park for many years. Saturday night I arrived in Troy, Michigan, home of son David, and stayed with the family through Monday night. Going via the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I reached home in Shawano, Wisconsin Tuesday evening, October 31, concluding an enjoyable and memorable trip of 3,163 miles.

FROM TECH+ TO GENERAL THE EASY WAY!

Mel Francis WAØPTG

The one most important characteristic one must have to make the jump in the amateur field is PATIENCE. Following the suggestions in this paper as well as those in several magazines will help you to sanely approach the required elements. The first thing one must do is to decide that the jump is worth the effort. Personally, I have had a desire, and possibly a need, to obtain a General Class ticket. But I soon learned that the code requirement was beyond my capability. I would suspect that is not the case with most people. The following supports my suggestion that patience is a very desirable characteristic of a person who is following the steps necessarily taken by the would-be General Class operator. When I was given a copy of the February, 2000, CQ magazine which had an editorial summarizing the new procedure for upgrading, I started at once to get the ball rolling. On November 9, 2000, I sent a letter to the FCC requesting verification that my Tech-Plus license was issued prior to March 21, 1987. (no FCC letter is required if you still have a copy of your license issued before that date). Now the waiting began. I was like General Halftrack in the comic, Beetle Bailey. Every day I would check to see if I had received a letter from the Pentagon (in my case, the FCC). After waiting for 112 days, the letter came with the simple three-line statement (a form letter) validating my Tech-Plus ticket being issued prior to the March 21 date.

BUT WAIT!

Let's go back a few years prior to today. I grew up in a family in which my father was a builder of early radios. In fact, he built one set and traded it for a Model "T" Ford. I am 79 years old and that was before my time on earth. I recall that I built a

portable PA system and sold it to one of the Central Field Reunions. By the way, I used the income from that sale to buy my girl friend an engagement ring. Back to the concern at hand. During WW II, I served four or five years in the Coast Guard. My first assignment after boot camp was to Atlantic City NJ to the CG radio operators' school. After a few weeks it became apparent that I was not going to get the code. Therefore, I was reassigned (actually I "flunked" out of operator school) to the Navy radio-radar school in San Francisco which had a class of 50 students. At the end of the course I was informed that I had graduated "top" man in the class with a 3.97 average with 4.0 being the top. I mention this only to indicate that sometimes we need to rethink our goals in life.

I passed the basic examination for the Technician ticket in the late 1960s and now with my General Class license have reached a long-term goal. My accomplishment of getting the Tech License was due to help and encouragement by Hale Collins W6RWH who not only helped me study for the examinations, but sold or gave/loaned enough equipment to get on the air. Do you recall the Heath Kit 6 and 2M transmitter? Now I have another helper, Steve Fagan KGØTQ, in getting equipment and getting it air-worthy. How little we can accomplish without friends like that.

Now the details on upgrading from Tech, Tech Plus to General Class. Please keep in mind that you must REQUEST upgrading. The FCC will not automatically upgrade like they used to do. Most of us old timers did the code thing when we got our Tech ticket. However, if you had a Tech Plus license prior to March 21, 1987, you can be "grandfathered" over without any further examinations. But we still have to request upgrading. The Tech (no Plus) may have to take the Element III or IV or whatever it is called in the finished product. As I understand it, no code is involved or required in any of these tickets. I want to emphasize that the simplest method is to become involved in a local Amateur Radio Club where there is a Volunteer Examiner. It will simplify everything.

Good luck, see you on HF!

Mel WAØPTG

Suggested Reading:

The AARL "General Class License Manual"

CQ Magazine - February, 2000 issue pages 6,7 and 8.

ASCRA SETI Scoreboard

The following is a list of the number of SETI data units processed as of 4/29/01. Total CPU time donated by ASCRA members is 10.22 years.

Call or name	Number of Data Units Processed
wb6otg	1317
kg0ii	645
Rod Schall	467
Hale Collins	414
n0oxk	303
ka0vtb	247
AD6VD	210
W6LMJ	188
KD1R	181
Ernie	49
K0BKZ	21

Stewart and Maxine Wight
P.O. Box E
Greenbank, WA 98253-0180

Praise the Lord for the good news and please continue to keep all the Wight family in your prayers.

73,
Doug WAØEMX

Dick Smith Recovering

GOOD NEWS:

I talked with Beth just now. She just got home from Independence Regional Hospital where Dick had his second knee replacement surgery early this morning. He's in some pain but is getting shots to relieve it. They plan to transfer him to the Rehab unit, probably Friday or Saturday (April 27-28).

If anyone has any messages they'd like me to deliver to Dick, just let me know.

73,
Doug WAØEMX

Report on Stewart Wight

There is indeed good news from Maxine Wight. Stewart's condition is much improved following removal of a tennis ball sized, malignant tumor from his brain a couple of weeks ago. The doctors are reportedly amazed at his progress. Maxine is convinced it's all because of the many prayers offered on his behalf.

Stewart, not surprisingly, wants to go home but is scheduled to start radiation therapy on Monday. After that, if he is able to leave the hospital, he will probably stay for awhile with his son Joel who is only about 15 minutes from the hospital complex in Everett, WASH. Maxine is still making the long trip by car from their apartment with a daughter at Greenbank, which is located on an island west of Everett.

We still don't have an address for the hospital, or for Joel's home, so continue to send your cards and letters to Stewart and Maxine at their ASCRA roster address as reported previously:

ASCRA Cash Flow Report 4/1/00 through 3/31/01

Income:

GF Donations	\$890.00
Total income:	\$890.00

Expense:

IN-SERVICE printing	\$133.14
IN-SERVICE postage	157.61
Miscellaneous	44.00
Other printing	110.15
Taxes & License	15.00

Total Expense \$459.90

Increase in Gen Fund \$430.10

Balance Sheet 3/31/01

Assets:

Cash and Bank Accounts \$2,392.67

Total Cash and Bank Accounts 2,392.67

Liabilities and Fund Equities:

Account payable for Feb.	
IN-SERVICE	\$106.90
Advertising Fund	20.00
Gen Operating Fund	1683.62
WØSHQ Enhance	122.05
WACS	30.00

Total \$1962.57

Equity 430.10

Total Liabilities and Fund Equities \$2,392.67

Do you have something interesting about ham radio or your church service to share with us? Write us a letter and share it with your ASCRA friends.

Approved Expense Budget for 4/1/01 to 3/31/03

Bank Charges	\$25
Gen Postage	150
IN-SERVICE printing	200
IN-SERVICE postage	300
Office Supplies	35
Taxes & license	15
Misc. Printing	50
Miscellaneous	50
Total	\$825

ASCRA
Membership Application/Affirmation
& Change of Address

_____ Name _____ Call/class _____

----- Address -----

----- City ----- State/Prov. ----- Zip/Postal code

----- Send To: ASCRA
Donation ? _____ Hale Collins W6RWH
Check box if this _____ Route 1 Box 228
 is a new address _____ Lamoni IA 50140

If you are changing addresses or have upgraded your license please let us know by sending us the above information. Send to:

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Publication of the Association of Saints Church Radio Amateurs

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