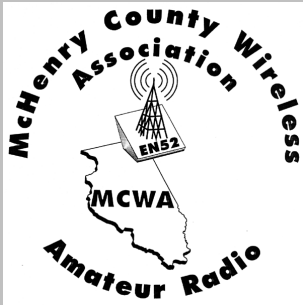


MCWA NEWS

Since 1978



Vol. 12, No.12

December 2012

AMATEUR RADIO



MCWA OFFICERS & STAFF

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VE TESTING



Testing by appointment only

7 PM 3rd Tuesday in
September, November, January,
March and May

Cost is \$15 one time charge for
session; no matter how many
elements taken. Must show original
license and/or CSCE if upgrading.
Valid photo ID needed. SS# or FRN#.

Steve, KB9OLD
847/477-3518

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, December 4
6:30 -- Socializing
7 :00 -- Meeting

Program: Jack, W9MU

Jack will talk about key clicks, harmonics
and all the other stuff that can make you
signal sound bad.

Crystal Lake Bank

5100 Northwest Hwy
Crystal Lake, IL

AFTER MEETING

Village Squire - Pizza & Beverages

Everyone invited !



Treasurer's Report



December 2012

Get ready to open up
the wallets. Its dues
time! Please pay your
2013 MCWA dues at
the upcoming Dec. or
Jan. meeting. I'll be
happy to take your
check or cash in the
amount of \$10.00. If
you can't make one of
the upcoming meetings
and wish to pay dues
by mail, please fill out
an application format
and mail it to me with
your payment.

According to the signup
sheet passed around at
the last club meeting.
There were 28
Members and 7 Guests
in attendance. For
those who are attend-
ing as a guest, I would
like to encourage you
to join the club as a
Member for 2013.

Please feel free to
contact me about any
Treasurer related
issues.

MCWA NEWS

DECEMBER 2012



The Best of DX

Continues

This evening as I listened to two stations jamming Dxpediton 5T0SP on its transmitting and receiving frequencies at the same time (coordinated harmful interference) on 40m, I was reminded that the emotionally disturbed people doing this are the minority. Generally speaking, 97% of hams are kind and cooperative. The competition for DX by DXers can get a bit rough, but these are not the jammers.

As DXers build their number of contacts over the years, a familiarity develops. Soon the exchange becomes, "It's so good to hear you again!". The log shows we worked on December the 7th in 2006 on 15m. So nice to work you on another band. How are you and your family?" It really demonstrates the goodwill intention of this great hobby.

But one of the biggest compliments of the DX community are the guys who go to some island or rock in the middle of the ocean to provide a new country for many of us. Seriously, after visiting South Korea last year, I would like to work a spot from North Korea. Anyone want to help? Well, we all have dreams. Mine would be a Peter 5 DX spot.

Looking over my log from 2012 alone, I worked well over a dozen Dxpeditons. Some of the teams that go do so at peril of life, limb and equipment. Many put out thousands of dollars, give up vacation time, and go to places that are hot, wet, dry, bug-infested and somewhat dangerous politically.

The recent Dxpediton on St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks (PTOS), experienced some food shortages, high water, swamped antennas under waves and crowded conditions with the Brazilian Navy. I enjoyed a contact with them on 10m phone after lunch one afternoon. During the same lunch break, I chatted with H44MS, Bernard, on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Bernard goes there at certain times of the year and provides a contact for those needing The Solomon Islands. Which reminds me, I worked several new countries across 2012. Individuals and DX Teams make DX possible to places where people do not even live.

They go through red tape to even get permission to operate in many of these places. It can take years of planning.

The other day I worked 7P8D on 15m. You will also want to listen for the 5T0SP Dxpediton as it continues. Both of these countries on the African continent will add to my current endeavor to "Work all Africa." This has been my focus over the last couple of years.

Keep an ear open for 5X1NH, 5R8IC, T6MH, 3W2J, XV2RZ, 8Q7AU and ZI9HR as we head into December.

2012 has been an okay year for DX. The day bands have been very open at times recently. The lower HF bands should provide plenty of DX in the northern hemisphere as the daylight continues to diminish up to winter solstice just before Christmas.

Remember that Cycle 24 should peak in 2013. The current trend in the solar realm tells me that there will be plenty of "milder days" this winter to do antenna work. But it is wise to get the tweaking done now. After all, meteorological winter begins December 1.

Let's be grateful for a good DX year and look for more excitement on the bands in 2013. The Best of DX Continues! Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

73 Dave KA9OZP



MCWA NEWS

December 2012



Treasurer's Report - cont'd

Please feel free to contact me about any Treasurer related issues.

Bob Lubecker NZ1B
3812 Monica Trail
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

BankBalance:

Per. 10-31-12 Statement

Beginning Balance	\$4,002.63
Checks written	0.00
Deposits	20.00
Interest	.36
Ending Balance	\$4,022.99



From the

Editor's Desk

160m Changes The FCC is proposing to change the Amateur Radio Service allocation to the 160 meter band (1800-2000 kHz), reallocating the 1900-2000 kHz segment to the Amateur Radio Service on a primary basis. In the NPRM, the FCC noted that “the ARRL has identified the 160 meter band and the amateur HF bands as [b]y far, the heaviest-used [Amateur Service] allocations.” There is a current NPRM seeking comments. Current the port between 1900-2000 kHz. is assigned to Amateur use on a secondary basis; the FCC seeks to return it to primary use.

Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (SK) Many will not recognize this name, but to those of us who were around in 1950-70 Rod was an icon. Rod was Editor of the “How's DX” column in QST from 1947-1978. The term “Elmer” was first used in Rod's column. [An “Elmer” is a ham who mentors new hams.] Rod used to live in Norridge (IL) and moved to Canada after retiring. RIP Rod !

Tip of the month One of the main reference books every ham should have in the shack is The ARRL Handbook. It doesn't have to be new.. you can usually find a used one in decent shape at a hamfest. at a resonable price (\$10 or less). Inside is a lot of basic information that hasn't changed in decades. Formulas for antennas, basic antenna theory and basic theory on power supplies, transmissions lines, and so on.

Being Helpful Every so often the opportunity to help out another ham over the air presents itself. The other day I was listening to a couple stations in QSO. The one station was a brand new General and asked the other station, an Extra class, what was meaning of K, KN , etc. The Extra station faded out so I jumped in a answered the new guys question and told him to feel free to email me with other questions. After the QSO, I received an email from the Extra class station who heard me pass along answers. This is what Ham Radio is about !



“

What's all this crap about going GREEN ? I was GREEN before it was fashionable.”

MCWA NEWS

December 2012



William "Bill" Halligan was born in Boston in 1899 and grew up fascinated with the miracle of radio. As a boy, he eagerly devoured every scientific journal and book on the subject that he could lay his hands on, and by the age of 16 was working as a wireless operator on an excursion boat. During World War I, he served as radioman on a mine layer working off of the coast of Scotland.

After the war, Halligan attended the electrical engineering school at Tufts University and studied electronics at West Point before leaving to marry in 1922. To support his young family, he took a job as a newspaper reporter back in Boston and became acquainted with amateur radio through a series of articles he wrote for the fledgling American Radio Relay League.

In 1924, Bill Halligan went to work for his long time friend, Toby Deutschmann selling radio parts to American radio manufacturers along the east coast. By 1928 the radio business was booming and Chicago had become the world capital of radio manufacturing. Halligan moved his family to Chicago and did well in component sales until the Depression caught up to the radio industry in 1931. According to legend, Deutschmann went bankrupt at this time and left Halligan with no cash but a huge inventory of radio parts and components. Halligan decided to turn his hobby of building ham receivers for his friends into a business in an effort to make use of the assets he had been left by Deutschmann, and while many radio historians claim this story is apocryphal, we can attest to the fact that we have removed paper capacitors labeled "Toby Deutschmann" from Hallicrafters receivers built as late as 1938 -- some 7 years later.

Halligan began business under the name "Hallicrafters" in 1932, choosing the motto "Handcraft Makes Perfect" and setting up shop in an old manufacturing facility at 417 North State Street. The fledgling company managed to produce the S-1

through S-3 models before RCA threatened to put them out of business for copyright infringement. At this time, all radio manufacturing was done under license from RCA, and RCA had no intentions of granting Halligan the licensing he needed to produce his own sets. The Hallicrafters struggled along by contracting out their manufacturing to other, duly licensed manufacturers, most notably Howard Radio Company, another Chicago manufacturer of communications receivers.

In 1933 radio maverick McMurdo Silver's company, Silver-Marshall Inc., went bankrupt and Hallicrafters took over in an effort to acquire the much needed manufacturing license. The acquisition of the RCA license was not sufficient to compensate for the financial and creative difficulties this arrangement brought with it, and, by late 1934, Halligan was able to seek and gain release from his obligations to Silver-Marshall. At this point, Halligan turned his attention to another troubled radio company with a valid license, not to mention a 50,000 square foot manufacturing plant at 2611 Indiana Avenue. In 1935 he was able to engineer a merger with Echophone Radio Company, with Hallicrafters assuming the position as dominant partner. After building much needed cash reserves with contract manufacturing, the Hallicrafters line was relaunched with the SX-9 in late 1935.

From this point, there was no looking back. There was never any doubt of Hallicrafters quality and engineering, and with solid policy, good management and creative marketing, the company quickly rose to dominate the industry. By 1938, Hallicrafters was the most popular manufacturer of communications receivers in the United States, as well as exporting products to 89 other countries.

One of the significant factors setting Hallicrafters apart from and above its competition was Halligan's own professional touch and personal integrity, and it is this as much as anything else that made Hallicrafters a great American success story during a time in which much of corporate America was struggling -- and largely unsuccessfully -- merely to keep its doors open. In 1935, Hallicrafters introduced

cont'd next page

MCWA NEWS

December 2012



Hallicrafters - cont'd

the 5-T "Sky Buddy," an introductory level receiver aimed at boys between the ages of 14 and 16, and which was sold for its production cost of \$29.50. Thirty dollars was a princely sum to a boy in the mid 30's, so to market these sets, Hallicrafters came up with the "Sky Buddy Club." The packet of materials that came with membership included twelve envelopes in which to send \$2.50 per month to the company. There was a booklet that suggested odd jobs and chores that could be done, usually for 25 cents, that would help raise the necessary \$2.50. A boy joining the club in January, and completing his obligations by December, would have his new receiver arrive just in time for Christmas. Halligan reasoned that a program such as this would build unparalleled customer loyalty: that a boy introduced to the radio hobby in this way would continue to buy Hallicrafters products as an adult. This proved to be true and devotees of Hallicrafters products remain today, many years after the company ceased operations.

With the advent of World War II, Hallicrafters production was largely dedicated to the ensuing demand for all things electronic by the US government. Production of consumer electronics all but ceased between 1942 and 1945, with one notable exception being a line of inexpensive AC/DC receivers marketed under the resurrected Echophone name plate. These were marketed largely as broadcast receivers for servicemen and their families, as the reception of shortwave stations from Europe took on a new and more immediate importance. While Hallicrafters built a myriad of products for the military, the most notable was the SCR-299, a self contained portable radio station mounted in a truck and featured prominently in Hallicrafters' advertising of the day.

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After the war, a new plant was built at 4401 West Fifth Avenue (pictured above) and post war production aimed at the pent up demand for consumer products proceeded apace. Noted automotive and industrial designer Raymond Lowey (Studebaker and others) was brought in to give the entire Hallicrafters line a fresh, modern look. The wartime Echophone EC-1 receiver was repackaged into the S-38, which replaced the venerable Sky Buddy. The S-40, with its distinctive green "half-moon" dial replaced the S-20R. Besides its "bread and butter" shortwave and amateur radio equipment, the company designed and marketed a plethora of consumer electronics, including phonographs, AM/FM table radios, clock radios and television sets. Many of these products bore the "Echophone" name. Hallicrafters basked in the post war prosperity, and by 1952 employed 2500 people. The cold war brought demand for numerous civil defense products, and a boom in the popularity of Ham radio lead to the design of some of the company's most classic transmitters, like the HT-32, and exotic receivers, like the SX-101.

By 1958, Bill Halligan was ready to retire and sold the company. Little is known about the details of this transaction, but it was obviously unsuccessful and the Halligans resumed control and continued to run the company until it was sold to Northrop Corporation in 1966. Northrop concentrated on building mostly paramilitary equipment for its defense division, though some Ham products were designed and sold and the Hallicrafters name remained before the public until the mid 1970's -- mostly on repackaged, cheap Japanese consumer



electronics items like boom boxes. Northrop handed Hallicrafters over to its partner, Wilcox, and in 1975, Wilcox sold it to Braker Corporation of Dallas, Texas. Braker released a few CB and portable radios of Japanese and Taiwanese origin under the Hallicrafters brand until folding in the late 70's.

Since this time, there have been periodic attempts at resurrecting the Hallicrafters name in some fashion or other, but these have all ended in failure. For all intents and purposes, what we think of as "Hallicrafters" ceased to exist when William Halligan sold out in 1966.

Tnx - WB9MCW



Bill Halligan in 1944 magazine ad

Ed. Note : Back in the 1970's I used to run service calls in Lake Forest (IL). Driving along Waukegan Road I used to see a sign much like the Hallicrafters famous logo, except that it had the letters "AC" on it. Turns out that was Bill Halligan's home. Bill's call sign was W9AC; hence the "AC" inside the Hallicrafters logo.

- N9AVY

18, Botanic Crescent
N. Kilmahilly,
Glasgow, N.W.,
Scotland.

Bomb Proof!

"Hallicrafters might be interested in the following story which befell my 2nd Op. during one of our "lovely spells" recently. A heavy bomb fell just outside his shack, half wrecking the house, blew his Rx, a Sky Champion S-20R right across the room and buried it under half a ton of plaster ceiling. When we dug it out and shook the dust out of it (and how!) we plugged it in again to the nearest undamaged A.C. line, and it worked. The net damage was one tube, a bit microphonic, one dial light bulb gone, and an almost cracked joint on the lead to the grid of the 4KC! 'Hallicrafters Build Bomb-Proof Rigs' How's that for a slogan?"

(Signed) Name and original letter on file in our office

the hallicrafters co.
CHICAGO, U. S. A.
KEEP COMMUNICATIONS OPEN



MCWA NEWS

December 2012

County Tyrone radio ham saves US plane after contact lost

Benny Young Benny Young's intervention saved hundreds of lives

A radio enthusiast from Castleterg in County Tyrone has been praised for saving the lives hundreds of airline passengers, from his shed.

Benny Young was turning the dial on his radio when he picked up a Mayday call from a United Airlines flight from Dublin to Boston.

Mr Young said he heard the mayday call just before moved to another frequency.

He then relayed information between the pilot and ground control at the airport.

"I heard two people talking about Hurricane Sandy and that's what made me stay on the Pacific frequency and I heard the mayday call," Mr Young said.

"I ended up talking to the pilot for about 17 minutes and I got the man operating the emergency net to come up to my frequency.

"He could hear me, but he couldn't hear the pilot because of a problem with the transponders on the ground which had been taken out by the storm.

"We were able to get the plane diverted because the winds were measured at 95 miles an hour at Boston."

Mr Young also helped another plane over the United States on the same night.

"The other plane automatically scanned the frequencies and must have found us.

"I didn't have the time to strike up a conversation this time.

"There was great excitement at the time, it was great.

"I felt good after it anyway."



This was from BBC News Northern Ireland

