



ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter

February 2016

More Elmer Stories

Bruce Frahm, K0BJ

I have had many Elmers but a handful were key. When a 20-in-1 transistor and component breadboard whetted my interest, my dentist Fleck, K0RXT, provided answers and moral support. He administered my Novice exam and I became WN0TAS October 1967 at age 15.... the week that Novice tickets transitioned from 1 to 2 years, non-renewable. Doc, W0LOW, also shepherded me and had lots of stories about funny and memorable on-air occurrences. I spent many evenings at Fleck's, drooling as he worked DX. With his help plus that of my Novice buddy Jim WN0TUS, I got prepared for General. Jim and I took the train to Denver and passed our Generals in May 1969.

As I yearned for more frequencies to chase DX Jim, K0CVY, became my techie Elmer. Gab sessions and help with Heathkits from Jim got me in position to take the Extra on my first day of eligibility - 2 years after the effective date of my General, which happened to be one of two monthly test sessions in Denver. I took that to be a good omen -- it worked and I passed.

Jim, K0MRI/W0FT and CW, W0INH/W0AM were traffic Elmers, which helped build code speed. We learn new things every day but the time and effort expended by those first Elmers is vital in getting an interested person to be a licensed and active on-air ham.

Bruce K0BJ

Dear Rod and Art,

I enjoyed your stories about your Elmers in the Midwest Newsletter. It brought back fond memories for me, too. Coincidentally, my ham mentor was Art Dobbs, W5FJP in Fort Worth, TX.

Art, I retired from the EE Dept at Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly, University of Missouri-Rolla) 4 years ago. I was surprised how many of my colleagues had also started out as hams. I recently taught a Technician License class. There were housewives, highly-educated people, and kids as young as 9 taking the course. They all passed. You never know, one of those 9 year olds might one day my become a professor, engineer or astronaut. It will be interesting to see.

Thanks again for your interesting articles.

Norm Cox
KE0ZT
Rolla, MO



HAMS HELP RED CROSS DURING HISTORIC RIVER FLOODS

By Dennis McCarthy, AAØA, ARRL Missouri PIO

At least 28 ham radio operators in Eastern Missouri and Western Illinois worked with the American Red Cross to provide communications during historic floods in late December and early January in Missouri and Illinois.

More than 15 lives were taken. Many of the fatalities occurred when drivers ignored barriers and warning signs tried to negotiate flooded roads and streets, only to have their vehicles swept away by rushing waters.

And those waters overran water plants at several cities cutting off fresh water supplies. Other flooding occurred at sewage plants, causing millions of gallons of raw sewage to be dumped into the rivers. Those plants may take months to fix.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon called out the National Guard to help protect property from looters.

Thousands were driven from their homes by the flooding Mississippi, Meramec and lesser rivers in the St. Louis area, Cape Girardeau and in Phelps County, 100 miles west of St. Louis.

The Mighty Mississippi also flooded parts of Alton, Granite City and forced the Kaskaskia River to flood in Illinois.

And many sought shelter at Red Cross shelters at strategic locations in Illinois, St. Charles and St. Louis County.

Shortly after the shelters opened on Wednesday, Dec. 30, the Red Cross asked the St. Louis Metro Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and St. Charles County ARES to furnish back up communications. ARES members volunteered to bring personal radio equipment and pass messages to support the mission of The American Red Cross.

Under the direction of Steve Wooten, KCØQMU, emergency coordinator for St. Louis Metro RACES, the ham operators began 11-hour shifts, from 8 a.m. to 9 p. m. on Dec. 30. They ended their work at 8 p.m. Jan. 4. During that period, more than 15,000 were furnished food from five shelters in the St. Louis Missouri and Illinois metropolitan area.



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Other volunteers included members of the Rapid Response Team from District C, C St. Charles County ARES; the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club and volunteers from the Illinois Section of ARES.

The 147.36 repeater was utilized during the emergency. The repeater occupies space on the Monsanto Company tower at no cost to the Amateur Radio community. A lightning strike in August damaged the antenna. Monsanto agreed to cover the cost of a new antenna and the tower crew to install it. That installation was just completed several weeks before the flood.

(Editor's note: Dennis McCarthy, AAØA, SP Public Information Officer for Missouri for the American Radio Relay League. He may be reached at Tel. (314) 351-3568 or McCartdj@Charter.net. McCarthy, a three time EMMY winner, has been a TV, Radio and newspaper journalist in St. Louis for more than 50 years. He retired as Associate Professor of Journalism at St. Louis University six years ago at age 75.)



The Cedar Valley ARC Cedar Rapids, Iowa

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

I have been a member of this radio club since moving back to Cedar Rapids in 1974. It is the oldest and largest radio club in the area. It's beginnings were back in the 1930's I'm told. At one time CVARC's president was Sumner Foster, W0GQ who later was the ARRL Midwest Division Vice-Director from 1956 to 1966 then Director from 1966 to 1971. The club's call is W0GQ which you will hear on the bands at Field Day and the local repeater.

At the January meeting, CVARC membership elected the five smiling faces you see in the photo below.



photo - Dave Malley, WA0ZZG

L-R: William Sonderman, N0AGL - Emergency Preparedness Director; Mike Belz, N0AOE,- Information Director; Scott Haney, N0GUD - President; Dave Wilson, K0RN - Vice-President; Tom Hess, KD0HF - Secretary



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One of the "cornerstones" that keeps the attendance high at the CVARC meetings is a dedicated effort by Gregg Lind, KA0SKM, to have interesting programs on a wide variety of ham radio topics. For example, Steve White, NU0P, has been holding kit building sessions (I call them classes but Steve says he is a facilitator - not a teacher) in his well equipped workshop. The group is building the BITx 20meter transceiver. Steve presented the program at the January meeting on progress the group is making. Below is one example of the transceiver being built and brought to the meeting:



photo - Dave Malley, WA0ZZG



Here and There Around the Midwest Division

New Section Manager in Missouri

Long time Missouri SM Dale Bagley, K0KY, resigned his post due to increased family time commitments. Dale recommended Cecil Higgins, AC0HA be appointed to finish his term of office. Cecil was duly appointed by ARRL Field Services as Missouri Section Manager effective Jan. 1, 2016. Cecil then appointed Dale as Assistant SM - a position compatible with his limited available time. Please join me in welcoming Cecil to his new leadership role.

St. Louis & Suburban Radio Club Winterfest

On January 23rd I attended Winterfest in Collinsville, IL. The weather was good resulting in an estimated 1,000 attendance. Dale Bagley, K0KY, filled in for Cecil who was unable to attend. The hamfest also features several quality forums and presentations. I particularly enjoyed meeting and visiting with the fellows manning the Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club. This club does a huge amount of volunteer work in operating the W0 QSL Bureau and I want to express my appreciation for all they do. Below are some photo of the hamfest.



L-R: Paul L Haefner, K0JPL; John Adelsberger, W0NZG; John Yodis, K2VV; Bill Wiley, WA0BSW



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photos - Barry Buelow, WO1Y

Scenes from Winterfest January 23, 2016, Collinsville, IL
(Sponsored by the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club)



Midwest Division Special Event Stations

02/20/2016 | 12th Annual "Freeze Your Keys" winter operating event

Feb 20, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club. 14.325 14.058 7.240 7.035. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Will operate other bands if open. Please SASE for QSL card. w0ebb@juno.com

02/27/2016 | 71st Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima

Feb 27, 1500Z-2200Z, W0FSB, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate & QSL. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 3186 Brandon Diagonal Blvd, Brandon, IA 52210. For QSL card: Send card and #10 SASE; For Certificate & QSL: Send QSL, address label and 3 Forever stamps; For eQSL & Certificate: Send eQSL, then an email to w0fsb@outlook.com, requesting a .jpg file of the certificate that you can print yourself www.qrz.com/db/w0fsb

03/04/2016 | 70th Anniversary of Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech

Mar 4-Mar 7, 0001Z-2359Z, W0C, Fulton, MO. Callaway Amateur Radio League LLC. 14.275 14.070 7.225 7.070. Certificate & QSL. David Mueller, 1701 Plaza Dr, Fulton, MO 65251. 70th Anniversary of Winston Churchill's "Sinews of Peace" address at Westminster College, Fulton, MO in 1946, which became known by the popular name "Iron Curtain" speech. dmueller55@sbcglobal.net

09/10/2016 | Route 66 on the Air

Sep 10-Sep 18, 0000Z-2359Z, W6O, Lebanon, MO. Lebanon Amateur Radio Club. 14.266. QSL. Bill Wheeler, 272 Donna Lee, Lebanon, MO 65536. k0dew@centurylink.net or www.lebanonarc.com

10/17/2016 | 50th Anniversary of St. Louis Arch - WØA Special Event

Oct 17-Oct 25, 0900Z-2359Z, W0A, Saint Louis, MO. St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club (WØSRC). 14.250 7.250. QSL. SLSRC, PO Box 885, Ballwin, MO 63011. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis Missouri! www.slsrc.org



Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions

02/06/2016 | Mine Creek Winterfest

Location: LaCygne, KS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mine Creek ARC

02/27/2016 | Winter RF Fest

Location: Perry, IA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.harciowa.org>

03/05/2016 | SouthWest Iowa ARC (SWIARC) Hamfest

Location: McClelland, IA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: SouthWest Iowa Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://swiradio.org>

03/19/2016 | Mahaska ARC Swapmeet

Location: Oskaloosa, IA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mahaska Amateur Radio Club

03/25/2016 | Ozark ARS Springtime Hamfest

Location: Mount Vernon, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ozark Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://w0oar.com>

04/01/2016 | OzarkCon QRP Conference

Location: Branson, MO

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

Sponsor: Four States QRP Group

Website: <http://www.ozarkcon.com>



Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions

04/16/2016 | Ararat Shrine ARC Hambash

Location: Kansas City, MO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://www.facebook.com/AraratHambash/?fref=ts&ref=br_tf

04/16/2016 | DMRAA Hamfest

Location: Des Moines, IA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Des Moines Radio Amateurs Association

Website: <http://www.dmraa.com/hamfest>

04/23/2016 | Nebraska State Convention

Location: Lincoln, NE

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Lincoln Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.lincolnhamfest.org>

05/14/2016 | Iowa State Convention (3900 Club Hamboree 2016)

Location: Boone, IA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: 3900 Club

Website: <http://3900club.com>

06/18/2016 | The Greater Midwest Radio Show

Location: Hastings, NE

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska

Website: <http://greatermidwestradio.org>

For Hamfests & Conventions Calendar, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



Director: Rod Blocksome K0DAS

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Vice Director: Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ

k0aiz@arrl.org 402-421-0839

Iowa Section Manager: Bob McCaffrey, K0CY
Kansas Section Manager: Ron Cowan, KB0DTI
Missouri Section Manager: Cecil Higgins, AC0HA
Nebraska Section Manager: Matt Anderson, KA0BOJ

DX Advisory Committee: John Yodis, K2VV (MO)
Emergency Communications Advisory Committee: Reynolds Davis, K0GND (NE)
Contest Advisory Committee: Glenn Johnson, W0GJ (IA)
Division Legislative Action Chair: Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO)
Legislative Action Coordinators: Nick Critelli, K0PCG (IA); Bruce Frahm, K0BJ (KS & NE); Mike Edwards, WB9M (MO).

Assistant Directors (Missouri): Paul Haefner K0JPL, Fred Miller KB0WIL, Dave Propper K2DP, Barbara Rich KG0UT, John Rogers W0WC, Kent Trimble K9ZTV, Roger Volk K0GOB, and Eric Zust W0TT.

Assistant Directors (Kansas): Mike Albers K0FJ, Jim Andera K0NK, Andy Anderson W0AFQ, Bill Henderson K0VBU, Charlie Hett K0THN, Jon Jones N0JK, Brian Short KC0BS, and Rick Tucker W0RT.

Assistant Directors (Iowa): Don Boyvey AK0BG, Dennis O'Brien KA0DOS, C.W. Pantel K0IIR, Jim Spencer W0SR, and Jim Lasley N0JL.

Assistant Directors (Nebraska): Frank Cahoy K0BLT, Stan Coleman N0YXV, Reynolds Davis K0GND, Bill Duffy KA0VXK, Joe Eisenberg K0NEB, Allen Harpham KB0ASQ, Todd LeMense KK0DX, Mike Nickolaus NF0N, and Roxanne Baxter AA7RX.

Midwest Division Webmaster: Steve Schmitz W0SJS email: w0sjs@arrl.net

Midwest Division's website at <http://www.arrlmidwest.org/>