



# ARRL Midwest Division Newsletter

## January 2016

### The Amateur's Code

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (written in 1928)

ONE - The Amateur is Considerate . . . He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

TWO - The Amateur is Loyal . . . He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and to the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio is represented.

THREE - The Amateur is Progressive . . . He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

FOUR - The Amateur is Friendly . . . Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are marks of the amateur spirit.

FIVE - The Amateur is Balanced . . . Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.

SIX - The Amateur is Patriotic . . . His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

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These words, first written some 87 years ago, are still valid reminders of the ideals of the amateur radio operator. They appear in the front of every ARRL Handbook. I thought it appropriate to start off the new year of 2016 by re-printing them and to encourage their use in our activities for bringing new folks into the hobby.

If you think about the "Elmers" of this hobby, they almost always exemplify the Amateur's Code. In this issue, we will run some stories of "Elmers" which I hope will inspire you to become an "Elmer" to a new or prospective ham.

- - - Rod Blocksom, K0DAS



## My Elmers

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

"Elmers" are those generous folks who help a new person become a ham and then guide them along as they "learn the ropes". I'm not sure where the term originated, but it is embedded into the lore of amateur radio. Elmers are among the most valuable hams in the hobby for it is through their efforts most of us became hams. I think it important to record something of our Elmers for two reasons. First to recognize and honor their contributions to sustaining the growth of the hobby and secondly to inspire today's hams to become an Elmer when the opportunity presents itself. So who were my Elmers?

My earliest Elmer was not even a ham but rather my Grandmother Blocksome who in 1957 gave me a 15-year old Wards Airline console radio. It had three shortwave bands and I quickly became fascinated with all the strange signals one could listen to - especially foreign country broadcasts. Then I found aircraft in the sky, ships at sea, and hams talking to each other. Soon the big old noisy radio was banished to the garage where I increasingly tuned the ham bands and could identify several regulars that were nearby. One particularly friendly ham on 40 meters was W0CKV whose handle was "Baldy" and I heard him mention he was in Dodge City, Kansas - only 60 miles south of me.

My parents occasionally made shopping trips to Dodge City and it was on one of those trips that a Radio/TV repairman told me Baldy's real name - William Balderston. So this 14-year old kid "cold called" him and said I had been listening to him on the radio and wondered if he could tell me how to become a ham? You'd have thought I'd called Santa Claus!

Baldy invited me over, showed me his station (floor to ceiling of radios, test equipment, and parts), and gave me an ARRL license and code manual and said call him when I was ready to take the Novice test. A few months later and I'm back in Dodge City hiking to Baldy's place with my code oscillator and key in a cigar box and carrying the sealed Novice Exam envelope. I sit at the dining room table and Baldy asked how my code was and I replied something to the effect "I think I can do 5 wpm now". He could see I was nervous so he says "Well let's just practice a bit before I give you the test." He opens a QST and says "Just sent this paragraph to me to warm up." Next - "OK now I'll send and you copy and then we'll begin the test".

When I finished he looked at my copy, smiled and announced "OK you passed the code test. Now you can take the written test." Three months later, in July 1960, a letter from the FCC arrived containing my license. I was now KN0DAS and walking on "cloud nine".



## My Elmers - continued

At the time, I knew Baldy as a retired rancher and an avid active ham who gave of his time and even books, magazines, and radio components to help some farm kid who dropped in on him one day. He passed away 9 years later on July 5, 1969 while I was in the service. Over the years, I've met many hams from western Kansas and often found that their Elmer was none other than Baldy, W0CKV. Further, many of Baldy's young hams went on to productive careers in aerospace, electronics, and related fields. It seems that Baldy was originally licensed as 9CKV as he first appears in the 1927 call book: "William H. Balderston, 1303 Fifth Ave., Dodge City, Kansas" - the same address that I found him at in the spring of 1960.

The novice license was valid for 1 year and non-renewable so I was on the air every chance I had. I soon discovered K5RTH/0, Hal Dobbs, who worked for City Service Oil and lived a mere 15 miles south in Ness City. We were in Ness more frequently than Dodge City so I visited Hal at every chance. Hal had homebrewed his entire station and it was under his urging, guidance, and component gifts that I built a transmitter, modulator, and power supply. He also introduced me to the world of DXing and then administered the Conditional License exam with its 13 wpm code requirement. Hal changed his call to W0BXU since he was now living in the zero district. My younger brother became K0EOB under Hal's tutorage. A year later, Hal's job moved him to another town and we lost contact with him. But the "magic" of working DX with home-built equipment and antennas remains with me to this day.

About this same time, a fellow moved to town and opened a Radio/TV repair shop on main street. I landed a part-time job initially fixing TV antennas for Fred H. Bauer. Fred had been a radio operator in the Army Infantry during WWII and upon learning these two high school kids were hams, promptly took the Conditional test and passed. He became W0EFT since he bypassed the Novice license. Fred was an expert at trouble-shooting and repairing electronics problems. He taught me a tremendous amount of practical electronics during the years I worked for him. We became life-long friends with many adventures both on the job and in ham radio up until he passed away in 2005.

So these four "Elmers" set me on a path that led to a lifetime career in Communications Electronics Engineering: My Grandmother Blocksome, "Baldy" W0CKV; Hal, K5RTH/W0BXU; and Fred, W0EFT. Now it's up to me to "pay it forward" - to "Elmer" the person inquiring about getting started in ham radio. And I've tried to do it through the years - even becoming an "Accidental Elmer" at one point.



### My Elmers - continued

About 15 years ago I was attending my high school reunion banquet and found myself seated across from a fellow whose last name I recognized but could only recall his older brother. As we visited, I found that he was about 8 years younger than I. He said he and my youngest brother were good friends growing up and occasionally visited overnight at each other's homes when they were in early grade school. Now I realized why I had no recollection of him. They were little kids when I was in high school.

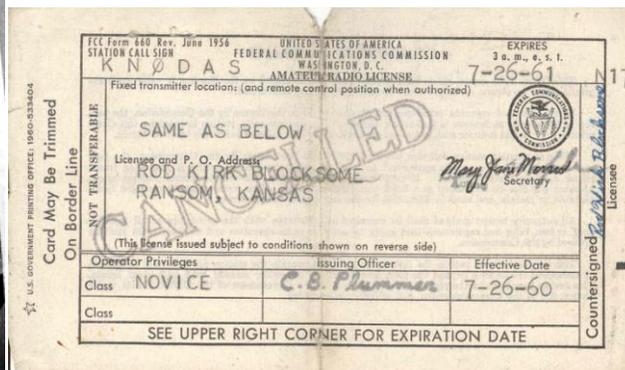
He next asks "If I'm still into ham radio?"

To which I reply "Very much so."

He says "Well I'm a ham also." This surprised me somewhat given the circumstances. But I nearly fell out of my chair with his next comment:

"You probably don't realize it, but you're the reason I'm a ham. When I was over visiting your brother, I watched you talking to people on your ham station and I was fascinated. So years later I got my ham license."

So that's my story and I'm stickin' to it. Who were your Elmers and what is your story?





## **My Elmers**

by Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ

I was always fascinated by radio. As a young child, I would fashion antennas out of paper clips and use modeling clay to fasten them to my Lincoln Log Cabins and toy cars. At about the age of 12 my dad bought me a Lafayette regenerative short wave radio. Many hours were spent listening to radio broadcasts from far-off lands. I would also listen to the ham bands. One of the strongest signals came from Earl, K6KHG – Kilowatt 6 King Henry's Ghost.

It didn't take long to track Earl down. He lived only a few blocks away. He invited me over to see his ham shack. I recall with extreme clarity the Viking Ranger II with its lights and bouncing meter. We made several contacts and, with encouragement, I leaned toward the microphone and talked. I was absolutely hooked. Earl helped me get started with books and a code key.

At that point two other hams became close friends. Steve, WA6CDU, and Joe, K6KW. Steve was a high school buddy and Joe was an older man who had been working in radio for many years. The two of them encouraged my studying and, eventually, oversaw my Novice Exam. All of my Elmers were ready to answer questions, to laugh at some dumb mistakes, and to offer equipment to get me started.

My WV6SAL novice call lasted much less than the allowed year. Again, with support from my Elmers, I studied for and passed the General Exam. Back then, the General had to be taken before an FCC Examiner. My mother drove me down to very foreboding Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles. Almost two months later, I was issued WA6SAL. Not long after that, Steve and my friends put together a surprise birthday party for me. Steve's gift was a modulation transformer to convert my radio to real AM.

The friendship and camaraderie among my Elmers and me was very strong. They not only introduced me to electronics but also to the procedures and social aspects of ham radio. The techniques I gleaned from them served me well through my NASA career and even now, as a college professor, I use those same techniques as I assemble the electronics supporting my research. I can truly say that the successes I've achieved professionally were founded in part on the support, encouragement, and knowledge I gained from my Elmers.

It has also been an honor for me to Elmer new hams. Pay forward is very important. We can make a difference for our ham community. We can influence the lives and successes of others.

73, Art K0AIZ



### My Elmers - continued

FCC Form 660 Rev. June 1956 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPIRES  
 STATION CALL SIGN FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 3 a. m., e. s. t.  
 W V 6 S A L WASHINGTON, D. C. AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE 6-28-62 N1

Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized)

NOT TRANSFERABLE SAME AS BELOW *Bon F. W.*

Licensee and P. O. Address:  
 ARTHUR I. ZYGIELBAUM  
 3648 EL CAMINITO  
 LA CRESCENTA, CALIF.

(This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)

Operator Privileges	Issuing Officer	Effective Date
Class NOVICE	<i>C.B. Plummer</i>	6-28-61
Class		

SEE UPPER RIGHT CORNER FOR EXPIRATION DATE

Countersigned *Arthur I. Zygielbaum*

I had hoped to receive a few more "Elmer" stories for the newsletter but the holiday activities take priority (which is why this newsletter is a few days late). However, please consider writing up a short article on your "Elmers" and how they influenced your start into amateur radio. I'll put them in a future edition of this newsletter.

Thanks & best 73's,  
 Rod Blocksme, K0DAS



## The Raytown Amateur Radio Club Celebrates the Holidays, and Presents Awards to Members!

Story by Randy Schulze – KD0HKD Photos by KC0KM - Kelly McLanahan

It was a festive evening on December 5<sup>th</sup> when the Raytown Amateur Radio Club gathered at the Ararat Shrine for their Annual Recognition and Holiday Dinner! Naturally, the main course being served was *ham*! There were speeches, gifts, and door prizes, and of course, Awards of Recognition to members for service or activities with the club.



It was a festive gathering at the Raytown ARC Holiday and Recognition Dinner.



Holiday Dinner Guests included (Left to Right) KD0HQB – Dan Lindholm, (Back to Camera,) W0FEN-Robin Cross, W0AIB-Larry Staples, and K0OU-Steve Lufcy.

This year, five members were recognized for “Advancing the Art and Science of Amateur Radio, and Bringing Credit and Success to the Raytown Amateur Radio Club.”

**KD4RUU – George S. Rosson, Jr. Hardest Working Ham:**

George S. Rosson, Jr. has been a member of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club. During that time, he has consistently been willing to step up and cheerfully contribute his effort to any task presented to him, even if the task appears daunting from his perspective. George has always been willing to learn, and grow in the area of Amateur Radio, and his work ethic is above par. George S. Rosson Jr. exemplifies all of the positive attributes all members of the amateur radio community should aspire to.



KD4RUU George Rosson accepts His award for Hardest Working Ham from President, KD0HKD-Randy Schulze and Vice President, KD6MFR-Ryan Francois.

**KC0VYT – Daniel L. Cole, Hamfest Chairman:**

Dan Cole has been the Chairman for the Raytown Amateur Radio Club Hamfest for 2014 and 2015. This is a difficult job in the best of circumstances. 2015 brought circumstances which were not only difficult, but had the potential to cancel the Hamfest all together. Through Dan's resourcefulness, tenacity, skill, and leadership, not only was the 2015 Hamfest saved, it was highly successful above and beyond all expectations. Job Well Done!



KC0VYT-Dan Cole accepts his award as Successful Hamfest Chairman from President, KD0HKD-Randy Schulze and Vice President, KD6MFR-Ryan Francois.



**KD0ZKT – Teresa “Terri” O’Leary, Rookie of the Year:**

Terri O’Leary has been a member of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club for less than 1 year. However, this has not stopped her ability to jump in and get things done! She has been involved in every major project or event which the club has been involved in while she’s been a member. Her experience, organizational skills, and enthusiastic attitude have been invaluable to our success. Clearly, its members like Terri O’Leary that make the amateur radio experience positive for all our members.

**KC0YSG – Lawrence P. Gonnello, Sr. Rookie of the Year:**

Larry Gonnello has been a member of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club for less than 1 year. However, this has not stopped his ability to jump in and get things done! He has been involved in every major project or event which the club has been involved in while he’s been a member. His experience, organizational skills, and enthusiastic attitude have been invaluable to our success. Clearly, its members like Larry Gonnello that make the amateur radio experience positive for all our members.



KC0YSG-Larry Gonnello, aka Santa Clause (at far left,) and KD0ZKT-Terri O’Leary, (at far right,) accept their awards for Rookie of the Year from Raytown ARC President, KD0HKD-Randy Schulze and Vice President, KD6MFR-Ryan Francois.



### **K0OU – Stephen C. Lufcy, The Face of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club:**

Steve Lufcy has been a member of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club since before it was incorporated. For many, he has been the face of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club. He has served as President, and other Officer Positions. For several years, he was our successful Field Day Commander. As a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, Steve has been involved in the licensing of well over 100 Amateur Radio Operators. Steve Lufcy is one of the examples of why the Raytown Amateur Radio Club is known as the organization “That gets things done!” Thank You, Steve!



Raytown ARC President, KD0HKD and Vice President, KD6MFR-Ryan Francois present K0OU-Steve Lufcy (Center,) an award for his many years as being “The Face of the Raytown Amateur Radio Club.”

What a great way to spend an evening with friends and family!



## **WX0EK Special Event**

by Sherry Weir-Tuggle, KB0SQQ

The next WX0EK special event station will be January 29, 2016. We will be celebrating the State of Kansas entering into the union as the 34<sup>th</sup> state 155 years ago.

Frequency: 14.250 MHz +/-

Starts : 1500 UTC 9:00 AM CST Ends: 2030 UTC 2:30 PM CST

QSL card available at WX0EK PO Box 70 Elk Falls, KS 67345

Updates will be posted on the Elk County, KS Amateur Radio Society – WX0EK Facebook & QRZ pages.

Hope to hear you on the air very soon.

Have a great 2016 from the WX0EK team.

Sherry Weir-Tuggle KB0SQQ  
kb0sqq@yahoo.com  
316-253-9730



## **Midwest Division ARRL Hamfests & Conventions**

### **01/09/2016 | Ozark Mountain Hamfest**

**Location:** Brighton, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Ozark Mountain Amateur Radio Group

**Website:** <http://www.w0omd.org>

### **02/06/2016 | Mine Creek Winterfest**

**Location:** LaCygne, KS

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Mine Creek ARC

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

**Location:** McClelland, IA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** SouthWest Iowa Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://swiradio.org>

### **03/25/2016 | Ozark ARS Springtime Hamfest**

**Location:** Mount Vernon, MO

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Ozark Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://w0oar.com>

### **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](http://www.facebook.com/AraratHambash/?fref=ts&ref=br_tf)

### **04/23/2016 | Nebraska State Convention**

**Location:** Lincoln, NE

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Lincoln Amateur Radio Club

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

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

## ARRL Midwest Division Leadership



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**Iowa Section Manager:** Bob McCaffrey, K0CY  
**Kansas Section Manager:** Ron Cowan, KB0DTI  
**Missouri Section Manager:** Dale Bagley, K0KY  
**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 K0CBS, 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.

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