

K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

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*Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL
Editor*

*Mike Dinelli, N9BOR
Layout*



*Robert F. Heytow
Memorial Radio Club*

www.qsl.net/k9ya
k9ya@qsl.net

Shared Traditions

The Threads of Our Fabric

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL

We Hams are a romantic bunch, we revel in the use of venerable terms and techniques and we share traditions, some antedating the invention of radio. Over the

decades they have proven their worth and utility and remain integral to the fabric of our service.

Each of us share two anguished waiting periods. These nail biting episodes precede the arrival of a couple of small, but all important, pieces of paper: the long anticipated Amateur Radio license and the first QSL card.

In "Olden Times," for endless weeks, Hams in waiting twiddled their thumbs between time split checking the mail and scrambling to get their shack ready before the slip of paper legalizing their on-air operation arrived. Today, via the 'Net, and well before they receive the hard copy, new licensees can learn their callsign, gain legality and start emitting RF. So, while the Internet facilitates near instant license notification, all Hams still share the ancient and honorable rite of "Waiting for the License."

In my collection of personal radio memorabilia are three empty envelopes and two interim permits, each of them treasured as landmarks in my Ham Radio career, and each received with a grateful nod to the commission that ran me through hoops to earn the privileges conferred.

THE FIRST QSL CARD

Although my first QSO, at five watts CW, covered only about 15 miles — from one Chicago neighborhood to another — it proved my protracted study for the General Class license had not been in vain. However, lacking the skill and confidence building benefits of on-the-air Novice Class experience, I dared not jump into the deep waters of the Big Boys' frequencies, especially the scary 20-meter band where high-speed CW ops, DXers and contesters lurked.

*"... I sweated
the sweet sweat
of success."*

Scanning the more amiable 15-meter Novice subband for a not too intimidating "CQ," I heard a call from WD9ABG. That new, in 1977, WD9 prefix meant the operator was almost as wet behind the ears as I was with

WD9ADE.

WD9ABG de WD9ADE K — would he, or she, answer my pip-squeak signal? Part of me dreaded a reply — would I be completely flummoxed as a stream of Morse characters slipped from one headphone to the other as copy eluded me?

No, the part of me that pushed me through months of study; advances and plateaus in Morse; successfully sitting the exam; and building my station demanded validation by completing a QSO.

Back it came, WD9ADE de WD9ABG K. Now, like thousands of new ops before me, I sweated the sweet sweat of success. I copied (most) every word as we

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Built Like a Tank — The WS #19 Mark II

Dick Sylvan, W9CBT



Wireless Set # 19

Back in 1947 when I was 16 years old and newly licensed, I had the opportunity to buy a brand new WS #19 Mark II tank transceiver. I saw an ad in a war surplus magazine and sent in my \$35.00, shipping included. This was two week's pay working at my father's liquor store and tavern. Imagine my delight when a few weeks later two large

wood crates arrived. Also, imagine my mother's delight when I placed them in the living room of our 1-1/2 room furnished apartment. Anxiously, I unscrewed the crate lids and marveled at the protective coatings and wraps on everything. After cutting off all the packing of the first crate, my eyes popped at the beautiful transceiver I had purchased. All the lettering on the dials and controls were in Cyrillic! This version of the WS #19 Mark II was made for Sherman tanks lend-leased to Russia.

But the best was yet to come! All the lettering glowed in the dark! Wow, what a sight! I pulled down the window shades and sat in the dark taking in the impressive sight. Then, I removed the other components from the crate. What a bonanza! There were two radios in the main unit: a superregen receiver and transceiver for 220 Mhz for short range, and an AM/CW transceiver that operated between 2 and 8 Mhz, this would give me 80-meter and 40-meter coverage. The unit could put out between 15 and 20 watts, and even had a variometer for antenna matching.

Power was supposed to come from a 12-volt car battery, but my mother would not allow an acid cell battery in the house; I wonder why? So I would have to convert it to AC power. It had an impressive dynamotor — which I never used. I was immersed in all this equipment when I decided to open the second crate. I anxiously opened the box and, eureka! I found a complete set of critical spare parts for the entire rig including a full set of tubes.

I was extremely impressed and nearly jumped out of my skin — there was one tube whose number I never forgot — the EF50. Now, all the tubes I was familiar with always began with numbers, but this tube began with letters. It even looked different. No information in my old Amateur Radio Operator's Handbook even mentioned this tube. I had all kinds of components for future repairs. I wondered, where do they put all

this stuff in the tank? I placed the rig on a small table and the components along the wall and reluctantly discarded the two great looking wood crates. I spent the next few days, and nights, watching it glow, admiring this impressive unit and wishing I could plug it in and operate.



EF-50 PENTODE

Getting it operational was no easy chore.

I had to have help from a ham, W9OAV, who was a skilled builder and lived across the street. He also owned a TV repair and sales shop at the same location and was a bit hesitant to get the rig working as I might discourage potential customers with the TVI it would probably generate — it did. Anyway, I finally talked him into converting it to AC for me and a few months later I had a working rig. I threw the power switch on and spun the dials.

All I had for an antenna was a long random length wire going up to the roof. The janitor would periodically go up on the roof and cut my antenna down, which I'd reinstall the next day, so I couldn't have anything too elaborate. Anyway, I put on the

large noise-reducing earphones that came with the rig. They were so big, they nearly covered my whole head. Signals were coming through on 40-meters. Plugging in the included heavy duty key, worthy of service in an armored vehicle, I nervously sent a CQ. The set was probably putting out 5 to 10 watts and I figured any rig this size and with all these knobs had to be good. I finally got an answer to my CQ and when I told the other operator what rig I was using he said he never heard of it — I enjoyed having something different. I never used the rig on AM phone as I was afraid of RFI. The neighbor in the next apartment accused me of interfering with her refrigerator and I was never able to convince her otherwise. I went on to have many QSOs with the unit on 40 CW, I was never interested in 80-meters, and used it until I tired of working only 40-meters.

I can't remember exactly what I did with the rig, but have a faint recollection of trading it to the owner of another local TV repair shop down the block who had some components I was interested in. I wish I still had the rig, it would be fun to use it again.

I have fond memories of the WS #19 rig and wonder how many lives were saved during the war because of this rig. It was one of the best values I ever had in dollars per pound except for one of my old cars which I purchased for \$25.00.

From what I learned on the internet, there are many of these units still on the air. There is even a Web site devoted to it called "The Original Wireless Set Nr. 19 Group," a very impressive site. Check it out for further details.
www.qsl.net/ve3bdb/

STATISTICS OF THE WS #19 MARK II TANK TRANSCIVER

FREQUENCY COVERAGE:
HF 2-8 Mhz Operating
Modes: CW, AM phone
and UHF 220 MHz —
super regen receiver

OUTPUT POWER:
15-20 watts

POWERED BY:

12 volt dynamotor, later converted to AC power

ANTENNA TUNING:

Round variometer on top of unit, included

FEATURES:

Glow in the dark dials — radium coated — later I discovered the stuff was dangerous. All steel construction, super heavy duty connecting cables Fashionable olive drab color case and shock mounts. Complete with microphone, key, headphones, all cables and manuals Case of spare parts including all tubes. Audio amplifier for intercom use — to talk to the tank commander

WEIGHT:

Heavy — particularly for a 10-20 watt rig

OTHER DETAILS:

Manufactured in Canada, furnished to other countries: U.S., Russia and Italy. Canada used it into the 1960s.



Sherman Tank



16-YEAR OLD W9CBT

K9YA Code Practice Nets

Fast Net

Every first Wednesday of the month, 7.137 MHz (plus or minus QRM) at 7:00 P.M. (2400 Z). Check in, exchange FISTS numbers or hang around for a chat. The Fast Net is called at 20+ wpm.

Slow Net

Every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 7.137 MHz (plus or minus QRM) at 7:00 P.M. (2400 Z). Check in, exchange FISTS numbers or hang around for a chat. The Slow Net is called at 10-wpm, but speed will be adjusted to that of the slowest operator.

Starting an Amateur Scholarship Fund

Ronald Morgan, KB9NW

ARRL Illinois Assistant Section Manager



Developing a scholarship program for Amateur Radio is a noble cause, but involves a lot of work up front to get things going correctly. Once a program is developed, the rules for application should not be changed. Some states have legal issues with accounting for these specific funds and how the money is distributed. Before

starting, and before collecting any money, interview local colleges about their programs and how they are administered.

The following details the necessary steps to be addressed. Always look ahead, be cautious and follow your plan. This process may take two years to develop before the first application is requested.

1. Establish a cause, give it a name
2. Develop an administrative staff
3. Involve other clubs and organizations
4. Find sufficient funding
5. Establish rules and guidelines
6. Make the award presentation public

ESTABLISHING A CAUSE, GIVING IT A NAME

Setting the stage for a scholarship program requires the enlistment of good volunteers. These people will work hard for a good cause they believe in. Frequently, the program memorializes an individual or commemorates an event. Our program was called the Silent Key Scholarship and was dedicated to the memory of an Amateur who passed on early in life.

DEVELOP THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A good program can be developed with three or four Amateurs. It helps if one is retired and can do some of the early phone work. Plan to be broad based, if possible, with a staff of people having expertise in a variety of areas. Seek volunteers from other clubs or organizations as this strengthens the administrative staff. One person should be able to speak in public, as you will need to present the program after it is developed. Seek agreement between staff members on all decisions; if not, rethink the position.

This administrative staff has the responsibility to develop a plan for presentation to area clubs and organizations. Your computer can make these presentations look professional. People will not donate time and money to a group they feel is disorganized or short lived. Open a bank account. Commit to putting in your money first. Develop a presentation:

“A good program can be developed with three or four Amateurs.”

- The plan should state the cause and why it was chosen.
- How the organization plans to raise the necessary funding.
- A timetable for getting the scholarship program established.
- When and where the scholarship will be distributed.
- Who is the targeted audience at this time?
- Is the funding in perpetuity or will funds be spent as they are received?
- Who will have account access and distributes funds?

INVOLVING OTHER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The scholarship committee may find this a difficult step. Remember, a good cause attracts money and volunteers. Local groups' kick-off fundraisers will get the scholarship off to a reasonable start. Involve the media for some free publicity. Present your plan to

companies, clubs, and organizations and be specific about what you need as a commitment from them. Try to leave the meeting with something positive. From the start, create a list of organizations and companies that should be targeted for funding. Find a contact person and set up a meeting. Do not send generic letters to the 'President' of an organization. If you want their involvement, take the time to get their name; make the phone call; or visit their office. Make it personal.

SEEK FUNDING

Use the organization list that was developed early on and work at getting commitments. Once a commitment is established, be sure to inform all involved groups of your progress. If one group contributes a small amount, then praise the group publicly to the others and share the results obtained. This serves two purposes: it encourages the contributors to do more and shows other groups how they can add to the bottom line.

Special event fund raisers include chili suppers, hog roasts and spaghetti dinners. Ask that the scholarship program be included in memorial gifts from the estates of area amateurs. Naming the fund in a will is often done to commemorate a family name and generates much good will. Some companies may elect to sponsor a portion of the scholarship annually or in a lump sum. This depends on your organization and presentation skills.

Funding in perpetuity means that a base number of dollars will have to be committed to the scholarship fund so that only the interest earned by the funds will be spent on the scholarship. Hence, the scholarship fund can last indefinitely as the principal is never touched. If all the interest earned is not used, the fund grows and the award may later be expanded.

Spending everything in the account is a good way to get a scholarship fund kick-started, but serious fund raising must be done annually. Leaving some money in the account insures some awards will be available next year, and well managed funds grow to funds in perpetuity.

ESTABLISH RULES AND GUIDELINES

To this point, we operated on our core development plan. This allowed the committee to hear from other organizations, seek sponsors and their input, develop a monetary plan and seek comments. Now is the time to create a brochure for distribution to qualified applicants. Professional looking brochures can be created with MS Publisher. This brochure should be displayed and available to interested applicants at area events. Distribute the brochure to targeted teachers at area schools, as they will be your best resource for disseminating the information.



Be sure to include all the rules in your brochure and the following:

- Type of study: graduate or undergraduate.
- Number of times the Scholarship can be awarded.
- When the award is to be distributed.
- Qualifications for the scholarship: age, gender, amateur license, geographic area, type of study. Be specific as to who qualifies.
- Size of award and number of scholarships offered.

Your application form might include the following items:

1. Application Year
2. Date of Birth
3. Gender
4. Address including: city, state and zip code.
5. E-mail Address
6. Phone Number
7. High School Name, Home Schooled or GED
8. Graduation Year
9. ACT Score, High School Rank ___ out of ___. GED Score.
10. Race/Ethnic Demographics: Caucasian, Non Hispanic Black or African-American Hispanic

- 11. Program of Study
- 12. Credit Hours Completed, Attempted
- 13. Enrollment Status; Full-time, Part-time ¾ or ½.
- 14. Leadership Activities; High School and Civic.
- 15. A statement of truth that the applicant must sign and date.



Please Read Carefully

I certify that the statements herein are true to the best of my knowledge and grant my permission for the information contained herein to be shared with the Scholarship Committee and Scholarship Donors. If awarded a scholarship, I

understand that I must meet the standards of academic progress as well as the scholarship criteria as outlined in the qualifications. I understand information from my academic history may be released to the Scholarship Committee. If awarded the Scholarship, I release to the Scholarship Committee the right to use my name and picture for publications, reports and press releases. I also agree to write a letter of thanks to the Scholarship Committee.

Applicant's Signature _____
Date _____

IMPORTANT: All materials requested must be attached to your completed application and submitted by the deadline date (unless stated otherwise). Incomplete application/materials are unacceptable.

Name _____

An essay should be part of the application process. Your final decision will be simplified after reading the applicants' believes they deserve the cholarship award.

Scholarship Title: Amateur Radio Scholarship

Please provide a brief (one page) essay providing: a) your background, b) your interest in the academic program you have chosen, c) your short-range and long-range career plans, and d) why you deserve this Scholarship. To ensure full consideration, be sure to address the specific criteria of the scholarship listed above.

Applicant's Signature _____
Date _____

MAKE THE PRESENTATION PUBLICLY

Use the award session as an opportunity to generate publicity and goodwill for the scholarship. Spread the word to all contributors and request they be present. Plan a dinner event. Use the hamfest crowd as an audience. Find a local public event or recruit a public official to make the presentation. Use whatever works in your area to get media coverage, it can only help to make the scholarship grow.

Special thanks to Roy Cottingham, KE9VO; Allisson Gillespie, N9ZBE; John Gillespie, N9YUY and Stan Ehmke, N9LOD for serving as the administrative staff for the memorial scholarship and getting it started correctly. ■

Note: The above is the experience and opinion of its author and is presented for information purposes only. Always seek the advice of legal, financial and tax experts.

TRADITIONS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exchanged the usual pleasantries and addresses. In pre-Internet days, if you didn't have a call book, and I didn't, you exchanged addresses, and, often, telephone numbers. After 48 minutes, we signed, and I fired off a QSL card — I needed a record of this momentous event. The card I received from WD9ABG was hand-lettered on a 3"X 5" index card and retains a special place on the shack wall.

Today, courtesy of a couple of on-line services, QSL cards can be sent and received within minutes of ending a QSO. I regularly use one of the services to ensure no one who sends me a virtual QSL card will be ignored, but like on-line license notification, no virtual listing will ever replace the validation, pride and, yes, tradition of actually holding those prized slips of paper. ■

Wooden Callsigns by Craig

Craig Celia

Have you ever seen a decorative call sign made of wood? How about one you can proudly display at your Ham Radio station? My Name is Craig Celia, I live in Roselle, Illinois and own a small business making wooden names and Ham Radio call signs. My involvement in the hobby of woodworking launched this venture after crafting race car beds for my two young children and wooden gifts for friends and family.

My hobby was moving along nicely, however, once I acquired a scroll saw, things started to change! I began by making childrens' names (painted or stained) for my coworkers, kids in the family, my kids' friends and my close friends. I even made one for my dentist that now hangs in his office (see Web site www.woodnames.net for photo).

I am not a Ham Radio operator, but my father-in-law, KF9QI, is and I decided to make a decorative call sign for him. Since I really enjoy the woodworking hobby, I thought, why not turn it into a part-time business and make my call signs available to other Hams? So, I now attend local Hamfests and am currently scheduled for the four upcoming fests listed on my Web site.

My first Hamfest experience, with my father-in-law, was very positive, I found Hams "down-to-earth" people. They do not care who you are (operator or not), and they are willing to sit down and shoot the breeze with you on just about any topic. I guess that is what makes Hams different from the rest of the crowd.

I have never attempted to obtain my Amateur Radio license despite many requests from my father-in-law. For me, woodworking provides that essential stress relief after a full day of work. My full-time job is police and fire telecommunicator (dispatcher) for a local police/fire department. So,

I guess I get all my "talk" out at work and this is why I have not really pursued Amateur Radio as a hobby. But, I do use four call signs on a regular basis while dispatching.

Getting back to the business part, I sell these wooden call signs for only \$15.00 each with \$3.95 shipping. They can be left a natural pinewood, stained a golden oak color or painted at no extra charge. When they are stained or painted, I apply a protective coating of polyurethane for years of enjoyment. See the Web site for details! ■

*"Once I acquired
a scroll saw,
things started
to change!"*

WEB SITE:
www.WoodNames.net

E-MAIL:
Craig@WoodNames.net



Craig Celia



SAMPLES